

5. Among *florists*, the calyx of a plant, as of a tulip. *Cyc.*
 6. Among *goldsmiths*, the middle of a church candlestick. *Cyc.*
 7. A solid piece of ornamental marble. *Johnson.*

VAS/SAL, *n.* [Fr. *vassal*; It. *vassallo*; Sp. *vasallo*; W. *gwrás*, a boy or youth, a page, a servant; *gwasaú*, to serve.]

1. A feudatory; a tenant; one who holds land of a superior, and who vows fidelity and homage to him. A *rear* vassal is one who holds of a lord who is himself a vassal.

2. A subject; a dependant. *Hooker.*

3. A servant. *Shak.*

4. In *common language*, a bondman; a political slave. We will never be the *vassals* of a foreign prince.

VAS/SAL, *v. t.* To subject to control; to enslave.

VAS/SALAGE, *n.* [Fr. *vasselage*; Sp. *vasalage*.]

1. The state of being a vassal or feudatory.
 2. Political servitude; dependence; subjection; slavery. The Greeks were long held in *vassalage* by the Turks.

VAS/SALED, *pp. or a.* Enslaved; subjected to absolute power; as a *vassaled* land. *Trumbull.*

VAST, *a.* [L. *vastus*; Fr. *vaste*; It. *vasto*. The primary sense of the root must be to part or spread, as this is connected with the verb to *waste*.]

1. Being of great extent; very spacious or large; as the *vast* ocean; a *vast* abyss; the *vast* empire of Russia; the *vast* plains of Syria; the *vast* domains of the Almighty.

2. Huge in bulk and extent; as the *vast* mountains of Asia; the *vast* range of the Andes.

3. Very great in numbers or amount; as a *vast* army; *vast* numbers or multitudes were slain; *vast* sums of money have been expended to gratify pride and ambition.

4. Very great in force; mighty; as *vast* efforts; *vast* labor.

5. Very great in importance; as a subject of *vast* concern.

V'AST, *n.* An empty waste.

Through the *vast* of heav'n it sounded. *Milton.*

The watery *vast*. *Pope.*

VASTA'TION, *n.* [L. *vastatio*, from *vasto*, to waste.]

A laying waste; waste; depopulation. [*Devastation* is generally used.]

VASTID/ITY, *n.* Vastness; immensity. [*Not English.*] *Shak.*

VASTLY, *adv.* Very greatly; to a great extent or degree; as a space *vastly* extended. Men differ *vastly* in their opinions and manners.

VASTNESS, *n.* Great extent; immensity; as the *vastness* of the ocean or of space.

2. Immense bulk and extent; as the *vastness* of a mountain.

3. Immense magnitude or amount; as the *vastness* of an army, or of the sums of money necessary to support it.

4. Immense importance.

V'ASTY, *a.* Being of great extent; very spacious.

I can call spirits from the *vasty* deep.

[*Little used.*] *Shak.*

VAT, *n.* [D. *vat*; Sax. *fat*; G. *fass*.] A large vessel or cistern for holding liquors in an immature state; as *vats* for wine.

Let him produce his *vats* and tubs, in opposition to heaps of arms and standards. *Addison.*

2. A square box or cistern in which hides are laid for steeping in tan.

3. An oil measure in Holland; also, a wine measure.

4. A square hollow place on the back of a calcining furnace, where tin ore is laid to dry. *Cyc.*

VAT/ICAN, *n.* In Rome, the celebrated church of St. Peter; and also, a magnificent palace of the pope; situated at the foot of one of the seven hills on which Rome was built. Hence the phrase, the *thunders of the Vatican*, meaning the anathemas or denunciations of the pope.

VATICIDE, *n.* [L. *vates*, a prophet, and *cado*, to kill.]

The murderer of a prophet. *Pope.*

VATIC/INAL, *a.* [L. *vaticinor*, to prophesy.] Containing prophecy. *Warton.*

VATIC/INATE, *v. i.* [L. *vaticinor*, from *vates*, a prophet.]

To prophesy; to foretell; to practice prediction. [*Little used.*] *Howell.*

VATICINA'TION, *n.* Prediction; prophecy. *Bentley.*

VAULT, *n.* [Fr. *voite*; It. *volla*, a vault; *volto*, the face, visage, and a vault, L. *vultus*; a derivative of L. *volvo*, *volutus*; Sp. *voltar*, to turn, to tumble.]

1. A continued arch, or an arched roof. Vaults are of various kinds, circular, elliptical, single, double, cross, diagonal, Gothic, &c. *Cyc.*

2. A cellar.

3. To banish rats that haunt our vault. *Swift.*

4. A cave or cavern. The silent vaults of death, unknown to light. *Sandys.*

5. In the *manège*, the leap of a horse. *Shak.*

VAULT, *v. t.* To arch; to form with a vault; or to cover with a vault; as, to vault a passage to a court.

VAULT, *v. i.* [Sp. *voltar*; It. *voltare*; Fr. *vaultre*.]

1. To leap; to bound; to jump; to spring. Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself— *Shak.*

Leaping on his lance, he vaulted on a tree. *Dryden.*

Lucan vaulted upon Pegasus with all the heat and intrepidity of youth. *Addison.*

2. To tumble; to exhibit feats of tumbling or leaping.

VAULTAGE, *n.* Vaulted work; an arched cellar. [*Not in use.*] *Shak.*

VAULTED, *pp.* Arched; concave; as a vaulted roof.

2. Covered with an arch or vault.

3. *a.* In *botany*, arched like the roof of the mouth, as the upper lip of many ringent flowers. *Martyn.*

VAULTER, *n.* One that vaults; a leaper; a tumbler.

VAULTING, *ppr.* Arching; covering with an arch.

2. Leaping; tumbling; exhibiting feats of leaping.

VAULTY, *a.* Arched; concave. [*Not in use.*] *Shak.*

V'AUNT, *v. i.* [Fr. *vanter*; It. *vantarsi*, from *vanto*, a boasting, from *vano*, vain, L. *vanus*. This ought to be written *vant*.]

To boast; to make a vain display of one's own worth, attainments or decorations; to talk with vain ostentation; to brag.

Pride—prompts a man to *vault* and overvalue what he is. *Gor. of the Tongue.*

V'AUNT, *v. t.* To boast of; to make a vain display of.

My vanquisher, spoil'd of his *vaulted* spoil. *Milton.*

Charity *vaulteth* not itself. 1 Cor. xiii.

V'AUNT, *n.* Boast; a vain display of what one is or has, or has done; ostentation from vanity.

Him I seduce'd
 With other *vaults* and other promises. *Milton.*

V'AUNT, *n.* [Fr. *avant*.] The first part. [*Not used.*] *Shak.*

V'AUNT-COURIER, *n.* [Fr. *avant-courier*.] A precursor. *Shak.*

V'AUNTED, *pp.* Vainly boasted of or displayed.

V'AUNTER, *n.* A vain conceited boaster; a braggart; a man given to vain ostentation. *Spenser.*

V'AUNTFUL, *a.* Boastful; vainly ostentatious.

V'AUNTING, *ppr.* Vainly boasting; ostentatiously setting forth what one is or has.

V'AUNTINGLY, *adv.* Boastfully; with vain ostentation. *Shak.*

V'AUNT-MURE, *n.* [Fr. *avant-mur*.] A false wall; a work raised in front of the main wall. *Camden.*

VAVASOR, *n.* [This word in old books is variously written, *valvasor*, *varasaur*, *valvasour*. It is said to be from *vassal*. But qu.]

Camden holds that the *varasor* was next below a baron. Du Cange maintains that there were two sorts of *vavasors*; the greater, who held of the king, such as barons and counts; and the lesser, called *valvasini*, who held of the former. The dignity or rank is no longer in use, and the name is known only in books. *Cyc.*

VAVASORY, *n.* The quality or tenure of the fee held by a *vavasor*. *Cyc.*

VA'WARD, *n.* [ran and ward.] The fore part. *Obs.* *Shak.*

VEAL, *n.* [Fr. *veau*, a calf; probably contracted from L. *vitellus*.]

The flesh of a calf killed for the table.

VECT/ION, *n.* [L. *rectio*, from *reho*, to carry.]

The act of carrying, or state of being carried. [*Not in use.*]

VECTITA'TION, *n.* [L. *rectilo*.] A carrying. [*Not in use.*] *Arbutnot.*

VEC'TOR, *n.* [L. from *reho*, to carry.] In *astronomy*, a line supposed to be drawn from any planet moving round a center or the focus of an ellipse, to that center or focus.

VEC'TURE, *n.* [L. *vectura*, from *reho*, supra.]

A carrying; carriage; conveyance by carrying. [*Little used.*] *Bacon.*

VEDA, *n.* *redaw*. The name of the collective body of the Hindoo sacred writings. These are divided into four parts or *vedas*.

The word is sometimes written *redam*.

Sir W. Jones. *Colebrooke.*