

leg or an arm is *voluntary*, but the motion of the heart is *involuntary*.

A *voluntary escape*, in law, is the escape of a prisoner by the express consent of the sheriff.

Voluntary jurisdiction, is that which is exercised in doing that which no one opposes; as in granting dispensations, &c.

Voluntary affidavit or oath, is one made in an extra-judicial matter.

Voluntary waste, is that which is committed by positive acts.

VOLUNTARY, *n.* One who engages in any affair of his own free will; a volunteer. [In this sense, *volunteer* is now generally used.]

2. In music, a piece played by a musician extemporarily, according to his fancy. In the Philosophical Transactions, we have a method of writing *voluntaries*, as fast as the musician plays the notes. This is by a cylinder turning under the keys of the organ. *Cyc.*

3. A composition for the organ.

VOLUNTEER, *n.* [Fr. *volontaire*.] A person who enters into military or other service of his own free will. In military affairs, volunteers enter into service voluntarily, but when in service they are subject to discipline and regulations like other soldiers. They sometimes serve gratuitously, but often receive a compensation.

VOLUNTEER, *a.* Entering into service of free will; as *volunteer companies*.

VOLUNTEER, *v. t.* To offer or bestow voluntarily, or without solicitation or compulsion; as, to *volunteer* one's services.

VOLUNTEER, *v. i.* To enter into any service of one's free will, without solicitation or compulsion. He *volunteered* in that undertaking.

[These verbs are in respectable use.]

VOLUPTUARY, *n.* [L. *voluptuarius*, from *voluptus*, pleasure.]

A man addicted to luxury or the gratification of the appetite, and to other sensual pleasures. *Atterbury.*

VOLUPTUOUS, *a.* [Fr. *voluptueux*; L. *voluptuosus*.]

Given to the enjoyments of luxury and pleasure; indulging to excess in sensual gratifications.

Softened with pleasure and *voluptuous* life. *Milton.*

VOLUPTUOUSLY, *adv.* Luxuriously; with free indulgence of sensual pleasures; as, to live *voluptuously*.

VOLUPTUOUSNESS, *n.* Luxuriousness; addictedness to pleasure or sensual gratification.

Where no *voluptuousness*, yet all delight. *Donne.*

VOLUTA'TION, *n.* [L. *volutatio*, from *voluta*, from *volvo*, Eng. to wallow.]

A wallowing; a rolling of the body on the earth. [See *Wallow*.]

VOLUTE, *n.* [Fr. *volute*; It. *voluta*; from L. *volutus*, *volvo*.]

1. In architecture, a kind of spiral scroll, used in the Ionic and Composite capitals, of which it is a principal ornament. The number of *volute*s in the Ionic order, is four; in the Composite, eight. There are also eight angular *volute*s in the Corinthian capital, accompanied with eight smaller ones, called *helices*. *Cyc.*

2. In natural history, a genus of shells. *Say.*

VOLUTION, *n.* A spiral turn.

VOLUTITE, *n.* A petrified shell of the genus *Voluta*. *Jameson.*

VOLVIE, *a.* Denoting a species of stone or lava.

VOMIC, *a.* The vomit nut, *nux vomica*, is the seed of the *Strychnos nux vomica*, a native of the East Indies. It is a very active poison. *Cyc.*

VOMICA, *n.* [L.] An encysted tumor on the lungs. *Arbuthnot.*

VOMIT, *v. i.* [L. *vomo*; Fr. *vomir*; It. *vomire*; Sans. *vamathu*. Probably the Gr. *εμεω* is the same word, with the loss of its first letter.]

To eject the contents of the stomach by the mouth. Some persons *vomit* with ease, as do cats and dogs. But horses do not *vomit*. *Cyc.*

VOMIT, *v. t.* To throw up or eject from the stomach; to discharge from the stomach through the mouth. It is followed often by *up* or *out*, but without necessity and to the injury of the language. In the yellow fever, the patients often *vomit* dark colored matter, like coffee grounds.

The fish *vomited out* Jonah upon the dry land. *Jonah ii.*

2. To eject with violence from any hollow place. Volcanoes *vomit* flames, ashes, stones and liquid lava.

VOMIT, *n.* The matter ejected from the stomach. *Sandys.*

2. That which excites the stomach to discharge its contents; an emetic.

Black vomit, the dark colored matter ejected from the stomach in the last stage of the yellow fever or other malignant disease; hence, the yellow fever, vulgarly so called.

VOMITED, *pp.* Ejected from the stomach through the mouth, or from any deep place through an opening.

VOMITING, *ppr.* Discharging from the stomach through the mouth, or ejecting from any deep place.

VOMITING, *n.* The act of ejecting the contents of the stomach through the mouth. *Vomiting* is an inverted action of the stomach. *Cyc.*

2. The act of throwing out substances with violence from a deep hollow, as a volcano, &c.

VOMITION, *n.* The act or power of vomiting. *Grew.*

VOMITIVE, *a.* [Fr. *vomitif*.] Causing the ejection of matter from the stomach; emetic. *Brown.*

VOMITORY, *a.* [L. *vomitarius*.] Procuring vomits; causing to eject from the stomach; emetic. *Brown.*

VOMITORY, *n.* An emetic. *Harvey.*

2. A door. *Gibbon.*

VORACIOUS, *a.* [Fr. It. *vorace*; L. *vorax*, from *oro*, to devour; Heb. Ch. *בָּעַר* to clear away, to consume; Gr. *Bopa*, food. Class Br. No. 6.]

1. Greedy for eating; ravenous; very hungry; as a *voracious* man or appetite.

2. Rapacious; eager to devour; as *voracious* animals.

3. Ready to swallow up; as a *voracious* gulf or whirlpool.

VORACIOUSLY, *adv.* With greedy appetite; ravenously.

VORACIOUSNESS, *n.* Greediness of appetite; ravenousness; eagerness to devour; rapaciousness.

VORACITY, *n.* Greediness of appetite; voraciousness.

Creatures by their *voracity* pernicious, have commonly fewer young. *Derham.*

VORAGINOUS, *a.* [L. *voraginosus*, *vorago*.] Full of gulfs. *Scott.*

VORTEX, *n.* plu. *vortices* or *vortexes*. [L. from *verto*, Ant. *orto*, to turn.]

1. A whirlpool; a whirling or circular motion of water, forming a kind of cavity in the center of the circle, and in some instances, drawing in water or absorbing other things.

2. A whirling of the air; a whirlwind. *Cyc.*

3. In the Cartesian system, the circular motion originally impressed on the particles of matter, carrying them around their own axes, and around a common center. By means of these *vortices*, Descartes attempted to account for the formation of the universe.

VORTICAL, *a.* Whirling; turning; as a *vortical* motion. *Newton. Bentley.*

VOTARESS, *n.* A female devoted to any service, worship or state of life.

No rosary this *votress* needs. *Cleaveland.*

VOTARIST, *n.* [See *Votary*.] One devoted or given up to any person or thing, to any service, worship or pursuit.

I am no idle *votarist*. *Shak.*

[*Votary* is now used.]

VOTARY, *a.* [from L. *votus*, from *voceo*. See *Vow*.]

Devoted; promised; consecrated by a vow or promise; consequent on a vow.

Votary resolution is made equipollent to custom. *Bacon.*

VOTARY, *n.* One devoted, consecrated or engaged by a vow or promise; hence more generally, one devoted, given or addicted to some particular service, worship, study or state of life. Every goddess of antiquity had her *votaries*. Every pursuit or study has now its *votaries*. One is a *votary* to mathematics, another is a *votary* to music, and alas, a great portion of the world are *votaries* of sensual pleasures.

It was the coldness of the *votary*, not the prayer, which was in fault. *Fell.*

VOTE, *n.* [It. Sp. *voto*; L. *rotum*, from *voceo*, to vow. *Votum* is properly wish or will.]

1. Suffrage; the expression of a wish, desire, will, preference or choice, in regard to any measure proposed, in which the person voting has an interest in common with others, either in electing a man to office, or in passing laws, rules, regulations and the like. This vote or expression of will may be given by holding up the hand, by rising and standing up, by the voice, (*viva voce*), by ballot, by a ticket or otherwise. All these modes and others are used. Hence

2. That by which will or preference is expressed in elections, or in deciding propositions; a ballot; a ticket, &c.; as a written vote.

3. Expression of will by a majority; legal decision by some expression of the minds of a number; as, the *vote* was unanimous.

1. United voice in public prayer.