

DUCK'ER, *n.* A plunger; a diver; a cringer.

DUCK'ING, *ppr.* Plunging; thrusting suddenly into water and withdrawing; dipping.

DUCK'ING, *n.* The act of plunging or putting in water and withdrawing. Ducking is a punishment of offenders in France, and among English seamen, it is a penalty to which sailors are subject on passing; for the first time, the equator or tropic.

DUCK'ING-STOOL, *n.* A stool or chair in which common scolds were formerly tied and plunged into water. *Blackstone.*

DUCK'-LEGGED, *a.* Having short legs, like a duck. *Dryden.*

DUCK'LING, *n.* A young duck. *Ray.*

DUCK'-MEAT, *n.* A plant, the Lemna.

DUCK'S-MEAT, *n.* growing in ditches and shallow water, and serving for food for ducks and geese. *Encyc.*

The starry duck's-meat is the Callitriche. *Fam. of Plants.*

DUCKOY. [See *Decoy*.]

DUCK'S-FOOT, *n.* A plant, the Podophyllum; called also May-apple. *Fam. of Plants.*

DUCK'-WEED, *n.* The same as duck-meat.

DUCT, *n.* [L. *ductus*, from *duco*, to lead. See *Duke*.]

1. Any tube or canal by which a fluid or other substance is conducted or conveyed. It is particularly used to denote the vessels of an animal body, by which the blood, chyle, lymph, &c., are carried from one part to another, and the vessels of plants in which the sap is conveyed. *[Little used.]*
2. Guidance; direction. *[Little used.]*

DUCTILE, *a.* [L. *ductilis*, from *duco*, to lead.]

1. That may be led; easy to be led or drawn; tractable; complying; obsequious; yielding to motives, persuasion or instruction; as the ductile minds of youth; a ductile people. *Philips. Addison.*
2. Flexible; pliable. *The ductile mind and leaves of radiant gold.* *Dryden.*
3. That may be drawn out into wire or threads. Gold is the most ductile of the metals.
4. That may be extended by beating.

DUCTILENESS, *n.* The quality of suffering extension by drawing or percussion; ductility. *Donne.*

DUCTILITY, *n.* The property of solid bodies, particularly metals, which renders them capable of being extended by drawing without breaking; as the ductility of gold, iron or brass.

2. Flexibility; obsequiousness; a disposition of mind that easily yields to motives or influence; ready compliance. *Roscoe.*

DUCTURE, *n.* [L. *duco*.] Guidance. *[Vol in use.]* *South.*

DUDG'EON, *n.* [G. *degen*.] A small dagger. *Hudibras.*

DUDG'EON, *n.* [W. *dygen*.] Anger; resentment; malice; ill will; discord. *L'Estrange. Hudibras.*

DUDS, *n.* [Scot. *dud*, a rag; *duds*, clothes, or old worn clothes.]

Old clothes; tattered garments. *[A vulgar word.]*

DUE, *a. du.* [Fr. *dû*, pp. of *devoir*, L. *de-*

beo, Sp. *deber*, It. *dovere*. Qu. Gr. *δωω*, to bind. Class Db. It has no connection with *due*.]

1. Owed; that ought to be paid or done to another. That is due from me to another which contract, justice or propriety requires me to pay, and which he may justly claim as his right. Reverence is due to the creator; civility is due from one man to another. Money is due at the expiration of the credit given, or at the period promised.
2. Proper; fit; appropriate; suitable; becoming; required by the circumstances; as, the event was celebrated with due solemnities. Men seldom have a due sense of their depravity.
3. Seasonable; as, he will come in due time.
1. Exact; proper; as, the musicians keep due time.
2. Owning to; occasioned by. *[Little used.]* *Boyle.*
6. That ought to have arrived, or to be present, before the time specified; as, two mails are now due.

DUE, *adv.* Directly; exactly; as a due east course.

DUE, *n.* That which is owed; that which one contracts to pay, do or perform to another; that which law or justice requires to be paid or done. The money that I contract to pay to another is his due; the service which I covenant to perform to another is his due; reverence to the creator is his due.

2. That which office, rank, station, social relations, or established rules of right or decorum, require to be given, paid or done. Respect and obedience to parents and magistrates are their due.
3. That which law or custom requires; as toll, tribute, fees of office, or other legal perquisites. *Addison.*
4. Right; just title. *The key of this infernal pit by due—* *Milton.* *I keep.*

DUE, *v. t.* To pay as due. *[Vol used.]* *Shak.*

DUEL, *n.* [L. *duellum*; Fr. *duel*; It. *duello*; Port. *id.*; Sp. *duelo*. In Armoric, the word is *dufell*, or *duvell*, and Gergoire supposes the word to be compounded of *doit*, two, and *bell*, bellum, war, combat. So in Dutch, *tweegevelt*, two-fight; in G. *zweikampf*, id.]

1. Single combat; a premeditated combat between two persons, for the purpose of deciding some private difference or quarrel. A sudden fight, not premeditated, is called a *re encounter*. A duel is fought with deadly weapons and with a purpose to take life.
2. Any contention or contest. *Milton.*

DUEL, *v. i.* To fight in single combat. *South.*

DUEL, *v. t.* To attack or fight singly. *Milton.*

DUE'LER, *n.* A combatant in single fight.

DUE'LING, *ppr.* Fighting in single combat.

DUE'LING, *n.* The act or practice of fighting in single combat. *Dryden.*

DUE'LIST, *n.* One who fights in single combat. *The duelist values his honor above the life of his antagonist, his own life, and the happiness of his family.*

2. One who professes to study the rules of honor.

DUEL'LO, *n.* Duel; or rule of dueling. *[Vol used.]* *Shak.*

DUE'NESS, *n.* *du'ness*. [See *Due*.] Fitness; propriety; due quality.

DUE'N'NA, *n.* [Sp. *duena*, fem. of *dueño*; Fr. *duenne*; the same as *donna*, the feminine of *don*. Qu. W. *dyn*, Ir. *duine*, man, a person. See *Don*.]

An old woman who is kept to guard a younger; a governess. *Arbuthnot.*

DUE'T, *n.* { *[Ital. duetto, from duo, two.]*

DUE'T-TO, *n.* { A song or air in two parts.

DUG, *n.* [Ice. *deggia*. This word corresponds with the root of L. *digitus*, Eng. *toe*, Norm. *do*, a finger, signifying a shoot or point.]

The pap or nipple of a cow or other beast. It is applied to a human female in contempt, but seems to have been used formerly of the human breast without reproach.

From tender dug of common nurse. *Spenser.*

DUG, *pret. and pp. of dig*; as, they dug a ditch; a ditch was dug.

DUKE, *n.* [Fr. *duc*; Sp. Port. *duque*; It. *duca*; Arm. *dug* or *doug*; Sax. *teoce*, and in composition, *toga*, *toge*, as in *here-toga*, an army leader, a general; D. *her-tog*; G. *herzog*; Dan. *herzog*; Sw. *hertig*; Venetian, *doge*; L. *dux*, from *duco*, to lead, as in Saxon, *ligan*, *teon*, to draw, to tug; Gr. *royes*; Thessalian, *tagus*. Class Dg. No. 5. 14.]

1. In Great Britain, one of the highest order of nobility; a title of honor or nobility next below the princes; as the Duke of Bedford or of Cornwall.
3. In some countries on the Continent, a sovereign prince, without the title of king; as the Duke of Holstein, of Savoy, of Parma, &c.
2. A chief; a prince; as the dukes of Edom. Gen. xxxvi.

DUKE'DOM, *n.* The seignory or possessions of a duke; the territory of a duke. *Shak.*

2. The title or quality of a duke. *Ibid.*

DUL'BRAINED, *a.* [dull and brain.] Stupid; doltish; of dull intellects. [See *Dul-brained*.] *Shak.*

DUL'CET, *a.* [L. *dulcis*, sweet.] Sweet to the taste; luscious. *Milton.*

She tempers dulcet creams.

2. Sweet to the ear; melodious; harmonious; as dulcet sounds; dulcet symphonies. *Milton.*

DULCIFICATION, *n.* [See *Dulcify*.] The act of sweetening; the act of freeing from acidity, saltness or acrimony. *Boyle.*

DULCIFIED, *pp.* Sweetened; purified from salts.

Dulcified spirits, a term formerly applied to the different ethers; as *dulcified spirits of niter* and *vitriol*, nitric and sulphuric ethers. *Dispensatory.*

DULCIFY, *v. t.* [Fr. *dulcifier*, from L. *dulcis*, sweet, and *facio*, to make.] To sweeten; to free from acidity, saltness or acrimony. *Wiseman.*

DULCIMER, *n.* [It. *dolcimello*, from *dolce*, sweet. *Skinner*.]