

1. To improve : to meliorate ; to increase the good qualities of ; as, manure *bettors* land ; discipline may *better* the morals.
2. To surpass ; to exceed.

The works of nature do always aim at that which cannot be *bettered*. *Hooker.*

Qu. is not the sense, *made better*?

2. To advance ; to support ; to give advantage to ; as, to *better* a party ; to *better* a cause.

**BETTER, a.** A superior ; one who has a claim to precedence on account of his rank, age, or office ; as, give place to your *bettors*. It is generally or always used in the plural.

**BETTERED, pp.** Improved ; meliorated ; made better.

**BETTERING, pp.** Making better ; improving.

**BETTOR, n.** [from *bet*.] One who bets or lays a wager. *Addison.*

**BETTRY, n.** [Supposed to be a cant word from the name of a maid ; but qu. is it not from the root of *beat* or *L. peto* ?] An instrument to break open doors.

**BETUMBLED, a.** [be and *tumble*.] Rolled about ; tumbled ; disordered. *Shak.*

**BETWEEN, prep.** [Sax. *betweenan*, *betwennan* ; of *be* and *twain*, two, Sax. *twegen*.] The Saxons used, in the same sense, *btwih* and *betweoh*, betwo. See *Twain*, *Twain*.

1. In the intermediate space, without regard to distance ; as, New-York is *between* Boston and Philadelphia ; the Delaware river runs *between* Pennsylvania and New-Jersey.

2. From one to another ; passing from one to another, noting exchange of actions or intercourse ; as, things go well *between* the parties.

3. Belonging to two or more, in common or partnership ; as, two friends have but one soul *between* them ; twenty proprietors own a tract of land *between* them. We observe that *between* is not restricted to two.

1. Having mutual relation to two or more ; as, discords exist *between* the families.

5. Noting difference, or discrimination of one from another ; as, to distinguish *between* right and wrong.

**BETWIXT, prep.** [Sax. *betwyr*, *betwyrht*, *betweoh*, *betwech* ; be and *tweg*, two.]

1. Between ; in the space that separates two persons or things ; as, *betwixt* two oaks.

2. Passing between ; from one to another, noting intercourse. [See *Between*.]

**BEVEL, n.** [Fr. *biveau*.] Qu. *It. biven livella*, oblique level.]

Among masons, carpenters, joiners, &c., an instrument, or kind of square, one leg of which is frequently crooked, according to the sweep of an arch or vault. It is movable on a point or center, and so may be set to any angle. An angle that is not square is called a *bevel angle*, whether obtuse or acute. *Bailey. Johnson. Encyc.*

2. A curve or inclination of a surface from a right line ; as, the proper *bevel* of a piece of timber. *Encyc.*

**BEVEL, a.** Crooked ; awry ; oblique. *Bailey.*

**BEVEL, v. t.** To cut to a bevel angle. *Mozon.*

**BEVEL, v. i.** To curve ; to incline towards a point, or from a direct line.

**BEVELED, pp.** Formed to a bevel angle. *Kirwan.*

**BEVELING, pp.** Forming to a bevel angle.

**BEVELING, a.** Curving ; bending from a right line.

**BEVELING, n.** A hewing of timber with a proper and regular curve, according to a mold laid on one side of its surface.

2. The curve or bevel of timber. *Encyc.*

**BEVELEMENT, n.** In *mineralogy*, bevelment supposes the removal of two contiguous segments from the edges, angles, or terminal faces of the predominant form, thereby producing two new faces, inclined to each other at a certain angle and forming an edge. *Cleveland.*

**BEVER, n.** [It. *bevere*, to drink.] A collation or small repast between meals. [Not used.] *Morison.*

**BEVER, v. i.** To take a small repast between meals. *Wallis.*

**BEVERAGE, n.** [It. *bevere*, or *bere*, to drink ; *beveraggio*, drink ; Sp. *beber*, from *L. bibo* ; Fr. *buvier*, a tippler ; *buvette*, a tavern ; *buvroter*, to sip, to tipple ; Arm. *beivrauh*, beverage.]

Drink ; liquor for drinking. It is generally used of a mixed liquor. Nectar is called the *beverage* of the gods.

In the middle ages, *beverage*, *beveragium*, or *liberagium* was money for drink given to an artificer or other person over and above his hire or wages. The practice has existed, to a certain extent, in America, within my memory, and I know not but it still exists in some parts of this country. A person who had a new garment, was called on to *pay beverage*, that is, to treat with liquor. Hence,

2. A treat on wearing a new suit of clothes, or on receiving a suit from the tailor ; also a treat on first coming into prison ; a garnish.

3. In *England*, water-cider, a mixture of cider and water, made by putting water into punice before it is pressed.

**BEVILE, n.** [See *Bevel*.] In *heraldry*, a thing broken or opening, like a carpenter's bevel. *Encyc.*

**BEVY, n.** [I know not the origin or affinities of this word. The etymologies I have seen are not worth notice.]

A flock of birds ; hence, a company ; an assembly or collection of persons ; usually applied to females.

**BEWAIL, v. t.** [be and *wail*.] To bemoan ; to lament ; to express sorrow for. It expresses deep sorrow ; as, to *bewail* the loss of a child.

The true penitent *bewails* his ingratitude to God. *Anon.*

**BEWAIL, v. i.** To express grief. *Shak.*

**BEWAILABLE, a.** That may be lamented. *Sherwood.*

**BEWAILED, pp.** Lamented ; bemoaned.

**BEWAILING, pp.** Lamenting ; bemoaning ; expressing grief for.

**BEWAILING, n.** Lamentation. *Raleigh.*

**BEWAKE, v. t.** [be and *wake*.] To keep awake. [Not used.] *Gower.*

**BEWAKE, v. i.** [Sax. *beverian*, *bevarian*, *gewarian*, to guard, defend, restrain, pro-

hibit, fortify, be cautious ; Sw. *bevara* ; D. *bewaren* ; Ger. *bewahren* ; Dan. *beware*, to keep, guard, preserve. See *Ware*, *Wary*.]

1. Literally, to restrain or guard one's self from. Hence, to regard with caution ; to restrain one's self from any thing that may be dangerous, injurious or improper ; to avoid ; to take care ; followed by *of* before the thing that is to be avoided.

*Beware* of all, but most beware of man. *Pope.*

*Beware* of false prophets ; *beware* of the leaven of the Pharisees ; *beware* of the conclusion. *Scripture.*

2. To have a special regard to.

Behold, I send an angel before thee—*beware* of him, and obey his voice. Ex. xxiii.

[This is unusual and hardly legitimate.]

This word though here admitted as a verb, from the Saxon, is rarely used as a verb in fact ; or if a verb, is now never used except in the imperative mode. It is a compound of *be* and the Old Eng. *wary*, now *wary*. *Be wary* of danger. Hence it cannot be used with *did*, like a regular verb, nor with *be*, in any of its inflections, he is *beware* ; for this would be to use the substantive verb twice before *wary* and *wary*, is and *be*. Ben Jonson however has used the word in the third person. *He bewares* to act. But it has no past tense or participle, and therefore, if admitted as a verb, it is defective, and used only in the imperative mode, or after an auxiliary.

We must beware of excess.

**BEWEEP, v. t.** [be and *weep*.] To weep over ; to bedew with tears. [Little used.] *Shak.*

**BEWEEP, v. i.** To make lamentation. [Little used.] *Shak.*

**BEWEPED, pp.** Wept over ; bedewed with tears. [Little used.]

**BEWET, v. t.** [be and *wet*.] To wet ; to moisten. [Not used.]

**BEWILDER, v. t.** [Dan. *forvilder*, *wilder* ; D. *verwildern* ; G. *verwildern* ; from *wild*.]

To lead into perplexity or confusion ; to lose in pathless places ; to confound for want of a plain road ; to perplex with mazes ; or in general, to perplex.

Lost and bewildered in the fruitless search. *Addison.*

**BEWILDERED, pp.** Lost in mazes ; perplexed with disorder, confusion, or intricacy.

**BEWILDERING, pp.** Losing in a pathless place ; perplexing with confusion or intricacy.

**BEWINT, v. t.** To make like winter. [Not used.] *Cowley.*

**BEWITCH, v. t.** [be and *witch*.] To fascinate ; to gain an ascendancy over by charms or incantation ; an operation which was formerly supposed to injure the person bewitched, so that he lost his flesh, or behaved in a strange unaccountable manner ; ignorant people being inclined to ascribe to evil spirits what they could not account for.

Look, how I am bewitched ; behold, mine arm is like a blasted sapling withered up. *Shak.*

2. To charm ; to fascinate ; to please to such a degree as to take away the power of resistance.

The charms of poetry our souls bewitch.

*Dryden.*