

cloning a person or cause to which one is bound by allegiance, or duty, or to which one has attached himself. Our *defection* from God is proof of our depravity. The cause of the king was rendered desperate by the *defection* of the nobles.

2. Revolt; *used of nations or states.*

DEFECTIVE, *a.* [*L. defectivus.* See *Defect.*]

1. Wanting either in substance, quantity or quality, or in any thing necessary; imperfect; as a *defective* limb; *defective* timber; a *defective* copy; or book; a *defective* account. *Defective* articulation, in speaking, renders utterance indistinct.

2. Wanting in moral qualities; faulty; blamable; not conforming to rectitude or rule; as a *defective* character.

3. In *grammar*, a *defective* noun is one which wants a whole number or a particular case; an indeclinable noun.

4. A *defective* verb, is one which wants some of the tenses.

DEFECTIVELY, *adv.* In a defective manner; imperfectly.

DEFECTIVENESS, *n.* Want; the state of being imperfect; faultiness.

DEFECTUOSITY, *n.* Defectiveness; faultiness. [*Not used.*] *Montagu.*

DEFECTUOUS, *a.* Full of defects. [*Little used.*] *Worthington.*

DEFEDATION, *n.* Pollution. [*Not in use.*] *Bentley.*

DEFEND, *v. t.* [*L. defendo; de and obs. fendo; Fr. defendre; It. difendere; Sp. defender; Port. id.; Arm. difenn or dienn; W. dyfyn; Norm. fendu, struck; defender, to oppose, to prohibit.* The primary sense is to strike, thrust or drive off; to repel.]

1. To drive from; to thrust back; hence, to deny; to repel a demand, charge, or accusation; to oppose; to resist; the effort of which is to maintain one's own claims.

2. To forbid; to prohibit; that is, to drive from, or back. Milton calls the forbidden fruit, the *defended* fruit.

The use of wine in some places is *defended* by customs or laws. *Temple.*

[*This application is nearly obsolete.*]

3. To drive back a foe or danger; to repel from any thing that which assails or annoys; to protect by opposition or resistance; to support or maintain; to prevent from being injured, or destroyed.

There arose, to *defend* Israel, Tola the son of Puh. *Judges x.*

4. To vindicate; to assert; to uphold; to maintain uninjured, by force or by argument; as, to *defend* our cause; to *defend* rights and privileges; to *defend* reputation.

5. To secure against attacks or evil; to fortify against danger or violence; to set obstacles to the approach of any thing that can annoy. A garden may be *defended* by a grove. A camp may be *defended* by a wall, a hill or a river.

DEFEND, *v. i.* To make opposition; as, the party comes into court, *defends* and says.

DEFENDABLE, *a.* That may be defended.

DEFENDANT, *a.* [French participle of *defendre.*] Defensive; proper for defense. *Shak.*

2. Making defense; being in the character of a defendant. *Wheaton's Rep.*

DEFENDANT, *n.* He that defends against

an assailant, or against the approach of evil or danger.

2. In *law*, the party that opposes a complaint, demand or charge; he that is summoned into court, and *defends*, denies or opposes the demand or charge, and maintains his own right. It is applied to any party of whom a demand is made in court, whether the party denies and *defends*, or admits the claim and suffers a default.

DEFENDED, *pp.* Opposed; denied; prohibited; maintained by resistance; vindicated; preserved uninjured; secured.

DEFENDER, *n.* One who defends by opposition; one who maintains, supports, protects or vindicates; an assertor; a vindicator, either by arms or by arguments; a champion or an advocate.

DEFENDING, *ppr.* Denying; opposing; resisting; forbidding; maintaining uninjured by force or by reason; securing from evil.

DEFENSATIVE, *n.* Guard; defense; a bandage, plaster, or the like, to secure a wound from external injury. *Johnson.*

DEFENSE, *n. defens'.* [*L. defensio.*] Any thing that opposes attack, violence, danger or injury; any thing that secures the person, the rights or the possessions of men; fortification; guard; protection; security. A wall, a parapet, a ditch, or a garrison, is the *defense* of a city or fortress. The Almighty is the *defense* of the righteous. Ps. lxix.

2. Vindication; justification; apology; that which repels or disproves a charge or accusation.

Men, brethren, fathers, hear ye my *defense.*

Acts xxi.

3. In *law*, the defendant's reply to the plaintiff's declaration, demands or charges.

1. Prohibition. *Obs.* *Temple.*

2. Resistance; opposition. *Shak.*

3. The science of defending against enemies; military skill.

4. In fortification, a work that flanks another.

DEFENSE, *v. t. defens'.* To defend by fortification. *Obs.* *Frifax.*

DEFENSED, *pp.* Fortified.

DEFENSELESS, *a. defens'less.* Being without defense, or without means of repelling assault or injury; *applied to a town*, it denotes unfortified or ungarrisoned; open to an enemy; *applied to a person*, it denotes naked; unarmed; unprotected; unprepared to resist attack; weak; unable to oppose; uncovered; unsheltered.

DEFENSELESSNESS, *n. defens'lessness.* The state of being unguarded or unprotected.

DEFENSIBLE, *a.* That may be defended; as a *defensible* city.

2. That may be vindicated, maintained or justified; as a *defensible* cause.

DEFENSIVE, *a.* [*Fr. defensif.*] That serves to defend; proper for defense; as *defensive* armor, which repels attacks or blows, opposed to *offensive* arms, which are used in attack.

2. Carried on in resisting attack or aggression; as *defensive* war, in distinction from *offensive* war, which is aggressive.

3. In a state or posture to defend. *Milton.*

DEFENSIVE, *n.* Safeguard; that which defends.

Wars preventive, upon just fears, are true *defensives.* *Bacon.*

To be on the *defensive*, or to stand on the *defensive*, is to be or stand in a state or posture of defense or resistance, in opposition to aggression or attack.

DEFENSIVELY, *adv.* In a defensive manner; on the *defensive*; in defense.

DEFER, *v. t.* [*L. differo; dis, from, and fero, to bear.*]

1. To delay; to put off; to postpone to a future time; as, to *defer* the execution of a design.

When thou vowest a vow, *defer* not to pay it. *Eccles. v.*

Hope *deferred* maketh the heart sick. *Prov. xiii.*

2. To refer; to leave to another's judgment and determination. *Bacon.*

[In this sense, *refer* is now used.]

DEFER, *v. i.* To refer to another's opinion; to submit in opinion; as, he *defers* to the opinion of his father.

DEFERENCE, *n.* A yielding in opinion; submission of judgment to the opinion or judgment of another. Hence, regard; respect. We often decline acting in opposition to those for whose wisdom we have a great *deference*.

2. Complaisance; condescension. *Locke.*

3. Submission. *Addison.*

DEFERENT, *a.* Bearing; carrying; conveying. [*Little used.*] *Bacon.*

DEFERENT, *n.* That which carries or conveys. The *deferent* of a planet, is an imaginary circle or orb in the Ptolemaic system, that is supposed to carry about the body of the planet. *Bailey.*

2. A vessel in the human body for the conveyance of fluids. *Chambers.*

DEFERENTIAL, *a.* Expressing deference.

DEFERMENT, *n.* Delay. *Suckling.*

DEFERER, *n.* One who delays or puts off. *B. Jonson.*

DEFERRING, *ppr.* Delaying; postponing.

DEFIANCE, *n.* [French, in a different sense. See *Defy.*]

1. A daring; a challenge to fight; invitation to combat; a call to an adversary to encounter, if he dare. Goliath bid *defiance* to the army of Israel.

2. A challenge to meet in any contest; a call upon one to make good any assertion or charge; an invitation to maintain any cause or point.

3. Contempt of opposition or danger; a daring or resistance that implies the contempt of an adversary, or of any opposing power. Men often transgress the law and act in *defiance* of authority.

DEFIATORY, *a.* Bidding or bearing defiance. *Shelford.*

DEFICIENCY, } *n.* [*L. deficiens, from de-*

deficiencia, to fail; de and facio, to do.]

1. A failing; a falling short; imperfection; as a *deficiency* in moral duties.

2. Want; defect; something less than is necessary; as a *deficiency* of means; a *deficiency* of revenue; a *deficiency* of blood.

DEFICIENT, *a.* Wanting; defective; imperfect; not sufficient or adequate; as *deficient* estate; *deficient* strength.

2. Wanting; not having a full or adequate supply; as, the country may be *deficient* in the means of carrying on war.