

**ESCUTCHEON**, *n.* [Fr. *ecusson*, from *ecusson*, from *L. scutum*, a shield, *It. scudo*, *Sp. escudo*, *Arm. scudo*.]

The shield on which a coat of arms is represented; the shield of a family; the picture of ensigns armorial.

*Encyc. Johnson.*

**ESCUTCHEONED**, *a.* Having a coat of arms or ensign.

**ESLOIN**, *v. t.* [Fr. *éloigner*.] To remove. [Not in use.]

**ESOPHAGOTOMY**, *n.* [*esophagus* and *cutis*, a cutting.]

In surgery, the operation of making an incision into the esophagus, for the purpose of removing any foreign substance that obstructs the passage.

*Journal of Science.*

**ESOPHAGUS**, *n.* [Gr. *oesophagos*.] The gullet; the canal through which food and drink pass to the stomach.

**ESOPHAN**, *a.* [from *Esop.*] Pertaining to *Esop*; composed by him or in his manner.

*Watson.*

**ESOTERIC**, *a.* [Gr. *esoteros*, interior, from *esōs*, within.]

Private; an epithet applied to the private instructions and doctrines of Pythagoras; opposed to *exoteric*, or public.

*Enfield.*

**ESOTERY**, *n.* Mystery; secrecy. [Little used.]

**ESPALIER**, *n.* [Fr. *espallier*; *Sp. espalera*; *It. spalliera*; from *L. palus*, a stake or pole.]

A row of trees planted about a garden or in hedges, so as to inclose quarters or separate parts, and trained up to a lattice of wood-work, or fastened to stakes, forming a close hedge or shelter to protect plants against injuries from wind or weather.

*Encyc.*

**ESPALIER**, *v. t.* To form an espalier, or to protect by an espalier.

**ESPARCET**, *n.* A kind of sainfoin.

*Mortimer.*

**ESPECIAL**, *a.* [Fr. *special*; *L. specialis*, from *specio*, to see, *species*, kind.]

Principal; chief; particular; as, in an *especial* manner or degree.

**ESPECIALLY**, *adv.* Principally; chiefly; particularly; in an uncommon degree; in reference to one person or thing in particular.

**ESPECIALNESS**, *n.* The state of being especial.

**ESPERANCE**, *n.* [Fr. from *L. spero*, to hope.] Hope. [Not English.]

*Shak.*

**ESPIAL**, *n.* [See *Spy*.] A spy; the net of espying.

*Elyot.*

**ESPINEL**, *n.* A kind of ruby. [See *Spinell*.]

**ESPIONAGE**, *n.* [Fr. from *espionner*, to spy, *espion*, a spy.]

The practice or employment of spies; the practice of watching the words and conduct of others and attempting to make discoveries, as spies or secret emissaries; the practice of watching others without being suspected, and giving intelligence of discoveries made.

**ESPLANADE**, *n.* [Fr. *id.*; *Sp. esplanada*; *It. spianata*; from *L. planus*, plain.]

1. In fortification, the glacis of the counter-scarp, or the sloping of the parapet of the covered-way towards the country; or the

void space between the glacis of a citadel, and the first houses of the town.

*Encyc. Bailey.*

2. In gardening, a grass-plot.

**ESPOUSAL**, *a.* *espouzal*. [See *Espouse*.] Used in or relating to the act of espousing or betrothing.

*Bacon.*

**ESPOUSAL**, *n.* The act of espousing or betrothing.

*Id. Orford.*

**ESPOUSALS**, *n. plu.* The act of contracting or affiancing a man and woman to each other; a contract or mutual promise of marriage.

I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals. *Jer. ii.*

**ESPOUSE**, *v. t.* *espouz*. [Fr. *epouser*; *It. sposare*; *Port. desposar*; *Sp. desposar*, to marry; *desposure*, to be betrothed. If this word is the same radically as the *L. spondeo*, *sponsus*, the letter *n*, in the latter, must be casual, or the modern languages have lost the letter. The former is most probable; in which case, *spondeo* was primarily *spodio*, *sposus*.]

1. To betroth.

When we his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph. *Matt. i.*

2. To betroth; to promise or engage in marriage, by contract in writing, or by some pledge; as, the king espoused his daughter to a foreign prince. Usually and properly followed by *to*, rather than *with*.

3. To marry; to wed. *Shak. Milton.*

4. To unite intimately or indissolubly. I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. *2 Cor. xi.*

5. To embrace; to take to one's self, with a view to maintain; as, to *espouse* the quarrel of another; to *espouse* a cause.

*Dryden.*

**ESPOUSED**, *pp.* Betrothed; affianced; promised in marriage by contract; married; united intimately; embraced.

**ESPOUSER**, *n.* One who espouses; one who defends the cause of another.

**ESPOUSING**, *pp.* Betrothing; promising in marriage by covenant; marrying; uniting indissolubly; taking part in.

**ESPY**, *v. t.* [Fr. *espier*, *espier*; *Sp. espia*; *It. spiare*; *D. bespieden*, from *spiede*, a spy; *G. spien*, to spy; *Sw. spia*; *Dan. spide*; *W. yspiau*, and *yspeltiau*, from *yspith*, path. See *Spy*.] The radical letters seem to be *pd*; if not, the word is a contraction from the root of *L. specio*.]

1. To see at a distance; to have the first sight of a thing remote. Seamen *espy* land as they approach it.

2. To see or discover something intended to be hid, or in a degree concealed and not very visible; as, to *espy* a man in a crowd, or a thief in a wood.

3. To discover unexpectedly.

As one of them opened his sack, he *espied* his money. *Gen. xlii.*

4. To inspect narrowly; to examine and make discoveries.

Moses sent me to *espy* out the land, and I brought him word again. *Josh. xiv.*

**ESPY**, *v. i.* To look narrowly; to look about; to watch.

Stand by the way and *espy*. *Jer. xlviii.*

[This word is often pronounced *spy*, which see.]

**ESPY**, *n.* A spy; a scout.

**ESQUIRE**, *n.* [Fr. *ecuyer*; *It. scudiere*; *Sp. escudero*; *Port. escudeiro*; from *L. scutum*, a shield, from *Gr. exarmis*, a hide, of which shields were anciently made, or from the root of that word, *Sax. sceadan*. See *Shade*.]

Properly, a shield-bearer or armor-bearer, scutifer; an attendant on a knight. Hence in modern times, a title of dignity next in degree below a knight. In England, this title is given to the younger sons of noblemen, to officers of the king's courts and of the household, to counselors at law, justices of the peace, while in commission, sheriffs, and other gentlemen. In the United States, the title is given to public officers of all degrees, from governors down to justices and attorneys. Indeed the title, in addressing letters, is bestowed on any person at pleasure, and contains no definite description. It is merely an expression of respect.

**ESQUIRE**, *v. t.* To attend; to wait on.

**ESSAY**, *v. t.* [Fr. *essayer*; *Norm. essayer*; *Arm. azacan*; *D. zoeken*, to seek; *bezoeken*, verzoeken, to essay; *G. suchen*, to seek; *versuchen*, to essay; *Dan. forsøge*; *Sw. försöka*; *Sp. ensayar*; *Port. ensaiar*; *It. saggiare*, assaggiare. The primary word is seek, the same as *L. sequor*. See *Stek*. The radical sense is to press, drive, urge, strain, strive, *Ch. psal. Class* *Sp. No. 46*.]

1. To try; to attempt; to endeavor; to exert one's power or faculties, or to make an effort to perform any thing.

While I thus unexampled task essay.

*Blackmore.*

2. To make experiment of.

3. To try the value and purity of metals. In this application, the word is now more generally written *assay*, which see.

**ESSAY**, *n.* A trial; attempt; endeavor; an effort made, or exertion of body or mind, for the performance of any thing. We say, to make an essay.

Fruitless our hopes, though pious our essays. *Smith.*

2. In literature, a composition intended to prove or illustrate a particular subject; usually shorter and less methodical and finished than a system; as an *essay* on the life and writings of Homer; an *essay* on fossils; an *essay* on commerce.

3. A trial or experiment; as, this is the first *essay*.

4. Trial or experiment to prove the qualities of a metal. [In this sense, see *Assay*.]

5. First taste of any thing. *Dryden.*

**ESSAYED**, *pp.* Attempted; tried.

**ESSAYER**, *n.* One who writes essays.

*Addison.*

**ESSAYING**, *pp.* Trying; making an effort; attempting.

**ESSAYIST**, *n.* A writer of an essay, or of essays.

*Butler.*

**ESSENCE**, *n.* [*L. essentia*; *Fr. essence*; *It. essenza*; *Sp. esencia*; from *L. esse*, to be; *Sw. väsende*; *Goth. waisands*, from *wisan*, *Sax. wesan*, to be, whence *was*. The sense of the verb is, to set, to fix, to be permanent.]

1. That which constitutes the particular nature of a being or substance, or of a genus, and which distinguishes it from all others.