

LEAF-STALK, *n.* The petiole or stalk which supports a leaf. *Martyn.*

LEAFY, *a.* Full of leaves; as the leafy forest. *Dryden.*

LEAGUE, *n.* *leeg.* [Fr. *ligue*; It. *lega*; Sp. *liga*; from L. *ligo*, to bind.]

An alliance or confederacy between princes or states for their mutual aid or defense; a national contract or compact. A league may be *offensive* or *defensive*, or both. It is *offensive*, when the contracting parties agree to unite in attacking a common enemy; *defensive*, when the parties agree to act in concert in defending each other against an enemy.

2. A combination or union of two or more parties for the purpose of maintaining friendship and promoting their mutual interest, or for executing any design in concert.

And let there be
'Twixt us and them no league, nor amity.

Denham.

LEAGUE, *v. i.* *leeg.* To unite, as princes or states in a contract of amity for mutual aid or defense; to confederate. Russia and Austria *leagued* to oppose the ambition of Buonaparte.

2. To unite or confederate, as private persons for mutual aid.

LEAGUE, *n.* *leeg.* [of Celtic origin. W. *lleu*, a flat stone, whence Low L. *leuca*, Sp. *legua*, It. *lega*, Fr. *lieue*, Ir. *leac*. It appears from the Welsh, that this word is from the root of *lay*.]

1. Originally, a stone erected on the public roads, at certain distances, in the manner of the modern mile-stones. Hence,

2. The distance between two stones. With the English and Americans, a *league* is the length of three miles; but this measure is used chiefly at sea. The *league* on the continent of Europe, is very different among different nations. The Dutch and German *league* contains four geographical miles. *Encyc.*

LEAGUED, *pp.* *lee'ged.* United in mutual compact; confederated.

LEAGUER, *n.* *lee'ger.* One who unites in a league; a confederate. *Encyc.*

LEAGUER, *n.* [D. *beleggeren*. See *Be-leaguer*.]

Siege; investment of a town or fort by an army. [*Little used.*] *Shak.*

LEAK, *n.* [D. *lek*, a leak, and leaky; *lekken*, to leak, to drop, to *sleek* or make smooth; *lekker*, dainty, delicate, nice, delicious; G. *leck*, a leak, and leaky; *lecken*, to leak, to drop out, to jump, to *lick*; *lecker*, dainty, delicious, *lickerish*; Sw. *laka*, to distill or drop, and *läka*, to leak; Dan. *lek*, leaky; *lekke*, a leak; *lekkefad*, a dripping pun; *lekker*, to leak, to drop; *lekker*, dainty, delicate, nice, *lickerish*; Sax. *hlece*, leaky. If the noun is the primary word, it may be the Gr. *λακε*, a fissure or crevice, from *λακεω*, Dor. *λακεω*, to crack, to sound, or to burst with sound, coinciding with L. *lacro* and *loquor*, and perhaps Eng. *clack*. It seems that *lickerish* is from the root of *leak*, and signifies properly watery.]

1. A crack, crevice, fissure or hole in a vessel, that admits water, or permits a fluid to escape.

2. The oozing or passing of water or other fluid or liquor through a crack, fissure or

aperture in a vessel, either *into* it, as into a ship, or *out of* it, as out of a cask.

To *spring a leak*, is to open or crack so as to let in water; to begin to let in water.

LEAK, *a.* Leaky. [*Not in use.*] *Spenser.*

LEAK, *v. i.* To let water or other liquor in- to or out of a vessel, through a hole or crevice in the vessel. A ship *leaks*, when she admits water through her seams or an aperture in her bottom or sides, into the hull. A pail or a cask *leaks*, when it ad- mits liquor to pass out through a hole or crevice.

To *leak out*, to find vent; to escape privately from confinement or secrecy; as a fact or report.

LEAKAGE, *n.* A leaking; or the quantity of a liquor that enters or issues by leak- ing.

2. An allowance, in commerce, of a certain rate per cent. for the leaking of casks, or the waste of liquors by leaking.

LEAKY, *a.* That admits water or other liquor to pass in or out; as a *leaky* ves- sel; a *leaky* ship or barrel.

2. Apt to disclose secrets; tattling; not close. *L'Estrange.*

LEAMER, *n.* A dog; a kind of hound.

LEAN, *v. i.* [Sax. *hlīnian*, *hlēonnan*, to lean; *hlīnan*, to recline; G. *lehnen*; D. *leunen*; Dan. *læner*; Sw. *līna sig*; Ir. *claonaim*; Russ. *klonju*; Gr. *κλινω*; L. *clino*. Class Ln. No. 3.]

1. To deviate or move from a straight or perpendicular line; or to be in a position thus deviating. We say, a column *leans* to the north or to the east; it *leans* to the right or left.

2. To incline or propend; to tend toward.

They delight rather to *lean* to their old cus- toms— *Spenser.*

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and *lean* not to thine own understanding. Prov. iii.

3. To bend or incline so as to rest on some- thing; as, to *lean* against a wall or a pil- lar; to *lean* on the arm of another.

4. To bend; to be in a bending posture.

LEAN, *v. t.* To incline; to cause to lean. *Shak.*

2. To conceal. [Ice. *luna*.] [*Not in use.*] *Ray.*

LEAN, *a.* [Sax. *læn* or *hlæne*; D. Dan. G. *klein*, small, lean; Sw. *klen*; allied perhaps to L. *lenis*, and Eng. *slender*.]

1. Wanting flesh; meager; not fat; as a *lean* body; a *lean* man or animal.

2. Not rich; destitute of good qualities; bare; barren; as *lean* earth.

3. Low; poor; in opposition to *rich* or *great*; as a *lean* action. [*Unusual.*]

4. Barren of thought; destitute of that which improves or entertains; jejune; as a *lean* discourse or dissertation.

LEAN, *n.* That part of flesh which consists of muscle without the fat. *Farquhar.*

LEANLY, *adv.* Meagerly; without fat or plumpness.

LEANNESS, *n.* Destitution of fat; want of flesh; thinness of body; meagerness; applied to animals.

2. Want of matter; poverty; emptiness; as the *leanness* of a purse. *Shak.*

3. In Scripture, want of grace and spiritual comfort.

He sent *leanness* into their soul. Ps. cvi.

LEANY, *a.* Alert; brisk; active. [*Not in use.*] *Spenser.*

LEAP, *v. i.* [Sax. *hleapan*, Goth. *hlaupan*, to leap; G. *laufen*; D. *loopen*, Sw. *löpa*, Dan. *løber*, to run, to pass rapidly, to flow, *slip* or glide; W. *lluef*, *aleap*. From these significations, it may be inferred that this word belongs to the family of L. *labor*, perhaps Heb. Ch. Syr. Sam. Eth. *חלף*. Class lb. No. 30. Qa. L. *lupus*, a wolf, the *leaper*.]

1. To spring or rise from the ground with both feet, as man, or with all the feet, as other animals; to jump; to vault; as, a man *leaps* over a fence, or *leaps* upon a horse.

A man *leapeth* better with weights in his hands than without. *Bacon.*

2. To spring or move suddenly; as, to *leap* from a horse.

3. To rush with violence.

And the man in whom the evil spirit was, *leaped* on them and overcame them— Acts xix.

4. To spring; to bound; to skip; as, to *leap* for joy.

5. To fly; to start. Job xli.

He parted frowning from me, as if ruin *leaped* from his eyes. *Shak.*

[Our common people retain the Saxon aspirate of this word in the phrase, to *clip* it, to run fast.]

LEAP, *v. t.* To pass over by leaping; to spring or bound from one side to the other; as, to *leap* a wall, a gate or a gulf; to *leap* a stream. [But the phrase is elliptical, and *orer* is understood.]

2. To compress; as the male of certain beasts. *Dryden.*

LEAP, *n.* A jump; a spring; a bound; act of leaping.

2. Space passed by leaping.

3. A sudden transition or passing. *Swift.*

4. The space that may be passed at a bound. 'Tis the convenient *leap* I mean to try. *Dryden.*

5. Embrace of animals. *Dryden.*

6. Hazard, or effect of leaping. *Shak.*

7. A basket; a weel for fish. [*Not in use.*] *Wickliffe. Sherwood.*

LEAPER, *n.* One that leaps. A horse is called a good *leaper*.

LEAP-FROG, *n.* A play of children, in which they imitate the leap of frogs. *Shak.*

LEAPING, *ppr.* Jumping; springing; bounding; skipping.

LEAPINGLY, *adv.* By leaps.

LEAP-YEAR, *n.* Bissexile, a year con- taining 366 days; every fourth year, which *leaps* over a day more than a common year. Thus in common years, if the first day of March is on Monday, the present year, it will, the next year, fall on Tues- day, but in leap-year it will leap to Wed- nesday; for leap-year contains a day more than a common year, a day being added to the month of February. *Brown.*

LEARN, *v. t.* *lern.* [Sax. *leornian*; G. *lernen*; D. *leren*; Dan. *lærer*; Sw. *lära*. The latter coincides with the Sax. *lāran*, to teach, the same word having both sig- nifications, to teach and to learn. In pop- ular use, *learn* still has both senses.]