

tra dimidiated : the wings covered ; and the tail forked. This animal is called in Latin *forficula*, from the forceps at the end of the abdomen. The English name was given to it from an ill founded notion that the animal creeps into the ear and causes injury.

In New England, this name is vulgarly given to a species of centipede.

EAR-WITNESS, *n.* One who is able to give testimony to a fact from his own hearing. *Watts.*

EARL, *n. earl*. [Sax. *eorl*; *Ir. iarla*, an earl; *earlanh*, noble. This word is said to have been received from the Danes, although not now used in Denmark. Formerly this title among the Danes was equivalent to the English *alderman*. *Spelman.*]

A British title of nobility, or a nobleman, the third in rank, being next below a marquis, and next above a viscount. The title answers to *count* [compte] in France, and *graf* in Germany. The earl formerly had the government of a *shire*, and was called *shireman*. After the conquest earls were called counts, and from them shires have taken the name of *counties*. *Earl* is now a mere title, unconnected with territorial jurisdiction. *Spelman. Encyc.*

EARLDOOM, *n. earl dom*. The seigniorial jurisdiction or dignity of an earl.

EARL-MARSHAL, *n.* An officer in Great Britain, who has the superintendence of military solemnities. He is the eighth great officer of state. The office was originally conferred by grant of the king, but is now hereditary in the family of the Howards. *Encyc.*

EARLES-PENNY, *n.* Money given in part payment. [Qu. *L. arha*.] [Not in use.]

EARLESS, *a.* Destitute of ears; disinclined to hear or listen.

EARLINESS, *n. earliness*. [See *Early* and *Ere*.]

A state of advance or forwardness; a state of being before any thing, or at the beginning; as the *earliness* of rising in the morning is a rising at the dawn of the morning, or before the usual time of rising. So we speak of the *earliness* of spring, or the *earliness* of plants, to express a state somewhat in advance of the usual time of spring, or growth of plants.

EARLY, *a. erly*. [from Sax. *er*, *er*, before in time, Eng. *ere*, which indicates the root of the word to signify, to advance, to pass along or shoot up. It is probably connected with the D. *er*, G. *ere*, Sw. *ära*, Dan. *äre*, honor, denoting the highest point.]

1. In advance of something else; prior in time; forward; as *early* fruit, that is, fruit that comes to maturity before other fruit; *early* growth; *early* manhood; *early* old age or decrepitude, that is, premature old age. So an *early* spring; an *early* harvest.

2. First; being at the beginning; as *early* dawn.

3. Being in good season; as, the court met at an *early* hour.

EARLY, *adv. erly*. Soon; in good season; betimes; as, rise *early*; come *early*; begin *early* to instill into children principles of piety.

Those who seek me *early* shall find me. Prov. viii.

EARN, *v. t. ern*. [Sax. *earnian*, *ernian*, *ge-arnian*, to earn, to merit. It is connected in origin with *earnest* and *yearn*, which see. The primary sense is to strive or urge, implying an effort to advance or stretch forward.]

1. To merit or deserve by labor, or by any performance; to do that which entitles to a reward, whether the reward is received or not. Men often *earn* money or honor which they never receive.

Earn money before you spend it, and spend less than you *earn*.

2. To gain by labor, service or performance; to deserve and receive as compensation; as, to *earn* a dollar a day; to *earn* a good living; to *earn* honors or laurels.

EARNED, *pp. ern'd*. Merited by labor or performance; gained.

EARNEST, *a. ern'est*. [Sax. *corneat*, or *georneat*, from *georn*, desirous, studious, diligent, assiduous, whence *geornian*, *gyrnian*, to desire, to yearn; Dan. *giern*, willingly, freely, gladly, cheerfully; *gierning*, a deed, act, exploit; Ger. *ernst*; D. *ernst*; W. *ern*, earnest-money. The radical sense is to strive to advance, to reach forward, to urge, to strain.]

1. Ardent in the pursuit of an object; eager to obtain; having a longing desire; warmly engaged or incited.

They are never more *earnest* to disturb us, than when they see us most *earnest* in this duty. *Duppa.*

2. Ardent; warm; eager; zealous; animated; importunate; as *earnest* in love; *earnest* in prayer.

3. Intent; fixed.

On that prospect strange
Their earnest eyes were fixed. *Milton.*

4. Serious; important; that is, really intent or engaged; whence the phrase, in *earnest*. To be in *earnest*, is to be really urging or stretching towards an object; intent on a pursuit. Hence, from fixed attention, comes the sense of *seriousness* in the pursuit, as opposed to trifling or jest. Are you in *earnest* or in jest?

EARNEST, *n. ern'est*. Seriousness; a reality; a real event; as opposed to jesting or trifling appearance.

Take heed that this jest do not one day turn to *earnest*. *Sidney.*

And given in *earnest* what I begg'd in jest. *Shak.*

2. First fruits; that which is in advance, and gives promise of something to come. Early fruit may be an *earnest* of fruit to follow. The first success in arms may be an *earnest* of future success. The Christian's peace of mind in this life is an *earnest* of future peace and happiness. Hence *earnest* or *earnest-money* is a first payment or deposit giving promise or assurance of full payment. Hence the practice of giving an *earnest* to ratify a bargain.

This sense of the word is primary, denoting that which goes before, or in advance. Thus the *earnest* of the spirit is given to saints, as a pledge or assurance of their future enjoyment of God's presence and favor.

EARNESTLY, *adv. ern'estly*. Warmly; zealously; importunately; eagerly; with real desire.

Being in an agony, he prayed more *earnestly*. Luke xxii.

That ye should *earnestly* contend for the faith once delivered to the saints. Jude 3.

2. With fixed attention; with eagerness.

A certain maid looked *earnestly* upon him. Luke xxiii.

EARNESTNESS, *n. ern'estness*. Ardor or zeal in the pursuit of any thing; eagerness; animated desire; as, to seek or ask with *earnestness*; to engage in a work with *earnestness*.

2. Anxious care; solicitude; intenseness of desire. *Dryden.*

3. Fixed desire or attention; seriousness; as, the charge was maintained with a show of gravity and *earnestness*.

EARNFUL, *a. ern'ful*. Full of anxiety. [Not used.] *Fletcher.*

EARNING, *ppr. ern'ing*. Meriting by services; gaining by labor or performance.

EARNING, *n. ern'ing*, plu. *earnings*. That which is earned; that which is gained or merited by labor, services or performance; wages; reward. The folly of young men is to spend their *earnings* in dissipation or extravagance. It is wise for the poor to invest their *earnings* in a productive fund.

EARSH, *n.* [See *Eare*, to plow.] A plowed field. [Not in use.] *Mey.*

EARTH, *n. erth*. [Sax. *eorð*, *corth*, *yrth*; D. *aarde*; G. *erde*; Sw. *iord*, *jord*; Dan. *iord*; Scot. *ierd*, *yerd*, *yrth*; Turk. *jerdä*; Tartaric, *yirdä*. It coincides with the Heb. אֶרֶץ.]

The Ar. أرض *aratza*, from which the

Arabic and Hebrew words corresponding to the Teutonic above, are derived, signifies to eat, gnaw or corrode as a worm, or the teredo. It is obvious then that the primary sense of *earth* is fine particles, like mold. The verb may be from עָרַץ to break or bruise. The Ch. and Syr. אֶרֶץ *eretz*, may be contracted from the same word. See *Corrode*. It is by no means improbable that *aro*, to plow, may be contracted from the same root.]

1. Earth, in its primary sense, signifies the particles which compose the mass of the globe, but more particularly the particles which form the fine mold on the surface of the globe; or it denotes any indefinite mass or portion of that matter. We throw up *earth* with a spade or plow; we fill a pit or ditch with *earth*; we form a rampart with *earth*. This substance being considered, by ancient philosophers, as simple, was called an element; and in popular language, we still hear of the four elements, *fire*, *air*, *earth* and *water*.

2. In chemistry, the term *earth* was, till lately, employed to denote a simple elementary body or substance, tasteless, inodorous, unflammable and infusible. But it has also been applied to substances which have a very sensible alkaline taste, as lime. The primitive *earths* are reckoned ten in number, viz., *silica*, *aluminum*, *lime*, *magnesia*, *baryle*, *strontian*, *zircon*, *glucina*, *yttria* and *thoria*. Recent experiments prove that most or all of them are compounds of oxygen with bases, some of which appear to possess the properties of metals. In this case the *earths* are to be considered as metallic oxids.

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