

proper; as a *wise* prince; a *wise* magistrate. Solomon was deemed the *wisest* man. But a man may be *speculatively* and not *practically* wise. Hence,

2. Discrete and judicious in the use or application of knowledge; choosing laudable ends, and the best means to accomplish them. This is to be *practically* wise. Gen. xli.

3. Skillful; dextrous.

They are *wise* to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge. Jer. iv.

4. Learned; knowing; as the *wise* and the unwise. Rom. i.

5. Skilled in arts, science, philosophy, or in magic and divination. 2 Sam. xiv.

6. Godly; pious. Prov. xiii.

—The holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee *wise* to salvation. 2 Tim. iii.

7. Skilled in hidden arts; a *sense somewhat ironical*; as the *wise* woman of Brainford. Shak.

8. Dictated or guided by wisdom; containing wisdom; judicious; well adapted to produce good effects; *applicable to things*; as a *wise* saying; a *wise* scheme or plan; *wise* conduct or management; a *wise* determination.

9. Becoming a wise man; grave; discrete; as *wise* deportment. Milton.

WISE, *n.* *s* as *z*. [Sax. *wise*; G. *weise*; D. *wijs*; Sw. *vis*; Dan. *viis*; Fr. *guise*; It. *guisa*; Arm. *guis*.]

Manner; way of being or acting.

This song she sings in most commanding *wise*. Sidney.

In fittest *wise*. Spenser.

In the foregoing form, this word is obsolete. The use of it is now very limited. It is common in the following phrases.

1. In *any wise*.

If he that sanctified the field will in *any wise* redeem it— Lev. xxvii.

Fret not thyself in *any wise*. Ps. xxxvii.

2. On *this wise*.

On *this wise* ye shall bless the children of Israel. Num. vi.

3. In *no wise*.

He shall in *no wise* lose his reward. Matt. x.

It is used in composition, as in *likewise*, *otherwise*, *lengthwise*, &c. By mistake, *ways* is often used for it; as *lengthways*, for *lengthwise*.

WISSEACRE, *n.* more correctly *wisesager*. [G. *weissager*; *weise* and *sager*, a sayer, a predictor or foreteller.]

One who makes pretensions to great wisdom; hence in contempt, a simpleton; a dunce. Addison.

WISE-HEARTED, *a.* [*wise* and *heart*.] Wise; knowing; skillful. Ex. xxviii.

WISSELING, *n.* One who pretends to be wise. Donne.

WISELY, *adv.* Prudently; judiciously; discretely; with wisdom. Prov. xvi. xxi.

2. Craftily; with art or stratagem.

Let us deal *wisely* with them. Ex. i.

WISENESS, *n.* Wisdom. Obs. Spenser.

WISH, *v. i.* [Sax. *wiscan*; Cimbric, *oska*. In all the other Teutonic and Gothic dialects, the corresponding word is written with *n*; D. *wenschen*; G. *wünschen*; Dan. *ønsker*; Sw. *önska*. This is probably the same word.]

1. To have a desire, or strong desire, either for what is or is not supposed to be ob-

tainable. It usually expresses less than long; but sometimes it denotes to long or wish earnestly. We often *wish* for what is not obtainable.

This is as good an argument as an antiquary could *wish* for. Arbuthnot.

They have more than heart could *wish*. Ps. lxxiii.

I *wish* above all things that thou mayest prosper. 3 John 2.

They cast four anchors out of the stern, and *wished* for the day. Acts xxvii.

2. To be disposed or inclined; as, to *wish* well to another's affairs. Addison.

3. It sometimes partakes of hope or fear. I *wish* the event may prove fortunate, or less calamitous than we apprehend.

WISH, *v. t.* To desire. I *wish* your prosperity.

Let them be driven backward and put to shame, that *wish* me evil. Ps. xl.

2. To long for; to desire eagerly or ardently. It has this sense when expressed with emphasis.

3. To recommend by wishing. I would not *wish* them to a fairer death. Shak.

4. To imprecate; as, to *wish* curses on an enemy. Shak.

5. To ask; to express desire. Clarendon.

WISH, *n.* Desire; sometimes, eager desire. Job xxxiii.

2. Desire expressed. Pope.

Blister'd be thy tongue For such a *wish*. Shak.

3. Thing desired. He has his *wish*. The difference between *wish* and *desire* seems to be, that *desire* is directed to what is obtainable, and a *wish* may be directed to what is obtainable or not. Kames.

WISHED, *pp.* Desired; or ardently desired.

WISHER, *n.* One who desires; one who expresses a wish. Shak.

WISHFUL, *a.* Having desire, or ardent desire.

2. Showing desire; as *wishful* eyes.

3. Desirable; exciting wishes. [Bad.] Chapman.

WISHFULLY, *adv.* With desire or ardent desire.

2. With the show of desiring.

WISHING, *ppr.* Desiring.

WISKET, *n.* A basket. Ainsworth.

WISP, *n.* [Dan. *risk*, a wisp, a whisk; *risker*, to whisk, to rub or wipe; G. D. *wisch*.]

A small bundle of straw or other like substance; as a *wisp* of straw; a *wisp* of hay; a *wisp* of herbs. Shak. Bacon.

WIST, *pret.* of *wis*. Obs.

WISTFUL, *a.* [from *wist*. The sense is stretching or reaching towards.] Full of thoughts; earnest; attentive.

Why—dost thou so *wistful* seem? Goy.

WISTFULLY, *adv.* Attentively; earnestly. Hudibras.

WISTTIT, *n.* The striated monkey; a small species of monkey from S. America, with an annulated tail, the *ovistiti* of Buffon.

WISTLY, *adv.* Earnestly. Obs. Shak.

WIT, *v. i.* [Sax. Goth. *witan*, D. *weeten*, G. *wissen*, to know; Sans. *vid*. See *Wise*.]

To know. This verb is used only in the infinitive, to *wit*, namely, that is to say. [L. *videlicet*, i. e. *videre licet*.]

WIT, *n.* [Sax. *wit* or *ge-wit*; G. *witz*; Dan. *vid*. See the Verb and *Wise*.]

1. Primarily, the intellect; the understanding or mental powers.

Will puts in practice what the *wit* deviseth. Davies.

For *wit* and power their last endeavors bend To outshine each other. Dryden.

2. The association of ideas in a manner natural, but unusual and striking, so as to produce surprise joined with pleasure.

Wit is defined What oft was thought, but ne'er so well expressed. Pope.

Wit consists in assembling and putting together with quickness, ideas in which can be found resemblance and congruity, by which to make up pleasant pictures and agreeable visions in the fancy. Locke.

Wit consists chiefly in joining things by distant and fanciful relations, which surprise us because they are unexpected. Kames.

Wit is a propriety of thoughts and words; or in other terms, thoughts and words elegantly adapted to the subject. Dryden.

3. The faculty of associating ideas in a new and unexpected manner.

4. A man of genius; as, the age of Addison abounded with *wits*.

A *wit* herself, Amelia weds a *wit*. Young.

5. A man of fancy or wit. Intemperate *wits* will spare neither friend nor foe. L'Estrange.

6. Sense; judgment. He wants not *wit* the danger to decline. Dryden.

7. Faculty of the mind. Shak.

8. *Wits*, in the plural, soundness of mind; intellect not disordered; sound mind. No man in his *wits* would venture on such an expedition. Have you lost your *wits*? Is he out of his *wits*?

9. Power of invention; contrivance; ingenuity. He was at his *wits*' end. Hooker.

WITCH, *n.* [Sax. *wicca*. See *Wicked*.] A woman who by compact with the devil, practices sorcery or enchantment.

2. A woman who is given to unlawful arts.

3. [Sax. *wic*.] A winding sinuous bank. Obs. Spenser.

WITCH, *v. t.* To bewitch; to fascinate; to enchant.

I'll *witch* sweet ladies with my words and looks. Shak.

WITCH/CRAFT, *n.* [*witch* and *craft*.] The practices of witches; sorcery; enchantments; intercourse with the devil. Bacon.

2. Power more than natural.

He hath a *witchcraft* Over the king in's tongue. Shak.

WITCH/ELM, *n.* A kind of elm. Scott.

WITCHERY, *n.* Sorcery; enchantment. Milton.

2. Fascination.

WITCH/HAZEL, *n.* A species of elm, (*Ulmus montana*.) Cyc.

2. The hop-hornbeam, (*Carpinus ostrya*.) Lee.

The *Virginian witch-hazel* is the *Hamelis virginica*, a shrub which flowers in autumn when its leaves are falling. Lee. Bigelow.

WIT-CRACKER, *n.* [*wit* and *cracker*.] One who breaks jests; a joker. [Not in use.] Shak.

WIT-CRAFT, *n.* [*wit* and *craft*.] Contrivance; invention. Obs. Camden.

WITE, *v. t.* [Sax. *witan*; the root of *twit*.] To reproach; to blame. Obs. Spenser.