

AGAINST, prep. *agenst'*. [Sax. *logennes*. See *Again*.]

1. In opposition; noting enmity or disapprobation.

His hand will be *against* every man.

Gen. xvi.

I am *against* your pillows. Ez. xiii.

2. In opposition, noting contrariety, contradiction, or repugnance; as, a decree *against* law, reason or public opinion.

3. In opposition, noting competition, or different sides or parties; as, there are twenty votes in the affirmative *against* ten in the negative.

4. In an opposite direction; as, to ride *against* the wind.

5. Opposite in place; abreast; as, a ship is *against* the mouth of a river. In this sense it is often preceded by *over*.

Aaron lighted the lamps *over against* the candlesticks. Num. viii.

6. In opposition, noting adversity, injury, or contrariety to wishes; as, this change of measures is *against* us.

7. Bearing upon; as, one leans *against* a wall.

8. In provision for; in preparation for.

Urijah made it *against* king Ahaz came from Damascus. 2 Kings, xvi.

In this sense *against* is a preposition, with the following part of the sentence for an object. See *after*, prep. def. 2.

In short, the sense of this word is *opposition*, variously modified according to its application to different objects.

AGALLOCH, *n.* [Of oriental origin.]

Aloes-wood, the product of a tree growing in China, and some of the Indian isles. There are three varieties, the calambae, the common lignum aloes, and the calambour. The first variety is light and porous, and so filled with a fragrant resin, that it may be molded by the fingers; the second is denser and less resinous; and the third is the aloes-wood used by cabinet makers and inlaiders.

Encyc.

AGALMATOLITE, *n.* [Gr. *αγαμα*, image, and *λίθος*, stone.]

A name given by Klaproth to two varieties of the *Pierre de lard*, lard stone, of China. It contains no magnesia, but otherwise has the characters of talc. It is called in German, *bildstein*, figure-stone, and by Brongniart, *sculptile pagodite*.

Cyc. Ure.

AGAPE, adv. or a. [a and *gape*. See *Gape*.]

Gaping, as with wonder, expectation, or eager attention; having the mouth wide open.

Milton.

AGAPE, *n.* *ag'apy*. [Gr. *αγαπη*, love.]

Among the primitive christians, a love feast or feast of charity, held before or after the communion, when contributions were made for the poor. This feast was held at first without scandal, but afterwards being abused, it was condemned at the council of Carthage, A. D. 397.

Encyc.

AGARIC, *n.* [Gr. *αγαρίκον*. Qu. from *Agaria*, in Sarmatia. *Dioscorides*.]

In botany, mushroom, a genus of funguses, containing numerous species. Mushrooms grow on trees, or spring from the earth; of the latter species some are valued as

articles of food; others are poisonous. The name was originally given to a fungus growing on the larch. This species is now frequent in the shops, and distinguished by the name of *female agaric*. From this fungus is extracted a turpentine, of which three fourths of its weight is a resinous substance; the rest, a slimy, mucilaginous, earthy matter, tenacious and almost insoluble in water. It is used in dyeing, but is little esteemed in medicine. *Theophr. Macquer. Quincy.*

The *Agaric* of the oak is called *touch-wood*, from its readiness to take fire. *Boletus Ignarius, Linne.*

*Agaric mineral*, a calcareous earth, or carbonaceous lime, resembling a fungus in color and texture; found in fissures of rocks, and on the roofs of caverns. It is sometimes used as an astringent in fluxes, and a styptic in hemorrhoids. It occurs in a loose semi-indurated form, white or whitish red, or yellow, light and friable. Kirwan mentions three varieties.

AGAST or AGHAST, *a.* [Qu., a contraction of *aged*, or Goth. *agis*, Sax. *egest*, horror. See *Aghest* and *Gaze*.]

Struck with terror, or astonishment; amazed; struck silent with horror.

With shuddering horror pale and eyes *agast*.

Milton.

AGATE, adv. [a and *gate*.]

On the way; going. Obs.

Gower.

AGATE, *n.* [Fr. *agate*; L. *achates, gagates*; Gr. *αγατης*; so called, says Pliny, 37, 10, because found near a river of that name in Sicily. So also Solinus and Isidore. But Bochart, with more probability, deduces it from the Punic and Hebrew *אגת*, and with a different prefix *אגת*, spotted. The word is used, Gen. xxx. and xxxi., to describe the speckled and spotted cattle of Laban and Jacob.]

A class of siliceous, semi-pellucid gems of many varieties, consisting of quartz-crystal, flint, horn-stone, chalcedony, amethyst, jasper, cornelian, heliotrope, and jade, in various combinations, variegated with dots, zones, filaments, ramifications, arborescences, and various figures. Agates seem to have been formed by successive layers of siliceous earth, on the sides of cavities which they now fill entirely or in part. They are esteemed the least valuable of the precious stones. Even in Pliny's time, they were in little estimation. They are found in rocks, in the form of fragments, in nodules, in small rounded lumps, rarely in stalactites. Their colors are various. They are used for rings, seals, cups, beads, boxes and handles of small utensils. *Kirwan. Encyc. Cleveland.*

AGATE, *n.* An instrument used by gold-wire drawers, so called from the agate in the middle of it.

AGATINE, *a.* Pertaining to agate.

AGATINE, *n.* A genus of shells, oval or oblong.

AGATIZED, *a.* Having the colored lines and figures of agate.

Fourcroy.

*Agatized wood*, a substance apparently produced by the petrification of wood; a species of hornstone.

Werner.

AG'ATY, *a.* Of the nature of agate.

Woodward.

AGAVE, *n.* [Gr. *αγανος*, admirable.]

1. The American aloe. The great aloe rises twenty feet, and its branches form a sort of pyramid at the top.

Encyc.

2. A genus of univalvular shells.

AGAZE, *v. t.* [from *gaze*.] To strike with amazement. Obs.

Spenser.

AGAZED, *pp.* Struck with amazement. [Not in use.]

Shak.

AGÉ, *n.* [Fr. *age*; Arm. *oage*; deduced by Lamer from Lat. *ætas*, or *ævum*. But these are undoubtedly contracted words, Goth. *air*; D. *eeue*; Gr. *αἰω*; from the Celtic, *W. haug*, fullness, completeness, an *age*, a space of time; plu. *logion*; the *g* being sunk in the Latin words; in the Sanscrit, *yuga*.]

1. The whole duration of a being, whether animal, vegetable, or other kind; as, the usual *age* of man is seventy years; the *age* of a horse may be twenty or thirty years; the *age* of a tree may be four hundred years.

2. That part of the duration of a being, which is between its beginning and any given time; as, what is the present *age* of a man, or of the earth?

Jesus began to be about thirty years of *age*. Luke iii.

3. The latter part of life, or long continued duration; oldness.

The eyes of Israel were dim for *age*. Gen. xlviii.

4. A certain period of human life, marked by a difference of state; as, life is divided into four stages or *ages*, infancy, youth, manhood, and old age; the *age* of youth; the *age* of manhood.

5. The period when a person is enabled by law to do certain acts for himself, or when he ceases to be controlled by parents or guardians; as, in our country, both males and females are of *age* at twenty-one years old.

6. Mature years; ripeness of strength or discretion.

He is of *age*, ask him. John ix.

7. The time of life for conceiving children, or perhaps the usual time of such an event.

Sarah was delivered of a son when she was past *age*. Heb. xi.

8. A particular period of time, as distinguished from others; as, the golden *age*, the *age* of iron, the *age* of heroes or of chivalry.

9. The people who live at a particular period; hence, a generation and a succession of generations; as, *ages* yet unborn.

The mystery hid from *ages*. Col. i.

10. A century; the period of one hundred years.

AGED, *a.* Old; having lived long; having lived almost the usual time allotted to that species of being; applied to animals or plants; as, an *aged* man, or an *aged* oak.

2. Having a certain age; having lived; as, a man *aged* forty years.

AGED, *n.* Old persons.

And the aged arose and stood up. Job xxix.

AGEN, for *again*. Obs.

AGENCY, *n.* [L. *agens*. See *Act*.]

1. The quality of moving or of exerting power; the state of being in action; ac-