

The commodities or goods in which a mercer deals; trade of mercers. *Graunt.*

MER/CHAND, *v. i.* [Fr. *marchander*.] To trade. [Not used.] *Bacon.*

MER/CHANDISE, *n.* [Fr. from *marchand*, a merchant, or *marchander*, to cheapen.]

1. The objects of commerce; wares, goods, commodities, whatever is usually bought or sold in trade. But provisions daily sold in market, horses, cattle, and fuel are not usually included in the term, and real estate never.

2. Trade; traffick; commerce. *Shak.*

MER/CHANDISE, *v. i.* To trade; to carry on commerce.

MER/CHANDRY, *n.* Trade; commerce. [Not in use.] *Saunderson.*

MER/CHANT, *n.* [Fr. *marchand*; It. *mercante*; Sp. *mercante*; Arm. *marchadour*; from L. *mercator*, to buy.]

1. A man who trafficks or carries on trade with foreign countries, or who exports and imports goods and sells them by wholesale.

2. In popular usage, any trader, or one who deals in the purchase and sale of goods.

3. A ship in trade. [Not used.]

MER/CHANT, *v. i.* To trade. [Not in use.]

MER/CHANTABLE, *a.* Fit for market; such as is usually sold in market, or such as will bring the ordinary price; as *merchandise* wheat or timber.

MER/CHANTLIKE, *a.* Like a merchant.

MER/CHANTMAN, *n.* A ship or vessel employed in the transportation of goods, as distinguished from a ship of war.

MER/CIBLE, *a.* Merciful. [Not in use.] *Gower.*

MER/CIFUL, *a.* [from *mercy*.] Having or exercising mercy; compassionate; tender; disposed to pity offenders and to forgive their offenses; unwilling to punish for injuries; applied appropriately to the Supreme Being.

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, the Lord, the Lord God, *merciful* and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth. Ex. xxxiv.

2. Compassionate; tender; unwilling to give pain; not cruel. A *merciful* man will be *merciful* to his beast.

MER/CIFULLY, *adv.* With compassion or pity; tenderly; mildly.

MER/CIFULNESS, *n.* Tenderness towards offenders; willingness to forbear punishment; readiness to forgive. *Hammond.*

MER/CIFY, *v. t.* To pity. [Not in use.] *Spenser.*

MER/CILESS, *a.* Destitute of mercy; unfeeling; pitiless; hard-hearted; cruel; as a *merciless* tyrant. *Dryden.*

2. Not sparing; as the *merciless* waves or tempest.

MER/CILESSLY, *adv.* In a manner void of mercy or pity; cruelly.

MER/CILESSNESS, *n.* Want of mercy or pity.

MER/CURIAL, *a.* [from *Mercury*; L. *mercurialis*.]

1. Formed under the influence of Mercury; active; sprightly; full of fire or vigor; as a *mercurial* youth; a *mercurial* nation. *Bacon. Swift.*

2. Pertaining to quicksilver; containing quicksilver, or consisting of mercury; as *mercurial* preparations or medicines.

MER/CURIALIST, *n.* One under the influence of Mercury, or one resembling Mercury in variety of character.

MER/CURIATE, *n.* A combination of the oxyd of mercury with another substance.

Mercuric acid, a saturated combination of mercury and oxygen.

MER/CURIFICATION, *n.* In *metallurgic chemistry*, the process or operation of obtaining the mercury from metallic minerals in its fluid form. *Encyc.*

2. The act of mixing with quicksilver. *Boyle.*

MER/CURIFY, *v. t.* To obtain mercury from metallic minerals, which it is said may be done by a large lens, the intense heat of which expels the mercury in fumes, which are afterwards condensed. *Encyc.*

MER/CURY, *n.* [L. *Mercurius*. In mythology, *Mercury* is the god of eloquence and of commerce, called by the Greeks *Hermes*, and his name is said to be formed from *merces*, or *mercator*. But in antiquity, there were several persons or deities of this name.]

1. Quicksilver, a metal remarkable for its fusibility, which is so great that to fix or congeal it, requires a degree of cold which is marked on Fahrenheit's scale at thirty nine degrees below zero. Its specific gravity is greater than that of any other metal, except platina, gold and tungsten. Under a heat of 660 degrees, it rises in fumes and is gradually converted into a red oxyd. Mercury is used in barometers to ascertain the weight of the atmosphere, and in thermometers to determine the temperature of the air, for which purposes it is well adapted by its expansibility, and the extensive range between its freezing and boiling points. Preparations of this metal are among the most powerful poisons, and are extensively used as medicines. The preparation called calomel, is a most efficacious deobstruent.

2. Heat of constitutional temperament; spirit; sprightly qualities. *Pope.*

3. A genus of plants, the *Mercurialis*, of several species.

4. One of the planets nearest the sun. It is 3224 miles in diameter, and revolves round the sun in about 88 days. Its mean distance from the sun is thirty seven millions of miles.

5. The name of a newspaper or periodical publication, and in some places, the carrier of a newspaper or pamphlet.

MER/CURY, *v. t.* To wash with a preparation of mercury. *B. Jonson.*

MER/CY, *n.* [Fr. *merci*; Norm. *merce*, *meer* or *mers*; supposed to be a contraction of L. *misericordia*. But qu. Eth. מֵחַל *meher*, to pity.]

1. That benevolence, mildness or tenderness of heart which disposes a person to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves; the disposition that tempers justice, and induces an injured person to forgive trespasses and injuries, and to forbear punishment, or inflict less than law or justice will warrant. In this sense, there is perhaps no word in our language precisely synonymous with *mercy*. That which comes nearest to it is *grace*.

It implies benevolence, tenderness, mildness, pity or compassion, and clemency, but exercised only towards offenders. *Mercy* is a distinguishing attribute of the Supreme Being.

The Lord is long-suffering and of great *mercy*, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty. Num. xiv.

2. An act or exercise of mercy or favor. It is a *mercy* that they escaped.

I am not worthy of the least of all thy *mercies*. Gen. xxxii.

3. Pity; compassion manifested towards a person in distress.

And he said, he that showed *mercy* on him. Luke x.

4. Clemency and bounty.

Mercy and truth preserve the king; and his throne is upheld by *mercy*. Prov. xxviii.

5. Charity, or the duties of charity and benevolence.

I will have *mercy* and not sacrifice. Matt. ix.

6. Grace; favor. 1 Cor. vii. Jude 2.

7. Eternal life, the fruit of *mercy*. 2 Tim. i.

8. Pardon.

I cry thee *mercy* with all my heart. *Dryden.*

9. The act of sparing, or the forbearance of a violent act expected. The prisoner cried for *mercy*.

To be or to lie at the *mercy* of, to have no means of self-defense, but to be dependent for safety on the *mercy* or compassion of another, or in the power of that which is irresistible; as, to be at the *mercy* of a foe, or of the waves.

MER/CY-SEAT, *n.* The propitiatory; the covering of the ark of the covenant among the Jews. This was of gold, and its ends were fixed to two cherubs, whose wings extended forward, and formed a kind of throne for the majesty of God, who is represented in Scripture as sitting between the cherubs. It was from this seat that God gave his oracles to Moses, or to the high priest who consulted him. *Calmet.*

MERD, *n.* [Fr. *merde*; L. *merda*.] Ordure; dung. *Burton.*

MERE, *a.* [L. *merus*; It. *mero*.] This or that only; distinct from any thing else.

From *mere* success nothing can be concluded in favor of a nation. *Atterbury.*

What if the head, the eye or ear repin'd

To serve *mere* engines to the ruling mind?

Pope.

2. Absolute; entire. *Spenser.*

MERE, *n.* [Sax. *mere* or *mere*, a pool, lake or the sea; D. *meir*; L. *mare*. See *Moor*.]

A pool or lake.

MERE, *n.* [Sax. *meta*, *gemara*; Gr. $\mu\epsilon\rho\omega$, to divide, or Russ. *miryu*, to measure.]

A boundary; used chiefly in the compound, *mere-stone*. *Bacon.*

MERE, *v. t.* To divide, limit or bound. *Obs.*

Spenser.

MER/ELY, *adv.* Purely; only; solely; thus and no other way; for this and no other purpose.

Prize not your life for other ends

Than *merely* to oblige your friends. *Swift.*

MER/ETRI/CIOUS, *a.* [L. *meretricius*, from *meretrix*, a prostitute.]

1. Pertaining to prostitutes; such as is practiced by harlots; as *meretricious* arts.