

fitted or intended for the carriage of burdens; comprising a burden.

ON'ERATE, *v. t.* [L. *onero*, from *onus*, a burden.] To load; to burden.

ONERA'TION, *n.* The act of loading.

ON'EROUS, *a.* [L. *onerous*, from *onus*, a load.] Burdensome; oppressive.

*Ayliffe. Burton.*

2. In *Scots law*, being for the advantage of both parties; as an *onerous* contract; opposed to *gratuitous*.

ONION, *n.* *un'yun.* [Fr. *ognon*; Arm. *ou-ignoun*; Ir. *umium*. In W. *ceninen* is a leek.]

A plant of the genus *Allium*; and particularly, its bulbous root, much used as an article of food.

ONKOT'OMY, *n.* [Gr. *ογκος*, tumor, and *τεμνω*, to cut.]

In *surgery*, the opening of a tumor or abscess.

*Encyc.*

ONLY, *a.* [Sax. *anlic*, onc-like.] Single; one alone; as, John was the *only* man present.

2. This and no other. This is an *only* child.

3. This above all others. He is the *only* man for music.

*Johnson.*

ONLY, *adv.* Singly; merely; barely; in one manner or for one purpose alone.

I purpose my thoughts *only* as conjectures.

*Burnet.*

And to be loved himself, needs *only* to be known.

*Dryden.*

2. This and no other wise.

Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was *only* evil continually. Gen. vi.

3. Singly; without more; as *only*-begotten.

ON'OMANCY, *n.* [Gr. *ονομα*, name, and *μαντεια*, divination.] Divination by the letters of a name.

Destinies were superstitiously, by *onomancy*, deciphered out of names.

*Camden.*

ONOMAN'TIC, } Predicting by  
ONOMAN'TICAL, } *a.* names, or the  
letters composing names.

*Camden.*

ON'OMATOPE, } [Gr. *ονοματοποιω*;  
ON'OMATOPY, } *n.* *ονομα*, name, and  
*ποιω*, to make.]

1. In *grammar* and *rhetoric*, a figure in which words are formed to resemble the sound made by the thing signified; as, to *buzz*, as bees; to *crackle*, as burning thorns or brush.

*Encyc.*

2. A word whose sound corresponds to the sound of the thing signified.

ON'SET, *n.* [on and *set*.] A rushing or setting upon; a violent attack; assault; a storming; appropriately, the assault of an army or body of troops upon an enemy or a fort.

The shout

Of battle now began and rushing sound

Of onset.

*Milton.*

2. An attack of any kind; as the impetuous onset of grief.

*Philips.*

ON'SET, *v. t.* To assault; to begin. [Not used.]

*Carew.*

ONSLAUGHT, *n.* *on'slant.* [on and *slay*.] Attack; storm; onset. [Not used.]

*Hudibras.*

ONTOLOG'IC, } [See *Ontology*.] Per-  
ONTOLOG'ICAL, } *a.* taining to the science  
of being in general and its affections.

ONTOL'OGIST, *n.* One who treats of or considers the nature and qualities of being in general.

ONTOL'OGY, *n.* [Gr. *οντα*, from *ειμι*, and *λογος*, discourse.]

That part of the science of metaphysics which investigates and explains the nature and essence of all beings, their qualities and attributes.

*Encyc.*

ON'WARD, *adv.* [Sax. *ondward*, and *weard*; on and *weard*, L. *versus*.]

1. Toward the point before or in front; forward; progressively; in advance; as, to move *onward*.

Not one looks backward, *onward* still he goes.

*Pope.*

2. In a state of advanced progression.

3. A little further or forward.

ON'WARD, *a.* Advanced or advancing; as an *onward* course.

2. Increased; improved.

*Sidney.*

3. Conducting; leading forward to perfection.

*Home.*

ON'YCHIA, *n.* [from Gr. *ονχι*.] Supposed to be the odoriferous shell of the onyx-fish, or the onyx. Ex. xxx.

ON'YX, *n.* [Gr. *ονχι*, a nail, L. *onyx*.] A semi-pellucid gem with variously colored zones or veins, a variety of chalcidony.

*Encyc. Nicholson.*

O'OLITE, *n.* [Gr. *ωον*, an egg, and *λιθος*, stone, from its resemblance to the roes of fish.]

Egg-stone, a variety of concreted carbonate of lime; oviform limestone.

*Jamison.*

OOZE, *v. i.* *ooz.* [The origin of this word is not easily ascertained. In Eth. *ὄζω* signifies to flow. In Amharic, *ፀዕ* signifies to sweat. In Ethiopic, *ፀፀል* signifies to issue, to come or go out, and this is the Heb. *ספ*. In Sax. *was* is water, G. *wasser*. These words seem to be nearly allied. See *Issue*.]

To flow gently; to percolate, as a liquid through the pores of a substance, or through small openings. Water oozes from the earth and through a filter.

The latent rill, scarce oozing through the grass.

*Thomson.*

OOZE, *n.* Soft mud or slime; earth so wet as to flow gently or easily yield to pressure.

*Carew.*

2. Soft flow; spring.

*Prior.*

3. The liquor of a tan-vat.

OOZ'ING, *ppr.* Flowing gently; percolating.

OOZY, *a.* Miry; containing soft mud; resembling ooze; as the *oozy* bed of a river.

*Pope.*

O'PACATE, *v. t.* [L. *opaco*.] To shade; to darken; to obscure; to cloud. [Not used.]

*Boyle.*

OPAC'ITY, *n.* [L. *opacitas*.] Opakeness; the quality of a body which renders it impervious to the rays of light; want of transparency. *Opacity* may exist in bodies of any color.

2. Darkness; obscurity.

*Glanville.*

OPA'COUS, *a.* [L. *opacus*.] Not pervious to the rays of light; not transparent.

2. Dark; obscure. [See *Opake*.]

OPA'COUSNESS, *n.* Imperviousness to light.

*Evelyn.*

O'PAII, *n.* A fish of a large kind with a smooth skin, found on the coast of Guinea.

*Dict. Nat. Hist.*

OPA'KE, *a.* [L. *opacus*; Fr. *opaque*.] Impervious to the rays of light; not transpa-

ront. [This is the word now generally used.] Chalk is an *opake* substance.

2. Dark; obscure.

OPA'KENESS, *n.* The quality of being impervious to light; want of transparency; opacity.

O'PAL, *n.* [L. *opalus* or *opalum*.] A stone of the silicious genus, and of several varieties. It is one of the most beautiful of this genus, by reason of its changeableness of color by reflection and refraction. Kirwan distributes opals into four families, opal, semi-opal, pitch stone [pechstein,] and ligniform. Jameson divides opal into seven kinds.

*Encyc. Kirwan. Nicholson.*

Opal is a subspecies of indivisible quartz.

*Ure.*

OPALES'CENCE, *n.* A colored shining luster reflected from a single spot in a mineral. It is sometimes simple and sometimes stellar.

OPALES'CENT, *a.* Resembling opal; reflecting a colored luster from a single spot.

*Kirwan.*

O'PALINE, *a.* Pertaining to or like opal.

O'PALIZE, *v. t.* To make to resemble opal; as *opalized* wood.

*Cleveland.*

OPAQUE. [See *Opake*.]

OPAQUENESS. [See *Opakeness*.]

OPE, *a.* Open. *Obs.*

OPE, *v. t.* To open; used only in poetry, and probably a contracted word.

OPEN, *a.* *o'pn.* [Sax. *D. open*; G. *offen*; Sw. *öpen*; Dan. *aaben*.]

1. Unclosed; not shut; as, the gate is *open*; an *open* door or window; an *open* book; *open* eyes.

2. Spread; expanded. He received his son with *open* arms.

3. Unscaled; as an *open* letter.

4. Not shut or fast; as an *open* hand.

5. Not covered; as the *open* air; an *open* vessel.

6. Not covered with trees; clear; as an *open* country or field.

7. Not stopped; as an *open* bottle.

8. Not fenced or obstructed; as an *open* road.

9. Not frosty; warmer than usual; not freezing severely; as an *open* winter.

An *open* and warm winter portendeth a hot and dry summer.

*Bacon.*

Johnson interprets *open*, in this passage, by not cloudy, not gloomy. I think the definition wrong. In America, an *open* winter is one in which the earth is not bound with frost and covered with snow.

10. Public; before a court and its suitors. His testimony was given in *open* court.

11. Admitting all persons without restraint; free to all comers. He keeps *open* house at the election.

12. Clear of ice; as, the river or the harbor is *open*.

13. Plain; apparent; evident; public; not secret or concealed; as an *open* declaration; *open* avowal; *open* shame; *open* defiance. The nations contend in *open* war or in *open* arms.

14. Not wearing disguise; frank; sincere; unreserved; candid; artless.

He was held a man *open* and of good faith.

*Bacon.*

His generous, *open*, undesigning heart.

*Addison.*