

4. The name of a military order, instituted by Renatus of Anjou, king of Sicily; so called from its symbol or badge, a crescent of gold enameled. *Encyc.*  
**CRESCENT**, *v. t.* To form into a crescent. *Seaward.*

**CRESCENT-SHAPED**, *a.* In *botany*, lunated; lunated; shaped like a crescent; as a leaf. *Martyn.*

**CRESCIVE**, *a.* [*L. cresco*, to grow.] *Shak.*

**CRESS**, *n.* [*Fr. cresson*; *It. crescione*; *Arm. cresson*; *D. kers*; *G. kresse*; *Sax. carse* or *cressen*.] Qu. its alliance to *grass*, or to *L. cressa*.

The name of several species of plants, most of them of the class *tetradynamia*. Watercresses, of the genus *Sisymbrium*, are used as a salad, and are valued in medicine for their antiscorbutic qualities. The leaves have a moderately pungent taste. They grow on the banks of rivulets and in other moist grounds. The word is generally used in the plural.

**CRESETT**, *n.* [*Fr. croisset*, dim. of *croix*, cross, because beacons formerly had crosses on their tops. See *Cross*.]

A great light set on a beacon, lighthouse, or watch tower. *Johnson. Shak.*

2. A lamp or torch. *Milton. Holinshed.*  
**CREST**, *n.* [*Fr. crête*; *L. crista*; *It. cresta*; *Sp. creston*.] This is probably, a growing or shooting up from the root of *cresco*, *Fr. croître*; *Norm. creit*, it rises, it accrues; *Russ. rastu* or *rostu*, to grow; *rost*, growth, size, tallness.]

1. The plume of feathers or other material on top of the ancient helmet; the helmet itself. *Shak.*

2. The ornament of the helmet in heraldry. *Encyc.*

3. The comb of a cock; also, a tuft of feathers on the head of other fowls.

4. Any tuft or ornament worn on the head. *Dryden.*

5. Loftiness; pride; courage; spirit; a lofty mien. *Shak.*

**CREST**, *v. t.* To furnish with a crest; to serve as a crest for. *Shak.*

2. To mark with long streaks. *Shak.*

**CRESTED**, *a.* [*from crest*.] Wearing a crest; adorned with a crest or plume; having a comb; as a *crested* helmet; a *crested* cock.

2. In *natural history*, having a tuft like a crest.

**CREST-FALLEN**, *a.* Dejected; sunk; bowed; dispirited; heartless; spiritless. *Shak.*

2. Having the upper part of the neck hanging on one side, as a horse. *Encyc.*

**CRESTPLESS**, *a.* Without a crest; not dignified with coat-armour; not of an eminent family; of low birth. *Shak.*

**CRETA-CEOUS**, *a.* [*L. cretaceus*, from *creta*, chalk. *Sp. It. id.*; *Fr. craie*; *D. krayt*; *G. kreide*; *Sw. krita*.]

Chalky; having the qualities of chalk; like chalk; abounding with chalk.

**CRE-TIC**, *n.* [*Gr. κρητικός*.] A poetic foot of three syllables, one short between two long syllables. *Bentley.*

**CRE-TIN**, *n.* A name given to certain deformed and helpless idiots in the Alps.

**CREVICE**, *n.* [*Fr. crevasse*, from *crever*, to

burst, to crack; *It. crepatura*; *L. crepo*, to burst. See *Crepitate* and *Rip*.]

A crack; a cleft; a fissure; a rent; an opening; as a *crevice* in a wall. *Addison.*

**CREVICE**, *v. t.* To crack; to flaw. *Walton.*

**CREVIS**, *n.* The craw-fish. [*Little used*.]

**CREW**, *n.* [*contracted from Sax. crewd*, or *cruth*, a crowd; *D. rot*; *G. rotte*; *Sw. rote*.] *Eng. rout*, an assembly, a collection, from gathering or pressing. *Class. Id.*

1. A company of people associated; as a noble crew; a gallant crew.

2. A company, in a low or bad sense, which is now most usual; a herd; as a rebel crew. *Spenser. Chery-Chase. Milton.*

3. So we say, a miserable crew.

The company of seamen who man a ship, vessel or boat; the company belonging to a vessel. Also, the company or gang of a carpenter, gunner, boatswain, &c. It is appropriated to the common sailors.

**CREW**, *pret. of crew*, but the regular preterit and participle, *crewed*, is now most commonly used.

**CREWEL**, *n.* [*Qu. D. klevel*.] Yarn twisted and wound on a knot or ball, or two-threaded worsted. *Johnson. Bailey.*

**CREWET**. [*See Cruet*.]

**CRIB**, *n.* [*Sax. crybb*; *D. krib*; *Sw. krubba*; *Dan. krybbe*; *Ir. grib*.] Qu. the root of *grapple*, to catch.]

1. The manger of a stable, in which oxen and cows feed. In America, it is distinguished from a rack for horses.

Where no oxen are, the *crib* is clean. *Prov. xiv.*

The manger for other beasts.

The ass knoweth his master's *crib*. *Is. i.*

2. A small habitation or cottage. *Shak.*

3. A stall for oxen.

4. A case or box in salt works. *Encyc.*

5. A small building, raised on posts, for storing Indian corn. *U. States.*

**CRIB**, *v. t.* To shut or confine in a narrow habitation; to cage. *Shak.*

**CRIBBAGE**, *n.* A game at cards.

**CRIBBED**, *pp.* Shut up; confined; caged.

**CRIBBLE**, *n.* [*L. cribellum*, from *cribrum*, and this from *cribo*, to sift; *Sp. criba*, *cribar*; *Port. crivo*; *It. cribro*, *cribrare*, and *criello*, *criellare*; *Fr. cribre*, *cribler*; *W. cribran*, to comb or card; *Arm. kribat*; *Ir. kribbar*, a sieve; allied to *Eng. garble*. See *cribrum*.]

*Ch. כרבל*, *Ar. كَرِبَل*, *Ch. כרבל*, to sift or riddle. *Class. Rb. No. 30. 34. 46.]*

1. A corn-sieve or riddle.

2. Coarse flour or meal. [*Not used in the U. States*.]

**CRIBBLE**, *v. t.* To sift; to cause to pass through a sieve or riddle.

**CRIBRATION**, *n.* [*See Cribble*.] The act of sifting or riddling; used in pharmacy.

**CRIBRIFORM**, *a.* [*L. cribrum*, a sieve, and *forma*, form.]

Resembling a sieve or riddle; a term applied to the lumen of the ethmoid bone, through which the fibers of the olfactory nerve pass to the nose. *Anat.*

**CRICH-TONITE**, *n.* A mineral so called from Dr. Crichton, physician to the Emperor of Russia. It has a velvet black color, and crystallizes in very acute small

rhomboids. It occurs in primitive rocks with octahedrite. *Ure.*

**CRICK**, *n.* [*See Creak*.] The creaking of a door. [*Not used*.]

2. A spasmodic affection of some part of the body, as of the neck or back; local spasm or cramp.

**CRICKET**, *n.* [*D. krekelt*, from the root of *creak*; *W. dicell*, cricket, and *dicellu*, to chirp or chatter; *crig*, a crack.]

An insect of the genus *Gryllus*, belonging to the order of Hemiptera. There are several species, so named probably on account of their creaking or chirping voice.

The cricket chirping in the hearth. *Goldsmith.*

**CRICKET**, *n.* [*Qu. Sax. crice*, a stick.] A play or exercise with bats and ball. *Pope.*

2. A low stool. [*British krigel*, a little elevation. *Whitaker*.] *Qu. Sw. krycka*, stilts or crutches.]

**CRICKETER**, *n.* One who plays at cricket. *Duncombe.*

**CRICKET-MATCH**, *n.* A match at cricket. *Duncombe.*

**CRIED**, *pret. and part. of cry.*

**CRIER**, *n.* [*See Cry*.] One who cries; **CRYER**, *n.* One who makes proclamation.

The crier of a court is an officer whose duty is to proclaim the orders or commands of the court, to open or adjourn the court, keep silence, &c. A crier is also employed to give notice of auctions, and for other purposes.

**CRIME**, *n.* [*L. crimen*; *Gr. κριμα*; *It. crime*; *Port. id.*; *Sp. crimen*; *Fr. crime*; *Arm. crim*; *Norm. crime*.] This word is from the root of *Gr. κριμα*, *L. cerno*, to separate, to judge, to decree, to condemn. But this verb seems to be composed of two distinct roots, for in Latin, the *pret.* is *crevi*, which cannot be formed from *cerno*; and in Greek, the derivatives, *κριμα*, *κριμας*, *κριμας*, cannot be regularly formed from *κριμα*. The *Gr. κριμα* is undoubtedly a contraction, for in Norman the word is *crime*. The root then of these derivatives is the same as of the *Fr. criathor*, a sieve, *W. rhidyll*, *Eng. riddle*; *W. rhidine*, to secrete, to separate.

We have *screen*, a riddle, from the root of *κριμα*, and *riddle*, from the Celtic root of *κριμα*, *κρημα*. To judge is to decide, to separate or cut off, hence to condemn; a crime is that which is condemned.]

1. An act which violates a law, divine or human; an act which violates a rule of moral duty; an offense against the laws of right, prescribed by God or man, or against any rule of duty plainly implied in those laws. A crime may consist in omission or neglect, as well as in commission, or positive transgression. The commandment of a fortress who suffers the enemy to take possession by neglect, is as really criminal, as one who voluntarily opens the gates without resistance.

But in a more common and restricted sense, a crime denotes an offense, or violation of public law, of a deeper and more atrocious nature; a public wrong; or a violation of the commands of God, and the offenses against the laws made to preserve the public rights; as treason, murder, robbery, theft, arson, &c. The minor wrongs committed against individuals or private rights, are denominated *trespases*, and the