

To flow back; to return as the water of a tide towards the ocean; opposed to *flow*.  
The tide *ebbs* and flows twice in twenty four hours.

2. To decay; to decline; to return or fall back from a better to a worse state.

*Shak. Hadifaz.*

**EBBING**, *ppr.* Flowing back; declining; decaying.

**EBBING**, *n.* The reflux of the tide.

**EBB-TIDE**, *n.* The reflux of tide-water; the retreating tide.

**EBIONITE**, *n.* The Ebionites were heretics who denied the divinity of Christ and rejected many parts of the scriptures.

**EBON**, *a.* [See *Ebony*.] Consisting of ebony; like ebony; black.

**EBONIZE**, *v. t.* [See *Ebony*.] To make black or tawny; to tinge with the color of ebony; as, to *ebonize* the fairest complexion.

*Walsh.*

**EBONY**, *n.* [*L. ebenus*; *Gr. εβενος* or *εβενος*; *Fr. ebene*; *It. and Sp. ebano*; *D. ebenholz*; *G. ebenholz*.]

A species of hard, heavy and durable wood, which admits of a fine polish or gloss; said to be brought from Madagascar. The most usual color is black, red or green. The best is a jet black, free from veins and rind, very heavy, astringent and of an acrid pungent taste. On burning coals it yields an agreeable perfume, and when green it readily takes fire from its abundance of fat. It is wrought into toys, and used for mosaic and inlaid work.

*Encyc.*

**EBONY-TREE**, *n.* The *Ebenus*, a small tree constituting a genus, growing in Crete and other isles of the Archipelago.

*Encyc.*

**EBRACTEATE**, *a.* [*e* priv. and *bractea*.] In *botany*, without a bractea or floral leaf.

*Martyn.*

**EBRIETY**, *n.* [*L. ebrietas*, from *ebrius*, intoxicated. It appears by the Spanish *embriagado*, and the *It. inebriatus*, that *ebrius* is contracted by the loss of a palatal, and hence it is obvious that this word is from the *Gr. βριζω*, to moisten, to drench. So *drunk* is from the root of *drench*.]

Drunkenness; intoxication by spirituous liquors.

*Brown.*

**EBRIL-LADE**, *n.* [*Fr.*] A cheek given to a horse, by a sudden jerk of one rein, when he refuses to turn.

**EBRIOSITY**, *n.* [*L. ebriositas*.] Habitual drunkenness.

*Brown.*

**EBULLIENCY**, *n.* [See *Ebullition*.] A boiling over.

*Cudworth.*

**EBULLIENT**, *a.* Boiling over, as a liquor.

*Young.*

**EBULLITION**, *n.* [*L. ebullitio*, from *ebullio*, *bullio*, *Eng.* to boil, which see.]

1. The operation of boiling; the agitation of a liquor by heat, which throws it up in bubbles; or more properly, the agitation produced in a fluid by the escape of a portion of it, converted into an aeriform state by heat. *Ebullition* is produced by the heat of fire directly applied, or by the heat or caloric evolved by any substance in mixture. Thus, in slaking lime, the caloric set at liberty by the absorption of water, produces *ebullition*.

2. Effervescence, which is occasioned by fermentation, or by any other process which causes the extrication of an aeriform fluid,

as in the mixture of an acid with a carbonated alkali.

**EAU-DATE**, *a.* [*e* priv. and *L. cauda*, a tail.] In *botany*, without a tail or spur.

**ECCENTRIC**, *a.* [*L. eccentricus*; *ex*, from, and *centrum*, center.]

1. Deviating or departing from the center; 2. In *geometry*, not having the same center; a term applied to circles and spheres which have not the same center, and consequently are not parallel; in opposition to *concentric*, having a common center.

*Encyc.*

Not terminating in the same point, nor directed by the same principle.

*Bacon.*

4. Deviating from stated methods, usual practice or established forms or laws; irregular; anomalous; departing from the usual course; as *eccentric* conduct; *eccentric* virtue; an *eccentric* genius.

**ECCENTRIC**, *n.* A circle not having the same center as another.

*Bacon.*

2. That which is irregular or anomalous.

*Hammond.*

**ECCENTRICITY**, *n.* Deviation from a center.

2. The state of having a center different from that of another circle.

*Johnson.*

3. In *astronomy*, the distance of the center of a planet's orbit from the center of the sun; that is, the distance between the center of an ellipsis and its focus.

*Encyc.*

4. Departure or deviation from that which is stated, regular or usual; as the *eccentricity* of a man's genius or conduct.

5. Excursion from the proper sphere.

*Wotton.*

**ECCHYMOSIS**, *n.* [*Gr. εκχυμωσις*.] In *medicine*, an appearance of livid spots on the skin, occasioned by extravasated blood.

*Wiseman.*

**ECCLESIASTES**, *n.* [*Gr.*] A canonical book of the old testament.

**ECCLESIASTIC**, *a.* [*L.*; *Gr. εκκλησιαστικος*, from *εκκλησια*, an assembly or meeting, whence a church, from *εκκαλεω*, to call forth or convoke; *εκ* and *καλεω*, to call.]

Pertaining or relating to the church; as *ecclesiastical* discipline or government; *ecclesiastical* affairs, history or polity; *ecclesiastical* courts.

*Ecclesiastical State*, is the body of the clergy.

**ECCLESIASTIC**, *n.* A person in orders, or consecrated to the service of the church and the ministry of religion.

**ECCLESIASTICUS**, *n.* A book of the apocrypha.

**ECCOPROTIC**, *a.* [*Gr. εκ, ες*, out or from, and *σπορος*, sterus.]

Having the quality of promoting alvine discharges; laxative; loosening; gently cathartic.

*Core. Encyc.*

**ECCOPROTIC**, *n.* A medicine which purges gently, or which tends to promote evacuations by stool; a mild cathartic.

*Core. Encyc.*

**ECHOLON**, *n.* [*French*, from *echelle*, a ladder, a scale.]

In *military tactics*, the position of an army in the form of steps, or with one division more advanced than another.

*Wellington.*

**ECHINATE**, *a.* [*L. echinus*, a hedgehog; *ECHINATE*, *a.* [*hog*.] Set with prickles; prickly; like a hedgehog; having sharp points; bristled; as an *echinate* pericarp.

*Martyn.*

*Echinate* pyrites, in mineralogy.

*Woodward.*

**ECHINITE**, *n.* [See *Echinus*.] A fossil found in chalk pits, called *centronia*; a petrified shell set with prickles or points; a calcareous petrification of the echinus or sea-hedgehog.

*Encyc. Ure.*

**ECHINUS**, *n.* [*L.* from *Gr. εχινος*.] A hedgehog.

2. A shell-fish set with prickles or spines.

The *Echinus*, in natural history, forms a genus of *Mollusca*. The body is roundish, covered with a bony crust, and often beset with movable prickles. There are several species and some of them eatable.

*Encyc.*

3. With *botanists*, a prickly head or top of a plant; an *echinate* pericarp.

4. In *architecture*, a member or ornament near the bottom of Ionic, Corinthian or Composite capitals, so named from its roughness, resembling, in some measure, the spiny coat of a hedgehog.

*Johnson. Encyc.*

**ECHO**, *n.* [*L. echo*; *Gr. ηχος*, from *ηχοω*, sound, *ηχωω*, to sound.]

1. A sound reflected or reverberated from a solid body; sound returned; repercussion of sound; as an *echo* from a distant hill.

The sound must seem an *echo* to the sense.

*Pope.*

2. In *fabulous history*, a nymph, the daughter of the Air and Tellus, who pined into a sound, for love of Narcissus.

*Leisnpiere. Johnson.*

3. In *architecture*, a vault or arch for redoubling sounds.

*Encyc.*

**ECHO**, *v. i.* To resound; to reflect sound. The hall *echoed* with acclamations.

2. To be sounded back; as *echoing* noise.

*Blackmore.*

**ECHO**, *v. t.* To reverberate or send back sound; to return what has been uttered.

Those peals are *echoed* by the Trojan throng.

*Dryden.*

**ECHOING**, *pp.* Reverberated, as sound.

**ECHOING**, *pp.* Sending back sound; as *echoing* hills.

**ECHOMETER**, *n.* [*Gr. ηχος*, sound, and *μετρον*, measure.]

Among *musicians*, a scale or rule, with several lines thereon, serving to measure the duration of sounds, and to find their intervals and ratios.

*Encyc.*

**ECHOMETRY**, *n.* The art or act of measuring the duration of sounds.

2. The art of constructing vaults to produce echoes.

**ECLAIRCISE**, *v. t.* [*Fr. eclaireir*, from *clair*, clear. See *Clear*.]

To make clear; to explain; to clear up what is not understood or misunderstood.

**ECLAIRCISSEMENT**, *n.* [*Fr.*] Explanation; the clearing up of any thing not before understood.

*Clarendon.*

**ECLAMPSE**, *n.* [*Gr. εκλαμψε*, a shining; *ελαμπεω*, to shine.]

A flashing of light, a symptom of epilepsy. Hence, epilepsy itself.

*Med. Repos.*

**ECLAT**, *n. cda.* [*French*.] The word sig-