

**BENET**, *v. t.* [*be and net.*] To catch in a net; to ensnare. [*Not used.*] *Shak.*

**BENEVOLENCE**, *n.* [*L. benevolentia, of bene, well, and volo, to will or wish. See Will.*]

1. The disposition to do good; good will; kindness; charitableness; the love of mankind, accompanied with a desire to promote their happiness.

The *benevolence* of God is one of his moral attributes; that attribute which delights in the happiness of intelligent beings. "God is love." 1 John iv.

2. An act of kindness; good done; charity given.

3. A species of contribution or tax illegally exacted by arbitrary kings of England. *Blackstone.*

**BENEVOLENT**, *a.* [*L. benevolens, of bene and volo.*]

Having a disposition to do good; possessing love to mankind, and a desire to promote their prosperity and happiness; kind.

**BENEVOLENTLY**, *adv.* In a kind manner; with good will.

**BENGAL**, *n.* A thin stuff made of silk and hair, for women's apparel, so called from Bengal in the E. Indies.

**BENGALÉE**, *n.* The language or dialect spoken in Bengal.

**BENGALÉSE**, *n. sing. and plu.* A native or the natives of Bengal. *As. Res.* vii. 171.

**BENIGHT**, *v. t.* [*be and night.*] To involve in darkness; to shroud with the shades of night.

The clouds *benight* the sky. *Garth.*

2. To overtake with night; as a *benighted* traveler.

3. To involve in moral darkness, or ignorance; to debar from intellectual light; as *benighted* nations, or heathen.

**BENIGHTED**, *pp.* Involved in darkness, physical or moral; overtaken by the night.

**BENIGN**, *a. ben'ne.* [*L. benignus, from the same root, as bonus, bene, ancient L. bonus, Eng. boon.*]

1. Kind; of a kind disposition; gracious; favorable.

Our Creator, bounteous and *benign*. *Milton.*

2. Generous; liberal; as a *benign* benefactor.

3. Favorable; having a salutary influence; as the *benign* aspect of the seasons.

The *benign* light of revelation. *Washington.*

4. Wholesome; not pernicious; as a *benign* medicine. *Arbuthnot.*

5. Favorable; not malignant; as a *benign* disease.

**BENIGNANT**, *a.* Kind; gracious; favorable.

**BENIGNITY**, *n.* Goodness of disposition or heart; kindness of nature; graciousness.

2. Actual goodness; beneficence.

3. Sublimity; wholesome quality; or that which tends to promote health. *Wise man.*

**BENIGNLY**, *adv. ben'netly.* Favorably; kindly; graciously.

**BENISON**, *n. a s z.* [*Fr. benir, to bless; benissant, blessing; from the root of bene, bonus, boon. See Boon.*]

Blessing; benediction. [Nearly antiquated.] *Johnson.*

**BENJAMIN**, *n.* A tree, the *Laurus Benzoin*, a native of America, called also *spice-tash*. It grows to the height of 15 or 20 feet, with a very branching head.

2. A gum or resin, or rather a balsam. [*See Benzoin.*] *Euryce.*

**BENNET**, *n.* The herb *bennet*, or *evens*, known in botany by the generic term *Germ.*

**BENNET FISH**, *n.* A fish of two feet in length, caught in the African seas, having scales of a deep purple, streaked with gold.

*Dict. of Nat. Hist.*

**BENT**, *pp. of bend.* Incurved; inflected; inclined; prone to or having a fixed propensity; determined.

*Bent on*, having a fixed inclination; resolutely or determined on.

**BENT**, *n.* The state of being curving, crooked, or inclined from a straight line; flexure; curvity.

2. Declivity; as the *bent* of a hill. [*Unusual.*] *Dryden.*

2. Inclination; disposition; a leaning or bias of mind; propensity; as the *bent* of the mind or will; the *bent* of a people towards an object. This may be natural or artificial, occasional or habitual, with indefinite degrees of strength.

4. Flexion; tendency; particular direction; as the *bents* and turns of a subject. *Locke.*

5. Application of the mind; a *bending* of the mind in study or investigation. *Locke.*

**BENT**, *n.* A kind of grass, called *BENT-GRASS*, *n.* in botany, *Agrostis*, of several species. *Euryce.*

**BENTIG-ING-TIME**, *n.* The time when pigeons feed on bents, before peans are ripe.

*Johnson.*

**BENUM**, corruptly **BENUMB**, *v. t.* [*Sax. beniman, benyman, pp. bennumen, to seize, of be and niman, Sax. and Goth. to take or seize. This root is retained in withernam. It is to be observed, that b after n, in numb, thumb, dumb, &c., is an arbitrary addition of modern writers.*]

1. To make torpid; to deprive of sensation; as, a hand or foot *benumbed* by cold.

2. To stupify; to render inactive; as, to *benumb* the senses. *Dryden.*

**BENUMMED**, *pp.* Rendered torpid; deprived of sensation; stupified.

**BENUMMING**, *ppr.* Depriving of sensation; stupifying.

**BENZOEATE**, *n.* [*See Benzoin.*] A salt formed by the union of the benzoic acid with any salifiable base.

**BENZOIC**, *a.* Pertaining to benzoic.

*Benzoic acid*, or flowers of Benzoic, is a peculiar vegetable acid, obtained from Benzoic and other balsams, by sublimation or decoction. It is a fine light white matter in small needles; its taste pungent and bitterish, and its odor slightly aromatic. *Thomson.*

**BENZOIN**, *n.* Gum benjamin; a compound resinous juice flowing from the *Styrax Benzoin*, a tree of Sumatra, &c. It is properly a balsam, as it yields benzoic acid. It flows from incisions made in the stem or branches. It is solid and brittle, sometimes in yellowish white tears joined together by a brown substance, and sometimes of a uniform brown substance like resin. It has little

taste, but its smell, especially when rubbed or heated, is extremely fragrant and agreeable. It is chiefly used in cosmetics and perfumes. *Encyc. Thomson.*

**BEPAIN**, *v. t.* [*be and paint.*] To paint; to cover with paint. [*Little used.*] *Shak.*

**BEPAL**, *v. t.* [*be and pale.*] To make pale. [*Not in use.*] *Craze.*

**BEPINCH**, *v. t.* [*be and pinch.*] To mark with pinches.

**BEPINCHED**, *pp.* Marked with pinches.

**BEPINCHT**, *pp.* Marked with pinches.

**BEPOWDER**, *v. t.* [*be and powder.*] To powder; to sprinkle or cover with powder.

**BEPRATSE**, *v. t.* [*be and praise.*] To praise greatly or extravagantly. *Goldsmith.*

**BEPURPLE**, *v. t.* [*be and purple.*] To tinge or dye with a purple color.

**BEQUEATH**, *v. t.* [*Sax. becwthan; be and cwethan, to say; cwida, a saying, opinion, will, testament; cythan, to testify; Eng. quoth.*]

To give or leave by will; to devise some species of property by testament; as, to *bequeath* an estate or a legacy.

**BEQUEATHED**, *pp.* Given or left by will.

**BEQUEATHING**, *ppr.* Giving or devising by testament.

**BEQUEATHMENT**, *n.* The act of bequeathing; a bequest.

**BEQUEST**, *n.* Something left by will; a legacy.

**BERAIN**, *v. t.* To rain upon. [*Not in use.*] *Chaucer.*

**BERATE**, *v. t.* [*be and rate.*] To chide venaciously; to scold.

**BERATTLE**, *v. t.* [*be and rattle.*] To fill with rattling sounds or noise. *Shak.*

**BERAY**, *v. t.* To make foul; to soil. [*Not in use.*] *Milton.*

**BERBERRY**, *n.* [*L. berberis.*] [*See Barberr.*]

**BERE**, *n.* [*Sax. ber, barley.*] The name of a species of barley in Scotland. *Gray.*

**BEREAVE**, *v. t.* pret. *bereaved*, *bereft*; pp. *bereaved*, *bereft*. [*Sax. bereafan, of be and reafan, to deprive. See Rob and Reap.*]

1. To deprive; to strip; to make destitute; with of before the thing taken away.

2. To take away from. *Shak.*

**BEREAVED**, *pp.* Deprived; stripped and left destitute.

**BEREAVEMENT**, *n.* Deprivation, particularly by the loss of a friend by death.

**BEREAVING**, *ppr.* Stripping bare; depriving.

**BEREFT**, *pp. of bereave.* Deprived; made destitute.

**BERENGARIANISM**, *n.* The opinions or doctrines of Berengarius, archdeacon of St. Mary at Anjou, and of his followers, who deny the reality of the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist. *Encyc.*

**BERG**, *n.* [*Sax. beorg, beorh, a hill, a castle.*] A borough; a town that sends burgesses to Parliament; a castle. [*See Burg.*] *Obs.*

**BERGAMOT**, *n.* [*Fr. bergamote; Sp. bergamota.*]

1. A species of pear.