

1. The lineage of a family, or continued series of descendants from a parent who is called the stock. A race is the series of descendants indefinitely. Thus all mankind are called the *race* of Adam; the Israelites are of the *race* of Abraham and Jacob. Thus we speak of a *race* of kings, the *race* of Clovis or Charlemagne; a *race* of nobles, &c.

Hence the long *race* of Alban fathers come.
Dryden.

2. A generation; a family of descendants.
A *race* of youthful and unhandled colts.

Shak.

3. A particular breed; as a *race* of mules; a *race* of horses; a *race* of sheep.

Chapman.

Of such a *race* no matter who is king.

Murphy.

4. A root; as *race*-ginger, ginger in the root or not pulverized.

5. A particular strength or taste of wine; a kind of tartness. [Query, does this belong to this root or to the following?]

Temple. Massenger.

RACE, *n.* [D. *ras*; Sw. *resa*, to go; Dan. *rejse*, a going or course; L. *gradior*, *gressus*, with the prefix *g*; Ir. *ratha*, a running; *reathum*, to run; W. *graz*, a step, from *rhaz*, a going; allied to W. *rhed*, a race; *rhedu*, to run, to race; allied to Eng. *ride*. See Class Rd. No 5. and 9.]

1. A running; a rapid course or motion, either on the feet, on horseback or in a carriage, &c.; particularly, a contest in running; a running in competition for a prize.

The *race* was one of the exercises of the Grecian games.

I wield the gauntlet and I run the *race*.
Encyc. Pope.

2. Any running with speed.

The flight of many birds is swifter than the *race* of any beast.
Bacon.

3. A progress; a course; a movement or progression of any kind.

My *race* of glory run.

Let us run with patience the *race* that is set before us. Heb. xii.

4. Course; train; process; as the prosecution and *race* of the war. [Not now used.]

Bacon.

5. A strong or rapid current of water, or the channel or passage for such a current; as a mill-*race*.

6. By way of distinction, a contest in the running of horses; generally in the plural. The *races* commence in October.

RACE, *v. i.* To run swiftly; to run or contend in running. The animals *raced* over the ground.

RACE-GINGER, *n.* Ginger in the root or not pulverized.

RACE-HORSE, *n.* A horse bred or kept for running in contest; a horse that runs in competition.

Addison.

RACEMATION, *n.* [L. *racemus*, a cluster.]

1. A cluster, as of grapes.

Brown.

2. The cultivation of clusters of grapes.

Burnet.

RACEME, *n.* [L. *racemus*, a bunch of berries.]
In *botany*, a species of inflorescence, consisting of a peduncle with short lateral branches. It is simple or compound, naked or leafy, &c.

Martyn.

RACEMIFEROUS, *a.* [L. *racemus*, a cluster, and *fero*, to bear.]

Bearing racemes or clusters; as the *racemiferous* fig-tree.

Asiat. Res.

RACEMOUS, *a.* Growing in racemes or clusters.

Encyc.

RACER, *n.* [from *race*.] A runner; one that contends in a race.

And bade the nimblest *racer* seize the prize.

Pope.

RACH, *n.* [Sax. *race*; D. *brak*; Fr. *braque*.]

A setting dog.

RACINESS, *n.* [See *Racy*.] The quality of being racy.

RACK, *n.* [D. *rek*, rack, stretch; *rekker*, to stretch; Sax. *racan*, *racan*, Eng. to reach; G. *recken*, to stretch; *reckbank*, a rack. See *Reach* and *Break*. Class Rg. No. 18. 21. 33.]

1. An engine of torture, used for extorting confessions from criminals or suspected persons. The *rack* is entirely unknown in free countries.

2. Torture; extreme pain; anguish.

A fit of the stone puts a king to the *rack* and makes him as miserable as it does the meanest subject.

Temple.

3. Any instrument for stretching or extending any thing; as a *rack* for bending a bow.

Temple.

4. A grate on which bacon is laid.

5. A wooden frame of open work in which hay is laid for horses and cattle for feeding.

6. The frame of bones of an animal; a skeleton. We say, a *rack* of bones.

7. A frame of timber on a ship's bowsprit.

Mar. Dict.

RACK, *n.* [Sax. *hracca*, the neck; Gr. *paxis*, the spine; W. *rhac*; D. *kraag*, G. *kragen*, Sw. Dan. *krage*, a collar; Old Eng. *crag*.]

The neck and spine of a fore quarter of veal or mutton.

[The two foregoing words are doubtless from one original.]

RACK, *n.* [Sax. *rec*, steam; *recan*, to exhale; D. *rook*, *rooken*; G. *rauch*, *rauchen*; Sw. *rök*, *röka*; Dan. *rog*, *roger*. See *Reek*.]

Properly, vapor; hence, thin flying broken clouds, or any portion of floating vapor in the sky.

The winds in the upper region, which move the clouds above, which we call the *rack*—

Bacon.

The great globe itself.

Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,
And, like this unsubstantial pageant, faded,
Leave not a *rack* behind.

Shak.

It is disputed however, whether *rack* in this passage should not be *wreck*.

RACK, *n.* [for *arrack*. See *Arrack*.] Among the Tartars, a spirituous liquor made of mare's milk which has become sour and is then distilled.

Encyc.

RACK, *v. i.* [Sax. *recan*. See the Noun.]

1. Properly, to steam; to rise, as vapor.

[See *Reek*, which is the word used.]

2. To fly, as vapor or broken clouds.

Shak.

RACK, *v. t.* [from the noun.] To torture; to stretch or strain on the rack or wheel; as, to *rack* a criminal or suspected person, to extort a confession of his guilt, or compel him to betray his accomplices.

Dryden.

2. To torment; to torture; to affect with extreme pain or anguish; as *racked* with deep despair.

Milton.

3. To harass by exaction.

The landlords there shamefully *rack* their tenants.

Spenser.

4. To stretch; to strain vehemently; to wrest; as, to *rack* and stretch Scripture; to *rack* invention.

Hooker. Waterland.

The wisest among the heathens *racked* their wits—

Tillotson.

5. To stretch; to extend.

Shak.

RACK, *v. t.* [Ar. رَاكَ, *rauka*, to clear, to strain. Class Rg. No. 8.]

To draw off from the lees; to draw off, as pure liquor from its sediment; as, to *rack* cider or wine; to *rack* off liquor.

Bacon.

RACK'ED, *pp.* Tortured; tormented; strained to the utmost.

2. Drawn off, as liquor.

RACK'ER, *n.* One that tortures or torments; one that racks.

RACK'ET, *n.* [This word belongs to the root of *crack*, Fr. *craquer*. See *Rocket*.]

1. A confused, clattering noise, less loud than *uproar*; applied to the confused sounds of animal voices, or such voices mixed with other sound. We say, the children make a *racket*; the *racket* of a flock of fowls.

2. Clamor; noisy talk.

Swift.

RACK'ET, *v. i.* To make a confused noise or clamor; to frolic.

Gray.

RACK'ET, *n.* [Fr. *raquette*; Sp. *raqueta*; G. *racket*; D. *raket*.]

The instrument with which players at tennis strike the ball.

Shak. Digby.

RACK'ET, *v. t.* To strike as with a racket.

Hervey.

RACK'ETY, *a.* Making a tumultuous noise.

RACK'ING, *ppr.* Torturing; tormenting; straining; drawing off.

2. *a.* Tormenting; excruciating; as a *rack*-ing pain.

RACK'ING, *n.* Torture; a stretching on the rack.

2. Torment of the mind; anguish; as the *rackings* of conscience.

3. The act of stretching cloth on a frame for drying.

4. The act of drawing from the sediment, as liquors.

RACKING-PACE, *n.* The racking-pace of a horse is an amble, but with a quicker and shorter tread.

Fur. Dict.

RACK'RENT, *n.* An annual rent of the full value of the tenement or near it.

Blackstone.

RACK'RENTED, *a.* Subjected to the payment of rack-rent.

Franklin.

RACK'RENTER, *n.* One that is subjected to pay rack-rent.

Locke.

RACCOON, *n.* An American quadruped of the genus *Ursus*. It is somewhat larger than a fox, and its fur is deemed valuable, next to that of the beaver. This animal lodges in a hollow tree, feeds on vegetables, and its flesh is palatable food. It inhabits North America from Canada to the tropics.

Belknap. Dict. Nat. Hist.

RACY, *a.* [This word, if the sense of it is strong, vigorous, would seem to belong to