

The windpipe or trachea; the canal through which air passes to and from the lungs.

WEASEL, *n.* *s* as *z*. [Sax. *wesle*; Dan. *vesel*; G. *wiesel*; D. *weezel*. I know not the meaning of this name. In G. *wiese* is a meadow.]

A small animal of the genus *Mustela*, which lives under the roots of trees, or in other holes, and feeds on small birds, but particularly on mice. A weasel that frequents barns and corn-houses, frees them from rats and mice, and is sometimes deemed a very useful inmate.

WEASEL-COOT, *n.* The red headed smew or *Mergus minutus*. *Cyc.*

WEATHER, *n.* *weth'er*. [Sax. *weder*, *wæder* or *wether*; G. *wetter*; D. *weder* or *weer*; Dan. *vejr*; Sw. *väder*; Sans. *widara*, a storm. The primary sense of this word is air, wind or atmosphere; probably the Gr. *αἰθήρ*, whence *ether*.] Properly, the air; hence,

1. The state of the air or atmosphere with respect to heat or cold, wetness or dryness, calm or storm, clearness or cloudiness, and the like; as warm *weather*; cold *weather*; wet *weather*; dry *weather*; calm *weather*; tempestuous *weather*; fair *weather*; cloudy *weather*; hazy *weather*, and the like.

2. Change of the state of the air. *Bacon.*
3. Storm; tempest. *Dryden.*

[These last significations are not now in use, unless by a poetic license.]

Stress of weather, violent winds; force of tempests.

WEATHER, *v. t.* *weth'er*. To air; to expose to the air. [Rarely used.] *Spenser. Tusser.*

2. In seamen's language, to sail to the windward of something else; as, to *weather* a cape; to *weather* another ship. As this is often difficult, hence,

3. To pass with difficulty. *Hale.*

To *weather* a point, to gain or accomplish it against opposition. *Addison.*

To *weather out*, to endure; to hold out to the end; as, to *weather out* a storm. *Addison.*

Weather is used with several words, either as an adjective, or as forming part of a compound word.

WEATHER-BEATEN, *a.* [*weather* and *beaten*.]

Beaten or harassed by the weather. *Milton. Dryden.*

WEATHER-BIT, *n.* A turn of the cable about the end of the windlass, without the knight-heads. *Cyc.*

WEATHER-BOARD, *n.* That side of a ship which is towards the wind; the windward side. So in other words, *weather* signifies towards the wind or windward; as in *weather-bow*, *weather-braces*, *weather-gage*, *weather-lifts*, *weather-quarter*, *weather-shrouds*, *weather-side*, *weather-shore*, &c.

WEATHER-BOARDING, *n.* The act of nailing up boards against a wall; or the boards themselves. *Cyc.*

WEATHER-BOARDS, *n.* Pieces of plank placed in the ports of a ship, when laid up in ordinary. *Mar. Dict.*

WEATHER-CLOTHS, *n.* Long pieces of canvas or tarpauling used to preserve the hammocks from injury by the weather

when stowed, or to defend persons from the wind and spray. *Mar. Dict.*

WEATHER-COCK, *n.* [*weather* and *cock*.]

1. Something in the shape of a cock placed on the top of a spire, which by turning, shows the direction of the wind; a vane, or weather-vane.

2. Any thing or person that turns easily and frequently; a fickle, inconstant person. *Dryden.*

WEATHER-DRIVEN, *a.* [*weather* and *driven*.]

Driven by winds or storms; forced by stress of weather. *Carew.*

WEATHER-FEND, *v. t.* [*weather* and *fend*.] To shelter.

WEATHER-GAGE, *n.* [*weather* and *gage*.] Something that shows the weather. *Qu. Hudibras.*

A ship is said to have the *weather-gage* of another, when she is at the windward of her.

WEATHER-GLASS, *n.* [*weather* and *glass*.]

An instrument to indicate the state of the atmosphere. This word includes the barometer, thermometer, hygrometer, manometer, and anemometer. *Cyc.*

WEATHER-HELM, *n.* [*weather* and *helm*.]

A ship is said to carry a *weather-helm*, when she is inclined to come too near the wind. *Mar. Dict.*

WEATHERMOST, *a.* [*weather* and *most*.]

Being farthest to the windward.

WEATHER-PROOF, *a.* [*weather* and *proof*.] Proof against rough weather.

WEATHER-ROLL, *n.* [*weather* and *roll*.]

The roll of a ship to the windward; opposed to *lee-lurch*.

WEATHER-SPY, *n.* [*weather* and *spy*.] A star-gazer; one that foretells the weather. [Little used.] *Donne.*

WEATHER-TIDE, *n.* [*weather* and *tide*.]

The tide which sets against the lee side of a ship, impelling her to the windward. *Mar. Dict.*

WEATHER-WISE, *a.* [*weather* and *wise*.]

Skilful in foreseeing the changes or state of the weather.

WEATHER-WISER, *n.* Something that foreshows the weather. [Not used.] *Derham.*

WEATHERED, *pp.* Passed to the windward; passed with difficulty.

WEATHERING, *ppr.* Passing or sailing to the windward; passing with difficulty.

WEAVE, *v. t.* pret. *wove*; pp. *woven*, *wove*.

The regular form, *waved* is rarely or never used. [Sax. *wefan*; G. *weben*; D. *weven*; Sw. *våfva*; Dan. *væver*; Pers. *baf-tan*; Gr. *ὑφαίνω*.]

1. To unite threads of any kind in such a manner as to form cloth. This is done by crossing the threads by means of a shuttle. The modes of weaving, and the kinds of texture, are various. The threads first laid in length are called the *carp*; those which cross them in the direction of the breadth, are called the *weft* or *woof*.

2. To unite any thing flexible; as, to *weave* twigs.

3. To unite by intermixture or close connection; as a form of religion *woven* into the civil government. *Addison.*

4. To interpose; to insert.

This *weaves* itself perforce into my business. *Shak.*

WEAVE, *v. i.* To practice weaving; to work with a loom.

WEAVER, *n.* One who weaves; one whose occupation is to weave.

2. The common name of the genus *Ploceus*, of several species, natives of Africa and the E. Indies; so called because they construct curious and often pensile nests, by interweaving twigs and fibers. *Ed. Encyc.*

WEAVER-FISH, *n.* A kind of fish, [*L. araneus piscis*.] [See *Weaver*.] *Ainsworth.*

WEAVING, *ppr.* Forming cloth by intertexture of threads.

WEAVING, *n.* The act or art of forming cloth in a loom, by the union or intertexture of threads.

2. The task or work to be done in making cloth.

WEB, *n.* [Sax. *web*; Sw. *våf*. See *Weave*.]

1. Texture of threads; plexus; any thing woven. Penelope devised a *web* to deceive her wooers. *Spenser.*

2. Locally, a piece of linen cloth. *England. Ireland.*

3. A dusky film that forms over the eye and hinders the sight; suffusion. *Shak.*

4. Some part of a sword. *Qu. net-work* of the handle or hilt. *Shak. Fairfax.*

5. In ship-building, the thin partition on the inside of the rim, and between the spokes of a sheave. *Cyc.*

6. In ornithology, the membrane which unites the toes of many water-fowls.

Spider's web, a plexus of very delicate threads or filaments which a spider spins from its bowels, and which serves as a net to catch flies or other insects for its food.

Web of a coultter, is the thin sharp part.

WEBBED, *a.* [from *web*.] Having the toes united by a membrane, or web; as the *webbed* feet of aquatic fowls.

WEB-FOOTED, *a.* [*web* and *foot*.] Having webbed feet; palmpied. A goose, or duck, is a *web-footed* fowl.

WED, *v. t.* [Sax. *weddian*, to covenant, to promise, to marry; Sw. *våfja*; Dan. *vedder*, to wager; W. *gwezu*; L. *vador*, to give bail, or *fedus*, a league; probably both are of one family.]

1. To marry; to take for husband or for wife.

—Since the day

- I saw thee first, and *wedded* thee. *Milton.*

2. To join in marriage.

And Adam, *wedded* to another Eve,

Shall live with her— *Milton.*

3. To unite closely in affection; to attach firmly. We are apt to be *wedded* to our own customs and opinions.

Men are *wedded* to their lasts. *Tillotson.*

4. To unite for ever.

Thou art *wedded* to calamity. *Shak.*

5. To espouse; to take part with.

They *wedded* his cause. *Obs. Clarendon*

WED, *v. i.* To marry; to contract matrimony.

When shall I *wed*? *Shak.*

WED, *n.* A pledge.

WEDDED, *pp.* Married; closely attached.

WEDDING, *ppr.* Marrying; uniting with in matrimony.

WEDDING, *n.* Marriage; nuptials; nuptial ceremony; nuptial festivities.

Let her beauty be her *wedding* dower. *Shak.*