

The science which teaches the knowledge of the celestial bodies, their magnitudes, motions, distances, periods of revolution, aspects, eclipses, order, &c. This science depends on observations, made chiefly with instruments, and upon mathematical calculations.

**ASTROSOCPE**, *n.* [Gr. *αστρον*, a star, and *σκοπεω*, to view.]

An astronomical instrument, composed of two cones, on whose surface the constellations, with their stars, are delineated, by means of which the stars may be easily known. *Encyc.*

**ASTROSCOPY**, *n.* [See *Astroscope*.] Observation of the stars.

**ASTRO-THEOLOG**, *n.* [L. *astrum*, a star, and *theologia*, divinity.]

Theology founded on the observation of the celestial bodies. *Derham.*

**ASTRUT**, *adv.* [See *Strut*.] In a strutting manner.

**ASTUTE**, *a.* [L. *astutus*, from *astus*, craft, subtlety; *Ir. aiste*, aiste, ingenuity.]

Shrewd; sharp; eagle-eyed; critically examining or discerning. *Sandys.*

**ASUNDER**, *adv.* [Sax. *asundrian*, to divide. See *Sunder*.]

Apart; into parts; separately; in a divided state.

The Lord hath cut *asunder* the cords of the wicked. *Ps. cxxix.*

**ASWOON**, *adv.* In a swoon. *Obs.*

**ASYLUM**, *n.* [L. from Gr. *ασυλον*, safe from spoil, and *αυαν*, spoil, refuge, to plunder.]

1. A sanctuary, or place of refuge, where criminals and debtors shelter themselves from justice, and from which they cannot be taken without sacrilege. Temples and altars were anciently asylums; as were tombs, statues and monuments. The ancient heathens allowed asylums for the protection of the vilest criminals; and the Jews had their cities of refuge.

2. Any place of retreat and security.

**ASYMMETRICAL**, *a.* [See *Symmetry*.]

Not having symmetry. [Little used.] *Morr.*

**ASYMMETRY**, *n.* [Gr. *a* priv. and *συμμετρια*, symmetry, of *συν*, with, and *μετροω*, to measure.]

The want of proportion between the parts of a thing. It is also used in mathematics for incommensurability, when between two quantities there is no common measure. *Johnson.*

**ASYMPTOTE**, *n.* [Gr. *a* priv. and *πτος*, to fall; not meeting or coinciding.]

A line which approaches nearer and nearer to some curve, but though infinitely extended, would never meet it. This may be conceived as a tangent to a curve at an infinite distance. *Chambers.*

**ASYMPTOTICAL**, *a.* Belonging to an asymptote. Asymptotical lines or curves are such as continually approach, when extended, but never meet.

**ASYNDETON**, *n.* [Gr. *a* priv. and *συνδεω*, to bind together.]

In grammar, a figure which omits the connective; as, *veni, vidi, vici*. It stands opposed to *polysyndeton*, which is a multiplication of connectives. *Campbell.*

**AT**, *prep.* [Sax. *æt*; Goth. *at*; L. *ad*. *At*, *ad* and *to*, if not radically the same word, often coincide in signification. In W. *at* is *to*, and in Danish it is the sign of the infinitive mode; in Anh. *od*, or *ud*, is towards. The word *at* is doubtless the original *ατ*, *ατ*, Ch. and Heb. *to* come, to approach. Hence it primarily denotes *presence*, *meeting*, *nearness*, *direction* to wards.]

In general, *at* denotes *nearness*, or *presence*; as *at* the ninth hour, *at* the house; but it is less definite than *in* or *on*; *at* the house, may be *in* or *near* the house. It denotes also *towards*, *versus*; as, to aim an arrow *at* a mark.

From this original import are derived all the various uses of *at*. *At* the sight, is *with*, *present*, or *coming* the sight; *at* this news, *present* the news, *on* or *with* the approach or arrival of this news. *At* peace, *at* war, in a state of peace or war, peace or war existing, being *present*; *at* ease, *at* play, *at* a loss, &c. convey the like idea. *At* arms, furnished with arms, bearing arms, present with arms; *at* hand, within reach of the hand, and therefore *near*; *at* my cost, with my cost; *at* his suit, *by* or *with* his suit; *at* this declaration, he rose from his seat, that is, *present*, or *coming* this declaration; whence results the idea in consequence of it. *At* his command, is either *under* his command, that is, literally, *coming* or *being* come his command, in the power, or in consequence of it. He is good *at* engraving, *at* husbandry; that is, performing that business. He deserves well *at* our hands, that is, from us. The peculiar phrases in which this word occurs, with appropriate significations, are numerous. *At* first, *at* last, *at* least, *at* best, *at* the worst, *at* the highest or lowest, are phrases in which some noun is implied; as, *at* the first time, or beginning; *at* the last time, or point of time; *at* the least or best degree, &c.; all denoting an extreme point or superlative degree. *At* all, is in any manner or degree.

*At* is sometimes used for *to*, or *towards*, noting progression or direction; as, he aims *at* perfection; he makes or runs *at* him, or points *at* him. In this phrase, he longs to be *at* him, at his general sense of *approaching*, or *present*, or *with*, in contest or attack.

**ATABAL**, *n.* [Sp.] A kettle drum; a kind of tabour. *Dryden.*

**ATACAMITE**, *n.* A muriate of copper.

**ATAGAS**, *n.* The red cock or Moor-game. *Core.*

**ATAMAS/CO**, *n.* A species of lily of the genus *Anaryllis*.

**ATARAXY**, *n.* [Gr. *αταραχος*, of a priv. and *ταραχω*, tumult.] Calmness of mind; a term used by the stoics and sceptics to denote a freedom from the emotions which proceed from vanity and self-conceit. *Encyc.*

**ATAXY**, *n.* [Gr. *a* priv. and *ταξις*, order.] Want of order; disturbance; irregularity in the functions of the body, or in the crises and paroxysms of disease. *Core. Encyc.*

**ATCHE**, *n.* In Turkey, a small silver coin, value about six or seven mills. *Encyc.*

**ATE**, the preterite of *eat*, which see.

**ATE**, *n.* *aty.* [Gr. *ατ*, mischief; *ατα*, to hurt. *Ate* is a personification of evil, mischief or malice.]

In *pagan mythology*, the goddess of mischief, who was cast down from heaven by Jupiter. *Pope's Hom. II.*

**ATELLAN**, *a.* Relating to the dramas at Atella in Italy. *Shaftebury.*

**ATELLAN**, *n.* A dramatic representation, satirical or licentious. *Shaftebury.*

**ATEMPOGIUSTO**, [L.; *in tempore justo*.]

A direction in music, which signifies to sing or play in an equal, true or just time.

**ATHANASIAN**, *a.* Pertaining to Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, in the fourth century. The Athanasian creed is a formula, confession or exposition of faith, supposed formerly to have been drawn up by Athanasius, but this opinion is now rejected, and the composition is ascribed by some to Hilary, bishop of Arles. It is a summary of what was called the orthodox faith.

**ATHANOR**, *n.* [Ar. and Heb. *תנור* *thanor*, an oven or furnace.]

A digesting furnace, formerly used in chemical operations; so constructed as to maintain a uniform and durable heat. It is a furnace, with a lateral tower close on all sides, which is to be filled with fuel. As the fuel falls down is consumed, that in the tower falls down to supply its place. *Nicholson.*

**ATHEISM**, *n.* The disbelief of the existence of a God, or Supreme intelligent Being.

*Atheism* is a ferocious system that leaves nothing above us to excite awe, nor around us, to awaken tenderness. *Rob. Hall.*

**ATHEIST**, *n.* [Gr. *αθεος*, of a priv. and *θεος*, God.]

One who disbelieves the existence of a God, or Supreme intelligent Being.

**ATHEIST**, *a.* Atheistical; disbelieving or denying the being of a Supreme God.

**ATHEISTIC**, *a.* Pertaining to atheism.

2. Disbelieving the existence of a God; impious; applied to persons; as, an atheistic writer.

3. Implying or containing atheism; applied to things; as, atheistic doctrines or opinions.

**ATHEISTICALLY**, *adv.* In an atheistic manner; impiously.

**ATHEISTICALNESS**, *n.* The quality of being atheistical.

**ATHEIZE**, *v. i.* To discourse as an atheist. [Not used.] *Cudworth.*

**ATHEL**, **ADEL**, or **ÆTHEL**, *noble*, of illustrious birth; Sax. *adel*, *æthel*; G. *adel*.

*D. edel*; Sw. *adel*; Dan. *adel*; Ar. *أهل* *athala*, to be well rooted, to be of noble origin. This word is found in many Saxon names; as in *Ætheling*, a noble youth; *Æthelred*, noble counsel; *Æthelard*, noble genius; *Æthelbert*, noble bright, eminently noble; *Æthelwald*, noble government, or power; *Æthelward*, noble defender.

**ATHENIAN**, *a.* [from *Athens*.] Pertaining to Athens, the metropolis of Attica in Greece.

**ATHENIAN**, *n.* A native or inhabitant of Athens.