

- creature*; a poor *creature*; what a *creature*!
4. With words of endearment, it denotes a human being beloved; as a pretty *creature*; a sweet *creature*.
5. That which is produced, formed or imagined; as a *creature* of the imagination.
6. A person who owes his rise and fortune to another; one who is made to be what he is.
Great princes thus, when favorites they raise,
To justify their grace, their *creatures* praise.
Dryden.
7. A dependent; a person who is subject to the will or influence of another.
- CREATURELY**, *a.* Having the qualities of a creature. [*Little used.*] *Chayv.*
- CREATURESHIP**, *n.* The state of a creature. [*Little used.*] *Creve.*
- CREDESCENCE**, *n.* [*It. credenza*; *Fr. creance*; from *L. credens*, from *credo*, to believe. See *Cred.*]
1. Belief; credit; reliance of the mind on evidence of facts derived from other sources than personal knowledge, as from the testimony of others. We give *credence* to a historian of unsuspected integrity, or to a story which is related by a man of known veracity.
2. That which gives a claim to credit, belief or confidence; as a *letter of credence*, which is intended to command the bearer to the confidence of a third person.
- CREDESCENCE**, *n.* [*L. See Cred.*]
- In *theology*, things to be believed; articles of faith; distinguished from *agenda*, or practical duties. *Johnson.*
- CREDESCENT**, *a.* Believing; giving credit; easy of belief. *Shak.*
2. Having credit; not to be questioned. *Shak.*
- [*This word is rarely used, and in the latter sense is improper.*]
- CREDESCENTIALS**, *n. plu.* [*Rarely or never used in the singular.*]
- That which gives credit; that which gives a title or claim to confidence; the warrant on which belief, credit or authority is claimed, among strangers; as the letters of commendation and power given by a government to an ambassador or envoy, which give him credit at a foreign court. So the power of working miracles given to the apostles may be considered as their *credentials*, authorizing them to propagate the gospel, and entitling them to credit.
- CREDEBILITY**, *n.* [*Fr. credibilité*, from *L. credibilis*.]
- Credibility*; the quality or state of a thing which renders it possible to be believed, or which admits belief, on rational principles; the quality or state of a thing which involves no contradiction, or absurdity. *Credibility* is less than certainty, and greater than possibility; indeed it is less than probability, but is nearly allied to it. [See *Credible*.]
- CREDEBLE**, *a.* [*L. credibilis*.] That may be believed; worthy of credit. A thing is *credible*, when it is known to be possible, or when it involves no contradiction or absurdity; it is *more credible*, when it is known to come within the ordinary laws or operations of nature. With regard to the Divine Being and his operations, every thing is *credible* which is consistent with

- his perfections, and supported by evidence; or unimpeachable testimony, for his power is unlimited. With regard to human affairs, we do not apply the word to things barely possible, but to things which come within the usual course of human conduct, and the general laws of evidence.
2. Worthy of belief; having a claim to credit; applied to persons. A *credible* person is one of known veracity and integrity, or whose veracity may be fairly deduced from circumstances. We believe the history of Aristides and Themistocles, on the authority of *credible* historians.
- CREDIBLENESS**, *n.* *Credibility*; worthiness of belief; just claim to credit. [See *Credibility*.]
- CREDIBLY**, *adv.* In a manner that deserves belief; with good authority to support belief.
- CREDIT**, *n.* [*Fr. credit*; *It. credito*; *Sp. id.*; *L. creditum*. See *Cred.*]
1. Belief; faith; a reliance or resting of the mind on the truth of something said or done. We give *credit* to a man's declaration, when the mind rests on the truth of it, without doubt or suspicion, which is attended with wavering. We give *credit* to testimony or to a report, when we rely on its truth and certainty.
2. Reputation derived from the confidence of others. Esteem; estimation; good opinion founded on a belief of a man's veracity, integrity, abilities and virtue; as a physician in high credit with his brethren. Hence,
3. Honor; reputation; estimation; applied to men or things. A man gains no credit by profaneeness; and a poem may lose no credit by criticism. The credit of a man depends on his virtues; the credit of his writings, on their worth.
4. That which procures or is entitled to belief; testimony; authority derived from one's character, or from the confidence of others. We believe a story on the credit of the narrator. We believe in miracles on the credit of inspired men. We trust to the credit of an assertion, made by a man of known veracity.
5. Influence derived from the reputation of veracity or integrity, or from the good opinion or confidence of others; interest; power derived from weight of character, from friendship, fidelity or other cause. A minister may have great credit with a prince. He may employ his credit to good or evil purposes. A man uses his credit with a friend; a servant, with his master.
6. In commerce, trust; transfer of goods in confidence of future payment. When the merchant gives a credit, he sells his wares on an expressed or implied promise that the purchaser will pay for them at a future time. The seller believes in the solvability and probity of the purchaser, and delivers his goods on that belief or trust; or he delivers them on the credit or reputation of the purchaser. The purchaser takes what is sold, on credit. In like manner, money is loaned on the credit of the borrower.
7. The capacity of being trusted; or the reputation of solvency and probity which entitles a man to be trusted. A customer has good credit or no credit with a merchant.

8. In book-keeping, the side of an account in which payment is entered; opposed to *debit*. This article is carried to one's credit, and that to his debit. We speak of the credit side of an account.
9. *Public credit*, the confidence which men entertain in the ability and disposition of a nation, to make good its engagements with its creditors; or the estimation in which individuals hold the public promises of payment, whether such promises are expressed or implied. The term is also applied to the general credit of individuals in a nation; when merchants and others are wealthy, and punctual in fulfilling engagements; or when they transact business with honor and fidelity; or when transfers of property are made with ease for ready payment. So we speak of the credit of a bank, when general confidence is placed in its ability to redeem its notes; and the credit of a mercantile house rests on its supposed ability and probity, which induce men to trust to its engagements.
- Cherish public credit.* *Washington.*
- When the public credit is questionable, it raises the premium on loans.
10. The notes or bills which are issued by the public or by corporations or individuals, which circulate on the confidence of men in the ability and disposition in those who issue them, to redeem them. They are sometimes called bills of credit.
11. The time given for payment for lands or goods sold on trust; as a long credit, or a short credit.
12. A sum of money due to any person; any thing valuable standing on the creditor side of an account. A has a credit on the books of B. The credits are more than balanced by the debits.
- [In this sense the word has the plural number.]
- CREDIT**, *v. t.* [from the Noun.] To believe; to confide in the truth of; as, to credit a report, or the man who tells it.
2. To trust; to sell or loan in confidence of future payment; as, to credit goods or money.
3. To procure credit or honor; to do credit; to give reputation or honor.
May here her monument stand so,
To credit this rude age. *Waller.*
4. To enter upon the credit side of an account; as, to credit the amount paid.
5. To set to the credit of; as, to credit to a man the interest paid on a bond.
- CREDITABLE**, *a.* Reputable; that may be enjoyed or exercised with reputation or esteem; estimable. A man pursues a creditable occupation, or way of living. *Arbuthnot.*
- CREDITABLENESS**, *n.* Reputation; estimation. *Johnson.*
- CREDITABLY**, *adv.* Reputably; with credit; without disgrace.
- CREDITED**, *pp.* Believed; trusted; passed to the credit, or entered on the credit side of an account.
- CREDITING**, *pp.* Believing; trusting; entering to the credit in account.
- CREDITOR**, *n.* [*L. See Cred.*] A person to whom a sum of money or other thing is due, by obligation, promise or in law; properly, one who gives credit in commerce; but in a general sense, one who has a just