

RELAXA'TION, *n.* [Fr. from *L. relaxatio.*]

1. The act of slackening or remitting tension; as a *relaxation* of the muscles, fibers or nerves; a *relaxation* of the whole system. *Bacon. Encey. Barnet.*

2. Cessation of restraint.

3. Remission or abatement of rigor; as a *relaxation* of the law. *Swift.*

4. Remission of attention or application; as a *relaxation* of mind, study or business.

5. An opening or loosening.

RELAX'ATIVE, *a.* Having the quality of relaxing. [See *Laxative.*] *B. Jonson.*

RELAX'ED, *pp.* Slackened; loosened; remitted or abated in rigor or in closeness; made less vigorous; languid.

RELAX'ING, *ppr.* Slackening; loosening; remitting or abating in rigor, severity or attention; rendering languid.

RELA'Y, *n.* [Fr. *relais.*] A supply of horses placed on the road to be in readiness to relieve others, that a traveler may proceed without delay.

2. Hunting dogs kept in readiness at certain places to pursue the game, when the dogs that have been in pursuit are weary.

RELA'Y, *v. t.* [*re* and *lay.*] To lay again; to lay a second time; as, to *relay* a pavement. *Smollett.*

RELA'YING, *ppr.* Laying a second time.

REL'EASE, *v. t.* [This is usually derived from Fr. *relâcher*, to slacken, to *relax*, *It. rilassare* and *rilasciare*, and these words have the sense of *release*; but the English word has not the sense of *relax*, but of *re* and *lease*, from Fr. *laisser*, Eng. *let*, a word that has no connection with *relax*. So in G. *freilassen*, D. *vrylaaten*; *free* and *let*. If it is from *relâcher*, it has undergone a strange alteration.]

1. To set free from restraint of any kind, either physical or moral; to liberate from prison, confinement or servitude. *Matt. xv. Mark xv.*

2. To free from pain, care, trouble, grief, &c.

3. To free from obligation or penalty; as, to *release* one from debt, from a promise or covenant.

4. To quit; to let go, as a legal claim; as, to *release* a debt or forfeiture. *Deut. xv.*

5. To discharge or relinquish a right to lands or tenements, by conveying it to another that has some right or estate in possession, as when the person in remainder *releases* his right to the tenant in possession; when one co-parcener *releases* his right to the other; or the mortgagee *releases* his claim to the mortgagor.

6. To relax. [Not in use.] *Hooker.*

RELE'ASE, *n.* Liberation or discharge from restraint of any kind, as from confinement or bondage.

2. Liberation from care, pain or any burden.

3. Discharge from obligation or responsibility, as from debt, penalty or claim of any kind; acquittance.

4. In *law*, a release or deed of release is a conveyance of a man's right in lands or tenements to another who has some estate in possession; a quitclaim. The efficient words in such an instrument are, "remised, *released*, and forever quitclaimed." *Blackstone.*

RELE'ASED, *pp.* Set free from confinement; freed from obligation or liability; freed from pain; quitclaimed.

RELE'ASEMENT, *n.* The act of releasing from confinement or obligation. *Milton.*

RELE'ASER, *n.* One who releases.

RELE'ASING, *ppr.* Liberating from confinement or restraint; freeing from obligation or responsibility, or from pain or other evil; quitclaiming.

REL'E GATE, *v. t.* [*L. relego*; *re* and *lego*, to send.] To banish; to send into exile.

REL'E GATED, *pp.* Sent into exile.

REL'E GATING, *ppr.* Banishing.

RELEGA'TION, *n.* [*L. relegatio.*] The act of banishment; exile. *Ayliffe.*

RELENT', *v. i.* [Fr. *relentir*; Sp. *relenter*; *It. rallentare*; Sp. *ablandar*; Port. *abrandar*; the two latter from *blando*, *L. blandus*, which unites the *L. blandus* with *lentus*. The English is from *re* and *L. lentus*, gentle, pliant, slow, the primary sense of which is soft or yielding. The *L. lenis* is probably of the same family. See *Bland.*]

1. To soften; to become less rigid or hard; to give.

In some houses, sweetmeats will *relent* more than in others. *Bacon.*

When op'ning buds salute the welcome day,
And earth *relenting* feels the genial ray.

Pope.

[This sense of the word is admissible in poetry, but is not in common use.]

2. To grow moist; to deliquesce; applied to salts; as the *relenting* of the air. *Bacon.*

Salt of tartar—placed in a cellar, will begin to *relent*. *Boyle.*

[This sense is not in use.]

3. To become less intense. [Little used.] *Sidney.*

4. To soften in temper; to become more mild and tender; to feel compassion. [This is the usual sense of the word.]

Can you behold

My tears, and not once *relent*? *Shak.*

RELENT', *v. t.* To slacken.

And oftentimes he would *relent* his pace. *Spenser.*

Obs.

2. To soften; to mollify. *Obs. Spenser.*

RELENT', *pp.* Dissolved. *Obs.*

RELENT', *n.* Remission; stay. *Obs. Spenser.*

RELENT'ING, *ppr.* Softening in temper; becoming more mild or compassionate.

RELENT'ING, *n.* The act of becoming more mild or compassionate.

RELENT'LESS, *a.* Unmoved by pity; un pitying; insensible to the distresses of others; destitute of tenderness; as a prey to *relentless* despotism.

For this th' avenging pow'r employs his darts,

Thus will persist, *relentless* in his ire. *Dryden.*

Relentless thoughts, in Milton, may signify unremitted, intently fixed on disquieting objects. *Johnson.*

[This sense of the word is unusual and not to be countenanced.]

RELESSEE', *n.* [See *Release.*] The person to whom a release is executed.

RELESSOR', *n.* The person who executes a release.

There must be a privity of estate between the *relessor* and *relessee*. *Blackstone.*

REL'EVANCE, } *n.* [See *Relevant.*] The state of being relevant, or of affording relief or aid.

REL'EVANCY, } *n.* Pertinence; applicableness.

3. In *Scots law*, sufficiency to infer the conclusion.

REL'E VANT, *a.* [Fr. from *L. relevare*, to relieve, to advance, to raise; *re* and *lever*, to raise.]

1. Relieving; lending aid or support. *Pownall.*

2. Pertinent; applicable. The testimony is not *relevant* to the case. The argument is not *relevant* to the question. [This is the sense in which the word is now generally used.]

3. Sufficient to support the cause. *Scots Law.*

RELEVA'TION, *n.* A raising or lifting up. [Not in use.]

REL'ANCE, *n.* [from *rely.*] Rest or repose of mind, resulting from a full belief of the veracity or integrity of a person, or of the certainty of a fact; trust; confidence; dependence. We may have perfect *reliance* on the promises of God; we have *reliance* on the testimony of witnesses; we place *reliance* on men of known integrity, or on the strength and stability of government.

REL'IC, *n.* [Fr. *relique*; *L. reliquia*, from *relinquo*, to leave; *re* and *linguo*.]

1. That which remains; that which is left after the loss or decay of the rest; as the *relics* of a town; the *relics* of magnificence; the *relics* of antiquity. The *relics* of saints, real or pretended, are held in great veneration by the catholics.

2. The body of a deceased person; a corpse. [Usually in the plural.] *Dryden. Pope.*

REL'ICT, *n.* [*L. relictus, relicta*, from *relinquo*, to leave.]

A widow; a woman whose husband is dead. *Sprat. Garth.*

RELIE'F, *n.* [Fr. *relief*; *It. rilievo, riliero*, from *relevare*, to raise, to lift, to remove; Sp. *relieve, relevar*; *re* and *llevar*, to raise.]

1. The removal, in whole or in part, of any evil that afflicts the body or mind; the removal or alleviation of pain, grief, want, care, anxiety, toil or distress, or of any thing oppressive or burdensome, by which some ease is obtained. Rest gives *relief* to the body when weary; an anodyne gives *relief* from pain; the sympathy of friends affords some *relief* to the distressed; a loan of money to a man embarrassed may afford him a temporary *relief*; medicines which will not cure a disease, sometimes give a partial *relief*. A complete *relief* from the troubles of life is never to be expected.

2. That which mitigates or removes pain, grief or other evil. *Dryden.*

3. The dismissal of a sentinel from his post, whose place is supplied by another soldier; also, the person who takes his place.

4. In *sculpture*, &c. the projecture or prominence of a figure above or beyond the ground or plane on which it is formed. Relief is of three kinds; high relief [*alto rilievo*]; low relief [*basso rilievo*]; and demi relief [*demi rilievo*]. The difference is in the degree of projecture. *High relief*