

PLAID, } [qu. W. *plaid*, a partition; di-  
PLAD, } versity of colors being often  
named from dividing.]

A striped or variegated cloth worn by the highlanders in Scotland. It is a narrow woollen stuff worn round the waist or on the shoulders, reaching to the knees, and in cold weather to the feet. It is worn by both sexes. *Pennant.*

PLAIN, *a.* [Fr. *plain*; It. *piano*; Sp. *piano*, *llano*; Port. *piano*; from L. *planus*; G. Sw. *plan*; D. *plein*; Sw. Dan. D. G. *plan*, a plan or scheme; W. *plan*, a plane, a plantation, a shoot or cion, a ray of light, whence *plant*, children, issue; *pleinair*, to radiate; *plenig*, radiant, splendid, whence *ysplan*, clear, bright, splendid, and *ysplander*, L. *splendor*. The Gr. *πλανάω*, to wander, is from the same root. Here we have decisive evidence, that *plain*, *plan*, *plant*, and *splendor* are from the same radix. See *Plant*. Class Ln. No. 4. 6. 7.]

1. Smooth; even; level; flat; without elevations and depressions; not rough; as *plain ground* or land; a *plain surface*. In this sense, in philosophical writings, it is written *plane*.

2. Open; clear.

Our troops beat an army in *plain* fight and open field. *Felton.*

3. Void of ornament; simple; as a *plain dress*.

*Plain* without pomp, and rich without a show. *Dryden.*

1. Artless; simple; unlearned; without disguise, cunning or affectation; without refinement; as men of the *plainer* sort. Gen. xxv. *Bacon.*

*Plain* but pious christians— *Hammond.*

5. Artless; simple; unaffected; unembellished; as a *plain tale* or narration.

6. Honestly undisguised; open; frank; sincere; unreserved. I will tell you the *plain truth*.

Give me leave to be *plain* with you. *Bacon.*

7. Mere; bare; as a *plain knave* or fool. *Shak. Pope.*

8. Evident to the understanding; clear; manifest; not obscure; as *plain words* or language; a *plain difference*; a *plain argument*.

It is *plain* in the history, that Esau was never subject to Jacob. *Locke.*

9. Not much varied by modulations; as a *plain song* or tune.

10. Not high seasoned; not rich; not luxuriously dressed; as a *plain diet*.

11. Not ornamented with figures; as *plain muslin*.

12. Not dyed.

13. Not difficult; not embarrassing; as a *plain case* in law.

14. Easily seen or discovered; not obscure or difficult to be found; as a *plain road* or path. Our course is very *plain*. Ps. xxvii.

A *plain* or *plane figure*, in geometry, is a uniform surface, from every point of whose perimeter right lines may be drawn to every other point in the same. *Encyc.*

A *plain figure*, in geometry, is a surface in which, if any two points are taken, the straight line which joins them lies wholly in that surface.

A *plain angle*, is one contained under two lines or surfaces, in contradistinction to a solid angle. *Encyc.*

PLAIN, *adv.* Not obscurely; in a manner to be easily understood.

2. Distinctly; articulately; as, to speak *plain*. Mark vii.

3. With simplicity; artlessly; bluntly.

PLAIN, *n.* [Fr. *cluaia*; W. *llan*; Fr. *plaine*. See the Adjective.]

1. Level land; usually, an open field with an even surface, or a surface little varied by inequalities; as all the *plain* of Jordan. Gen. xiii.

2. Field of battle. *Arbutnot.*

PLAIN, *v. t.* To level; to make plain or even on the surface. *Hayward.*

PLAIN, *v. i.* [Fr. *plaindre*; L. *plango*.] To lament or wail. [Not used.] [See *Complain*.] *Spenser.*

PLAIN-DEALING, *a.* [*plain* and *deal*.] Dealing or communicating with frankness and sincerity; honest; open; speaking and acting without art; as a *plain-dealing man*. *Shak. L'Estrange.*

PLAIN DEALING, *n.* A speaking or communicating with openness and sincerity; management without art, stratagem or disguise; sincerity. *Dryden.*

PLAIN-HEARTED, *a.* Having a sincere heart; communicating without art, reserve or hypocrisy; of a frank disposition. *Milton.*

PLAIN-HEARTEDNESS, *n.* Frankness of disposition; sincerity. *Hallywell.*

PLAINLY, *adv.* With a level surface. [Little used.]

2. Without cunning or disguise.

3. Without ornament or artificial embellishment; as, to be *plainly* clad.

4. Frankly; honestly; sincerely; as, deal *plainly* with me. *Pope.*

5. In earnest; fairly. *Clarendon.*

6. In a manner to be easily seen or comprehended.

Thou shalt write on the stones all the words of this law very *plainly*. Deut. xxvii.

7. Evidently; clearly; not obscurely. The doctrines of grace are *plainly* taught in the Scriptures.

PLAINNESS, *n.* Levelness; evenness or surface.

2. Want of ornament; want of artificial show. So modest *plainness* sets off sprightly wit. *Pope.*

3. Openness; rough, blunt or unrefined frankness.

Your *plainness* and your shortness please me well. *Shak.*

4. Artlessness; simplicity; candor; as unthinking *plainness*. *Dryden.*

5. Clearness; openness; sincerity.

Seeing then we have such hope, we use great *plainness* of speech. 2 Cor. iii.

PLAIN-SONG, *n.* The plain, unvaried chant of churches; so called in contradistinction from the prick-song, or variegated music sung by note. *Shak.*

PLAIN-SPOKEN, *a.* Speaking with plain, unreserved sincerity. *Dryden.*

PLAINT, *n.* [Fr. *plainte*, from *plaindre*, to lament, from L. *plango*, to strike, to beat, to lament, whence *complaint*; Gr. *πλῆγω*, *πλῆττω*, to strike, from the root *πλῆγω*, *disused*, whence *πλῆγῃ*, a stroke, L. *plaga*, Eng. *plague*; Goth. *fletan*, to lament; Sp. *plainir*, from the Latin. The primary sense is to strike, that is, to drive or thrust, applied to the hand or to the voice; or

the sense of complaint and lamentation is from beating the breast, as in violent grief; Sw. *plagga*, to beat.]

1. Lamentation; complaint; audible expression of sorrow.

From inward grief  
His bursting passion into *plaints* thus pour'd. *Milton.*

2. Complaint; representation made of injury or wrong done.

There are three just grounds of war with Spain; one of *plaints*; two upon defense. *Bacon.*

3. In law, a private memorial tendered to a court, in which the person sets forth his cause of action. *Blackstone.*

4. In law, a complaint; a formal accusation exhibited by a private person against an offender for a breach of law or a public offense. *Laws of N. York and Conn.*

PLAINTFUL, *a.* Complaining; expressing sorrow with an audible voice; as my *plaintful tongue*. *Sidney.*

PLAINTIF, *n.* [Fr. *plaintif*, mournful, making complaint.]

In law, the person who commences a suit before a tribunal, for the recovery of a claim; opposed to *defendant*.

[Prior uses this word as an adjective, in the French sense, for *plaintive*, but the use is not authorized.]

PLAINTIVE, *a.* [Fr. *plaintif*.] Lamenting; complaining; expressive of sorrow; as a *plaintive sound* or song. *Dryden.*

2. Complaining; expressing sorrow or grief; repining.

To sooth the sorrows of her *plaintive* son. *Dryden.*

PLAINTIVELY, *adv.* In a manner expressive of grief.

PLAINTIVENESS, *n.* The quality or state of expressing grief.

PLAINTLESS, *a.* Without complaint; unrepining.

PLAIN-WORK, *n.* Plain needlework, as distinguished from embroidery. *Pope.*

PLAIT, *n.* [W. *pleth*, a plait or fold; *plethu*, to plait or braid, from *lleth*; Sw. *fläta*, Dan. *fletter*, to plait, braid, twist, Russ. *pletu*, *opletnu*, Fr. *plisser*, with a dialectical change of *t* to *s*. Qu. Gr. *πλᾶθω*, to twist.]

1. A fold; a doubling; as of cloth.

It is very difficult to trace out the figure of a vest through all the *plaits* and folding of the drapery. *Addison.*

2. A braid of hair; a tress.

PLAIT, *v. t.* To fold; to double in narrow streaks; as, to *plait* a gown or a sleeve. *Gay.*

2. To braid; to interweave strands; as, to *plait* the hair.

3. To entangle; to involve. *Shak.*

PLAITED, *pp.* Folded; braided; interwoven.

PLAITER, *n.* One that plaits or braids.

PLAITING, *ppr.* Folding; doubling; braiding.

PLAN, *n.* [Fr. G. D. Dan. Sw. Russ. *plan*. The Italian has *pianita*, a *plant*, and a *plan*, and in Welsh, *plan* is a shoot, cion, plantation or planting, and a *plane*. Hence *plan*, *plain*, *plane* and *plant* are from one root. The primary sense of the verb is to extend.]

1. A draught or form; properly, the representation of any thing drawn on a *plane*, as a map or chart, which is a representa-