

5. To settle and adjust, as an account; to find the difference of two accounts, and to pay the balance, or difference, and make them equal.

6. In *seamanship*, to contract a sail, by rolling up a small part of it at one corner.

*Mar. Dict.*

BALANCE, *v. i.* To have on each side equal weight; to be on a poise.

2. To hesitate; to fluctuate between motives which appear of equal force, as a balance plays when poised by equal weights.

Between right and wrong, never balance moment.

*Anon.*

BALANCED, *pp.* Charged with equal weights; standing on an equipoise; regulated so as to be equal; settled; adjusted; made equal in weight or amount.

BALANCE FISH, *n.* The *zygana*, or mar-tan; a fish of the genus *squalus*, or shark kind. It is 6 feet long, and weighs 500 lbs. It has three or four rows of broad pointed and serrated teeth; has a horrible aspect, and is very voracious.

*Encyc.*

BALANCER, *n.* The person who weighs, or who uses a balance.

2. A member of an insect useful in balancing the body.

3. One skilled in balancing.

BALANCE-REEF, *n.* A reef band that crosses a sail diagonally, used to contract it in a storm.

*Mar. Dict.*

BALANCING, *pp.* Charging with equal weights; being in a state of equipoise; bringing to a state of equality; regulating respective forces or sums to make them equal; settling; adjusting; paying a difference of accounts; hesitating; contracting a sail by rolling up one corner of it.

BALANCING, *n.* Equilibrium; poise.

*Spenser.*

BALANITE, *n.* A fossil shell of the genus *Balanus*.

*Jameson.*

BALASS, *n.* [Sp. *batax*; Fr. *balais*.]

A variety of spinel ruby, of a pale rose red, or inclining to orange. Its crystals are usually octahedrons, composed of two four-sided pyramids, applied base to base. [See *Spinel*.]

*Cleveland. Kirwan.*

BALAUSTINE, *n.* The wild pomegranate tree.

*Core.*

BALCONY, *n.* [Fr. *balcon*; It. *balcone*; Sp. *balcon*; Port. *balcam*; probably a jutting, as in *bulk*, *belly*, W. *bale*. In Pers.

بلكان, *balkana*, is a cancellated window.]

In *architecture*, a frame of wood, iron or stone, in front of a house or other building, supported by columns, pillars or consoles, and encompassed with a balustrade. Balconies are common before windows.

*Encyc.*

BALD, *a. bauld*. [Sp. *baldo*, untilled, vacant, unfurnished; Port. *balido*, open, common; *baldar*, to frustrate.]

1. Destitute of hair, especially on the top and back of the head.

2. Destitute of the natural covering; as a bald oak.

3. Without feathers on the head; as a bald vulture.

4. Destitute of trees on the top; as a bald mountain.

*Blount.*

5. Unadorned; inelegant; as a *bald* translation.

*Dryden.*

6. Mean; naked; base; without dignity or value.

*Shak.*

7. In *popular language*, open, bold, audacious.

8. Without beard or awn; as *bald* wheat.

BALD ACHIN, *n.* [It. *baldochino*; Sp. *baldoquino*, a rich silk or canopy, carried over the host.

*Du Cange*. Linnæus deduces it from the name of a city in Babylonia.]

In *architecture*, a building in form of a canopy, supported by columns, and often used as a covering to insulated altars; sometimes used for a shell over a door.

*Encyc. Johnson.*

BALD ERDASH, *n.* [Qu. *Sp. baldia*, a trifles, or baldoria, to insult with abusive language; W. *baldor*, to prattle; D. *baldere*.]

Mean, senseless prate; a jargon of words; ribaldry; any thing jumbled together without judgment.

BALD ERDASH, *v. t.* To mix or adulterate liquors.

*Johnson.*

BALD LY, *adv.* Nakedly; meanly; inelegantly; openly.

BALD NESS, *n.* Want of hair on the top and back of the head; loss of hair; meanness or inelegance of writing; want of ornament.

BALD PATE, *n.* A pate without hair.

*Shak.*

BALD PATED, *a.* Destitute of hair; shorn of hair.

*Shak.*

BALD RICK, *n.* [from Sw. *balt*, Ir. *balta*, L. *balteus*, a belt, and *rick*, rich. See these words.]

1. A girdle, or richly ornamented belt; a war girdle.

A radiant baldrick o'er his shoulders tied.

*Pope.*

2. The zodiac.

*Spenser.*

BALE, *n.* [Fr. *balle*; Ger. *ballen*; D. *bal*; It. *ballo*, a bale; Ch. Ar. Heb. *בלי*, to bind, to pledge, and its derivative, in Ar. and Eth., a rope.]

1. A bundle or package of goods in a cloth cover, and corded for carriage or transportation.

2. Formerly, a pair of dice.

BALE, *v. t.* To make up in a bale.

BALE, *n.* [Sax. *beal*, *bealo*. Qu. Heb. Ch. Syr. and Ar. *בל*, to grieve or mourn, to be desolate, and *abal*, death.] Misery; calamity.

*Obs.*

BALEARIC, *a.* [from *Balearis*, the denomination given to Majorca and Minorca. Qu. from Gr. *βαλλω*, to throw, because the inhabitants were good slingers.]

Pertaining to the isles of Majorca and Minorca, in the Mediterranean sea.

BALEFUL, *a.* [See *Bale*.] Woeful; sad; sorrowful; full of grief; producing misery; as, a *baleful* smart; *baleful* eyes.

*Spenser. Milton.*

3. Mischievous; destructive; pernicious; calamitous; deadly; as, *baleful* enemies; *baleful* war.

BALEFULLY, *adv.* Sorrowfully; perniciously; in a calamitous manner.

BALISTER, *n.* [L. *ballista*, from Gr. *βαλλω*, to throw.] A cross bow.

*Blount.*

BALIZE, *n.* [Fr. *batise*; Sp. *baliza*, a beacon.] A sea-mark; a pole raised on a bank.

BALK, *n. balk*. [Sax. *balc*; W. *balc*, a ridge between furrows; *bale*, prominent, swelling, proud; said to be from *bal*, a prominence; *bala*, eruption; *balau*, to shoot, spring or drive out.]

1. A ridge of land, left unplowed, between furrows, or at the end of the field.

2. A great beam, or rafter. [G. *balken*; D. *balk*.]

3. Any thing left untouched, like a ridge in plowing.

*Spenser.*

4. A frustration; disappointment.

*South.*

BALK, *v. t. balk*. To disappoint; to frustrate.

*Locke.*

2. To leave untouched; to miss or omit.

*Dryden.*

3. To pile, as in a heap or ridge.

*Shak.*

4. To turn aside; to talk beside one's meaning.

*Spenser.*

5. To plow, leaving balks.

BALKED, *pp.* Plowed in ridges between furrows, as in American husbandry.

6. Frustrated; disappointed.

BALKER, *n.* One who balks. In *fishery*, balters are persons who stand on rocks and eminences to espy the shoals of herring, and to give notice to the men in boats, which way they pass.

*Encyc. Corel.*

BALK'ING, *pp.* Plowing in ridges; frustrating.

BALL, *n.* [G. *ball*; D. *bal*; Sw. *ball*; Dan. *ballon*; Russ. *bal*; Sp. *bala*, *bola*; It. *palla*; L. *pila*; W. *pel*, *pelten*; Arm. *bolat*; Fr. *balle*, *boule*. A ball may signify a mass from collecting, or it may be that which is driven, from the root of L. *pello*; probably the former.]

1. A round body; a spherical substance, whether natural or artificial; or a body nearly round; as, a *ball* for play; a *ball* of thread; a *ball* of snow.

2. A bullet; a *ball* of iron or lead for cannon, muskets, &c.

3. A printer's ball, consisting of hair or wool, covered with leather or skin, and fastened to a stock, called a ball-stock, and used to put ink on the types in the forms.

4. The globe or earth, from its figure.

5. A globe borne as an ensign of authority; as, to hold the *ball* of a kingdom.

*Bacon.*

6. Any part of the body that is round or prominent; as, the eye *ball*; the *ball* of the thumb or foot.

7. The weight at the bottom of a pendulum.

8. Among the Cornish miners in England, a tin mine.

9. In *pyrotechnics*, a composition of combustible ingredients, which serve to burn, smoke or give light.

Ball-stock, among printers, a stock somewhat hollow at one end, to which balls of skin, stuffed with wool, are fastened, and which serves as a handle.

Ball-vein, among miners, a sort of iron ore, found in loose masses, of a circular form, containing sparkling particles.

*Encyc.*

Ball and socket, an instrument used in surveying and astronomy, made of brass, with a perpetual screw, to move horizontally, obliquely, or vertically.

Puff-ball, in botany, the *Lycoperdon*, a genus of funguses.