

1. The familiar knowledge of any art or science, united with readiness and dexterity in execution or performance, or in the application of the art or science to practical purposes. Thus we speak of the *skill* of a mathematician, of a surveyor, of a physician or surgeon, of a mechanic or seaman. So we speak of *skill* in management or negotiation.

*Dryden. Swift.*

2. Any particular art. [*Not in use.*]

*Hooker.*

SKILL, *v. t.* To know; to understand.

*Obs.*

SKILL, *v. i.* To be knowing in; to be dextrous in performance. *Obs. Spenser.*

2. To differ; to make difference; to matter or be of interest. *Obs. Hooker. Bacon.* [*This is the Teutonic and Gothic sense of the word.*]

SKILL/ED, *a.* Having familiar knowledge united with readiness and dexterity in the application of it; familiarly acquainted with; followed by *in*; as a professor *skilled in* logic or geometry; one *skilled in* the art of engraving.

SKILL/LESS, *a.* Wanting skill; artless. [*Not in use.*]

*Shak.*

SKIL/LET, *n.* [*Qu. Fr. cuelle, cuellette.*]

A small vessel of iron, copper or other metal, with a long handle; used for heating and boiling water and other culinary purposes.

SKILL/FUL, *a.* Knowing; well versed in any art; hence, dextrous; able in management; able to perform nicely any manual operation in the arts or professions; as a *skillful* mechanic; a *skillful* operator in surgery.

2. Well versed in practice; as a *skillful* physician.

It is followed by *at* or *in*; as *skillful at* the organ; *skillful in* drawing.

SKILL/FULLY, *adv.* With skill; with nice art; dextrously; as a machine *skillfully* made; a ship *skillfully* managed.

SKILL/FULNESS, *n.* The quality of possessing skill; dextrousness; ability to perform well in any art or business, or to manage affairs with judgment and exactness, or according to good taste or just rules; knowledge and ability derived from experience.

SKIL/LING, *n.* An isle or bay of a barn; also, a slight addition to a cottage. [*Local.*]

SKILT, *n.* [*See Skill.*] Difference. *Obs.*

*Cleveland.*

SKIM, *n.* [a different orthography of *scum*; *Fr. ecume*; *It. schiuma*; *G. schaum*; *D. schuim*; *Dan. Sw. skum*; *Ir. sceimhin*, to skim.]

Scum; the thick matter that forms on the surface of a liquor. [*Little used.*]

SKIM, *v. t.* To take off the thick gross matter which separates from any liquid substance and collects on the surface; as, to *skim* milk by taking off the cream.

2. To take off by skimming; as, to *skim* cream. *Dryden.*

3. To pass near the surface; to brush the surface slightly.

The swallow *skims* the river's wat'ry face.

*Dryden.*

SKIM, *v. i.* To pass lightly; to glide along in an even smooth course, or without flap-

ping; as, an eagle or hawk *skims* along the ethereal regions.

2. To glide along near the surface; to pass lightly. *Pope.*

3. To hasten over superficially or with slight attention.

They *skim* over a science in a superficial survey. *Watts.*

SKIMBLE-SCAMBLE, *a.* [a duplication of *scamble*.] Wandering; disorderly. [*A low unauthorized word.*]

*Shak.*

SKIM'-COULTER, *n.* A coultter for paring off the surface of land.

SKIM/MED, *pp.* Taken from the surface; having the thick matter taken from the surface; brushed along.

SKIM/MER, *n.* An utensil in the form of a scoop; used for skimming liquors.

2. One that skims over a subject. [*Little used.*]

3. A sea fowl, the cut-water, (*Rhyncops nigra.*)

SKIM'-MILK, *n.* Milk from which the cream has been taken.

SKIM/MINGS, *n. plu.* Matter skimmed from the surface of liquors.

*Edwards, W. Indies.*

SKIN, *n.* [*Sax. scin*; *Sw. skinn*; *Dan. skind*, a skin; *G. schinden*, to flay; *Ir. scann*, a membrane; *W. ysgin*, a robe made of skin, a pelisse, said to be from *cin*, a spread or covering. But in Welsh, *cin* is a skin, peel or rind. This may signify a covering, or a peel, from stripping.]

1. The natural covering of animal bodies, consisting of the cuticle or scarf-skin, the rete mucosum, and the cutis or hide. The cuticle is very thin and insensible; the cutis is thicker and very sensible.

*Harvey.*

2. A hide; a pelt; the skin of an animal separated from the body, whether green, dry or tanned.

3. The body; the person; in *ludicrous language.*

*L'Estrange.*

4. The bark or husk of a plant; the exterior coat of fruits and plants.

SKIN, *v. t.* To strip off the skin or hide; to flay; to peel.

*Ellis.*

2. To cover with skin.

*Dryden.*

3. To cover superficially.

*Addison.*

SKIN, *v. i.* To be covered with skin; as, a wound *skins* over.

SKIN/DEEP, *a.* Superficial; not deep; slight.

*Feltham.*

SKIN/FLINT, *n.* [*skin* and *flint*.] A very niggardly person.

SKINK, *n.* [*Sax. scenc.*] Drink; pottage.

*Obs. Bacon.*

2. [*L. scincus.*] A small lizard of Egypt; also, the common name of a genus of lizards, with a long body entirely covered with rounded imbricate scales, all natives of warm climates.

*Ed. Encyc.*

SKINK, *v. i.* [*Sax. scencan*; *G. D. schenken*; *Dan. skienker*; *Sw. skänka*; *Ice. skenka*, to bestow, to make a present.] To serve drink. *Obs.*

SKINK/ER, *n.* One that serves liquors.

*Obs. Shak.*

SKIN/LESS, *a.* [from *skin*.] Having a thin skin; as *skinless* fruit.

SKIN/NED, *pp.* Stripped of the skin; flayed.

2. Covered with skin.

SKIN/NER, *n.* One that skins.

2. One that deals in skins, pelts or hides.

SKIN/NINESS, *n.* The quality of being skinny.

SKIN/NY, *a.* Consisting of skin, or of skin only; wanting flesh. *Ray. Addison.*

SKIP, *v. i.* [*Dan. kipper*, to leap; *Ice. skopa*.]

To leap; to bound; to spring; as a goat or lamb.

The lamb thy riot dooms to bleed to-day,

Had he thy reason, would he *skip* and play?

*Pope.*

To *skip* over, to pass without notice; to omit.

*Bacon.*

SKIP, *v. t.* To pass over or by; to omit; to miss.

They who have a mind to see the issue, may *skip* these two chapters.

*Burnet.*

SKIP, *n.* A leap; a bound; a spring.

*Sidney.*

SKIP'-JACK, *n.* An upstart. *L'Estrange.*

SKIP'-KENNEL, *n.* A lackey; a footboy.

SKIP'/PER, *n.* [*Dan. skipper*; *D. schipper*. See *Ship*.] The master of a small trading vessel.

2. [from *skip*.] A dancer.

3. A youngling; a young thoughtless person.

*Shak.*

4. The hornfish, so called.

5. The cheese maggot.

SKIP'/PET, *n.* [*See Ship and Skiff*.] A small boat. [*Not in use.*]

*Spenser.*

SKIP'/PING, *ppr.* Leaping; bounding.

*Skipping notes*, in music, are notes that are not in regular course, but separate.

SKIP'/PINGLY, *adv.* By leaps.

SKIRMISH, *n.* *skur'mish*. [*Fr. escarmouche*; *It. scaramuccia*; *Sp. escaramuza*; *Port. escaramuça*; *G. scharmützel*; *D. schermut-seling*; *Sw. skärmytsel*; *Dan. skiermydsel*; *W. ysgarm*, outcry; *ysgarmu*, to shout; *ysgarmes*, a shouting, a skirmish; from *garm*, a shout. The primary sense is to throw or drive. In some of the languages, *skirmish* appears to be connected with a word signifying *defense*; but *defense* is from driving, repelling.]

1. A slight fight in war; a light combat by armies at a great distance from each other, or between detachments and small parties.

2. A contest; a contention.

They never meet but there's a *skirmish* of wit.

*Shak.*

SKIRM/ISH, *v. i.* To fight slightly or in small parties.

SKIRM/ISHER, *n.* One that skirmishes.

SKIRM/ISHING, *ppr.* Fighting slightly or in detached parties.

SKIRM/ISHING, *n.* The act of fighting in a loose or slight encounter.

SKIRR, *v. t.* To scour; to ramble over in order to clear. [*Not in use.*]

*Shak.*

SKIRR, *v. i.* To scour; to scud; to run hastily. [*Not in use.*]

*Shak.*

SKIR'/RET, *n.* A plant of the genus *Sium*.

*Lec. Mortimer.*

SKIR'/RUS. [*See Scirhus*.]

SKIRT, *n.* *skurt*. [*Sw. skjorta*, a shift or close garment; *Dan. skjort*, a petticoat; *skjorte*, a shift. These words seem to be from the root of *short*, from cutting off.]

1. The lower and loose part of a coat or other garment; the part below the waist; as the *skirt* of a coat or mantle. 1 Sam. xv.