

3. To examine the relations of things to each other, with a view to discover their relative proportions, quantities or qualities; as, to *compare* two kingdoms, or two mountains with each other; to *compare* the number ten with fifteen; to *compare* ice with crystal; to *compare* a clown with a dancing master or a dandy.

In this sense *compare* is followed by *with*.

1. In *grammar*, to form an adjective in the degrees of comparison; as *blackish*, *black*, *blacker*, *blackest*.

1. To get; to procure; to obtain; as in Latin. *Obs.* Spenser.

COMPARE, *v. i.* To hold comparison; to be like or equal.

2. To vie. *Obs.* Spenser.

COMPARE, *n.* The state of being compared; comparative estimate; comparison; or possibility of entering into comparison, or being considered as equal.

Their small galleys may not hold *compare* with our tall ships. *Waller.*

2. Simile; similitude; illustration by comparison. *Johnson.*

[This noun is in use, but cannot be considered as elegant.]

COMPARE, *pp.* Set together and examined with respect to likeness or unlikeness; agreement or disagreement; likened; represented as similar.

COMPARE, *n.* One who compares or makes a comparison.

COMPARING, *pp.* Examining the relations of things to each other; likening.

COMPARISON, *n.* [It. *comparazione*; Sp. *comparacion*; Fr. *comparaison*; Port. *comparação*; L. *comparatio*. See *Compare*.]

1. The act of comparing; the act of considering the relation between persons or things, with a view to discover their agreement or resemblance, or their disagreement or difference.

We learn to form a correct estimate of men and their actions by *comparison*. *Johnson.*

2. The state of being compared.
If we rightly estimate what we call good and evil, we shall find it lies much in *comparison*. *Locke.*

3. Comparative estimate; proportion.

Who is left among you that saw this house in its first glory? And how do you see it now? Is it not in your eyes in *comparison* of it as nothing? *Hag. ii.*

4. In *grammar*, the formation of an adjective in its several degrees of signification; as *strong*, *stronger*, *strongest*; *greenish*, *green*, *greener*, *greenest*; *glorious*, *more glorious*, *most glorious*. In *English*, there are strictly four degrees of *comparison*.

5. A simile, similitude, or illustration by similitude.

Whereto shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what *comparison* shall we compare it? *Mark. iv.*

6. In *rhetoric*, a figure by which two things are considered with regard to a third, which is common to them both; as, "a hero is like a lion in courage." Here courage is common to hero and lion, and constitutes the point of resemblance. *Encyc.*

The distinction between *similitude* and *comparison* is, that the *former* has reference to the quality; the *latter*, to the quantity. *Comparison* is between *more* and *less*; *similitude* is between *good* and *bad*. Hamabul—hung like a

tempest on the declivities of the Alps—is a likeness by *similitude*. The sublimity of the scriptural prophets exceeds that of Homer, as much as thunder is louder than a whisper—is a likeness by *comparison*. *J. Q. Adams. Lecture ix.*

But comparison has reference to quality as well as quantity.

COMPART, *v. t.* [Fr. *compartir*; It. *compartire*; Sp. *compartir*, *con* or *con* and *partir*, L. *partio*, to divide. See *Part*.]

To divide; to mark out a plan or design into its several parts, or subdivisions. *Wotton.*

COMPARTED, *pp.* Divided into parts or apartments.

COMPARTING, *pp.* Dividing or disposing into parts.

COMPARTITION, *n.* The act of dividing into parts. In *architecture*, the division or disposition of the whole ground-plot of an edifice, into its various apartments. *Encyc.*

2. Division; part divided; a separate part; as, amphitheatres needed no *compartitions*. *Wotton.*

COMPARTMENT, *n.* [Fr. *compartiment*; It. *compartimento*.]

1. A division or separate part of a general design, as of a picture, or of a ground-plot. *Pope. Peacham.*

2. A design composed of several different figures, disposed with symmetry, for ornament; as a *compartiment* of tiles or bricks, duly arranged, of various colors and varnished, to decorate a building. In gardening, *compartments* are assemblages of beds, plots, borders, walks, &c. In heraldry, a *compartiment* is called also a partition. *Encyc.*

COMPARTNER, *n.* A sharer. *Pearson.*

COMPASS, *n.* [Fr. *compas*; Sp. *compas*; It. *compasso*; Port. *compasso*; *con* or *con* and Fr. *pass*, Sp. *paso*, It. *passo*, a pace or step, L. *passeus*, which coincides with the participle of *pando*, to open or stretch. See *Pace* and *Pass*. A *compass* is a stepping together. So in Spanish and Portuguese, it signifies a beating of time in music.]

1. Stretch; reach; extent; the limit or boundary of a space, and the space included; applied to time, space, sound, &c. Our knowledge lies within a very narrow *compass*. The universe extends beyond the *compass* of our thoughts. So we say, the *compass* of a year, the *compass* of an empire, the *compass* of reason, the *compass* of the voice.

And in that *compass* all the world contains. *Dryden.*

2. A passing round; a circular course; a circuit.

Time is come round;

And where I did begin, there shall I end:

My life has run its *compass*. *Shak.*

- They fetched a *compass* of seven days journey. 2 Kings iii. 2 Sam. v. Acts xviii.

3. Moderate bounds; limits of truth; moderation; due limits.

In two hundred years, (I speak within *compass*), no such commission had been executed. *Davies.*

This sense is the same as the first, and the peculiar force of the phrase lies in the word *within*.

4. The extent or limit of the voice or of sound. [See No. 1.]

5. An instrument for directing or ascertaining the course of ships at sea, consisting of

a circular box, containing a paper card marked with the thirty two points of direction, fixed on a magnetic needle, that always points to the north, the variation excepted. The needle with the card turns on a pin in the center of the box. In the center of the needle is fixed a brass conical socket or cap, by which the card hanging on the pin turns freely round the center. The box is covered with glass, to prevent the motion of the card from being disturbed by the wind. *Encyc.*

6. *Compass* or *compasses*, [or a pair of compasses, so named from its legs, but *pair* is superfluous or improper, and the singular number *compass* is the preferable name,] an instrument for describing circles, measuring figures, &c., consisting of two pointed legs or branches, made of iron, steel or brass, joined at the top by a rivet, on which they move. There are also compasses of three legs or triangular compasses, cylindrical and spherical compasses with four branches, and various other kinds. *Encyc.*

7. An instrument used in surveying land, constructed in the main like the mariner's compass; but with this difference, that the needle is not fitted into the card, moving with it, but plays alone; the card being drawn on the bottom of the box, and a circle divided into 360 degrees on the limb. This instrument is used in surveying land, and in directing travelers in a desert or forest, miners, &c. *Encyc.*

COMPASS-SAW, a saw with a broad edge and thin back, to cut in a circular form. *Morson.*

COMPASS, *v. t.* Literally, to measure with a compass. Hence,

1. To stretch round; to extend so as to embrace the whole; hence, to inclose, encircle, grasp or seize; as, to *compass* with the arms.

2. To surround; to environ; to inclose on all sides; sometimes followed by *around*, *round* or *about*.

Now all the blessings

Of a glad father *compass* thee about. *Shak.*

With favor wilt thou *compass* him as with a shield. *Ps. v.*

The willows of the brook *compass* him about. *Job. 40.*

3. To go or walk round.

Ye shall *compass* the city—and the seventh day ye shall *compass* the city seven times. *Josh. vi.*

For ye *compass* sea and land. *Math. xxiii.*

4. To besiege; to beleague; to block up. This is not a different sense, but a particular application.

Thine enemies shall east a trench about thee, and *compass* thee round, and keep thee in on every side. *Luke xiv.*

5. To obtain; to attain to; to procure; to bring within one's power; to accomplish.

If I can check my erring love, I will;

If not, to *compass* her I'll use my skill. *Shak.*

How can you hope to *compass* your designs? *Denham.*

6. To purpose; to intend; to imagine; to plot; to contrive; as we say, to go about to perform, but in mind only; as, to *compass* the death of the king.