

SEX, *n.* [Fr. *sexe*; Sp. *sexo*; It. *Sesso*; L. *sexus*; qu. G. *siehe*, she, female; from L. *seco*, to divide.]

1. The distinction between male and female; or that property or character by which an animal is male or female. The male sex is usually characterized by muscular strength, boldness and firmness. The female sex is characterized by softness, sensibility and modesty.

In botany, the property of plants which corresponds to sex in animals. The Linnean system of botany is formed on the doctrine of sexes in plants. *Milnc.*

2. By way of emphasis, womankind; females.

Unhappy sex! whose beauty is your snare. *Dryden.*

The sex, whose presence civilizes ours.

Couper.

SEXAGENA'RIAN, *n.* [infra.] A person who has arrived at the age of sixty years.

Couper.

SEX'AGENARY, *a.* [Fr. *sexagénaire*; L. *sexagenarius*, from *sex*, six, and a word signifying ten, seen in *viginti*; *bis-genti*.]

Designating the number sixty; as a noun, a person sixty years of age; also, something composed of sixty.

SEXAGES'IMA, *n.* [L. *sexagesimus*, sixtieth.]

The second Sunday before Lent, the next to Shrove-Sunday, so called as being about the 60th day before Easter.

SEXAGES'IMAL, *a.* Sixtieth; pertaining to the number sixty. *Sexagenary* or *sexagesimal* arithmetic, is a method of computation by sixties, as that which is used in dividing minutes into seconds.

Sexagesimals, or *sexagesimal fractions*, are those whose denominators proceed in the ratio of sixty; as $\frac{1}{60}, \frac{1}{60 \times 60}, \frac{1}{60 \times 60 \times 60}$. The denominator is sixty, or its multiple. These fractions are called also astronomical fractions, because formerly there were no others used in astronomical calculations. *Encyc.*

SEXAN'GLED, *a.* [L. *sex*, six, and *angulus*, angle.] Having six angles; hexagonal. *Dryden.*

SEXAN'GULARLY, *adv.* With six angles; hexagonally.

SEXDEC'IMAL, *a.* [L. *sex*, six, and *decem*, ten.]

In crystallography, when a prism or the middle part of a crystal has six faces and two summits, and taken together, ten faces, or the reverse.

SEXDUODEC'IMAL, *a.* [L. *sex*, six, and *duodecim*, twelve.]

In crystallography, designating a crystal when the prism or middle part has six faces and two summits, having together twelve faces.

SEXEN'NIAL, *a.* [L. *sex*, six, and *annus*, year.]

Lasting six years, or happening once in six years.

SEXEN'NIALY, *adv.* Once in six years.

SEX'FID, *a.* [L. *sex*, six, and *findo*, to divide.]

In botany, six-cleft; as a *sexfid* calyx or nectary.

Martyn.

SEXLOC'ULAR, *a.* [L. *sex*, six, and *loculus*, a cell.]

In botany, six-celled; having six cells for seeds; as a *sexlocular* pericarp.

SEX'TAIN, *n.* [L. *sextans*, a sixth, from *sex*, six.] A stanza of six lines.

SEX'TANT, *n.* [L. *sextans*, a sixth. The Romans divided the as into 12 ounces; a sixth, or two ounces, was the *sextans*.]

1. In mathematics, the sixth part of a circle. Hence,

2. An instrument formed like a quadrant, excepting that its limb comprehends only 60 degrees, or the sixth part of a circle. *Encyc.*

3. In astronomy, a constellation of the southern hemisphere which, according to the British catalogue, contains 41 stars. *Encyc.*

SEX'TARY, *n.* [L. *sextarius*.] A measure of a pint and a half.

SEX'TARY, *n.* The same as *sacristan*.

SEX'TRY, *n.* [Not used.] *Dict.*

SEX'TILE, *n.* [L. *sextilis*, from *sex*, six.] Denoting the aspect or position of two planets, when distant from each other 60 degrees or two signs. This position is marked thus*. *Encyc.*

SEX'TON, *n.* [contracted from *sacristan*, which see.]

An under officer of the church, whose business is to take care of the vessels, vestments, &c. belonging to the church, to attend on the officiating clergyman and perform other duties pertaining to the church, to dig graves, &c. *Encyc.*

SEX'TONSHIP, *n.* The office of a sexton. *Swift.*

SEX'TUPLE, *a.* [Low L. *sextuplus*; *sex*, six, and *duplus*, double.]

1. Sixfold; six times as much. *Brown.*

2. In music, denoting a mixed sort of triple, beaten in double time, or a measure of two times composed of six equal notes, three for each time. *Busby. Encyc.*

SEX'UAL, *a.* [from *sex*.] Pertaining to sex or the sexes; distinguishing the sex; denoting what is peculiar to the distinction and office of male and female; as *sexual* characteristics; *sexual* intercourse, connection or commerce.

2. *Sexual system*, in botany, the system which ascribes to vegetables the distinction of sexes, supposes that plants are male and female, each sex furnished with appropriate organs or parts; the male producing a pollen or dust which fecundates the stigma of the pistil or female organ, and is necessary to render it prolific. It is found however that most plants are hermaphrodite, the male and female organs being contained in the same flower. This doctrine was taught to a certain extent, by Theophrastus, Dioscorides and Pliny among the ancients, but has been more fully illustrated by Cæsalpinus, Grew, Camerarius, Linne and many others among the moderns. *Milnc. Encyc.*

SEX'UALIST, *n.* One who believes and maintains the doctrine of sexes in plants; or one who classifies plants by the differences of the sexes and parts of fructification. *Milnc. Encyc.*

SEXUAL'ITY, *n.* The state of being distinguished by sex.

SHAB, *v. i.* To play mean tricks. In some parts of New England, it signifies to reject or dismiss; as, a woman *shabs* her

suitor. It is however very vulgar and nearly obsolete.

SHAB'BILY, *adv.* [from *shabby*.] Raggedly; with rent or ragged clothes; as, to be clothed *shabbily*.

2. Meanly; in a despicable manner.

SHAB'BINESS, *n.* Raggedness; as the *shabbiness* of a garment.

2. Meanness; paltriness.

SHAB'BY, *a.* [D. *schabbig*; G. *schäbig*, from *schaben*, to rub, to shave, to scratch; *schabe*, a moth, a shaving tool, a *scab*. This is a different orthography of *scabby*.]

1. Ragged; torn, or worn to rags; as a *shabby* coat: *shabby* clothes.

2. Clothed with ragged garments.

The dean was so *shabby*— *Swift.*

3. Mean; paltry; despicable; as a *shabby* fellow; *shabby* treatment. *Clarendon.*

[For the idea expressed by *shabby*, there is not a better word in the language.]

SHACK, *n.* In ancient customs of England, a liberty of winter pasturage. In Norfolk and Suffolk, the lord of a manor has *shack*, that is, liberty of feeding his sheep at pleasure on his tenants' lands during the six winter months. In Norfolk, *shack* extends to the common for hogs, in all men's grounds, from harvest to seed-time; whence to go *a-shack*, is to feed at large. *Cowcl. Encyc.*

In New England, *shack* is used in a somewhat similar sense for mast or the food of swine, and for feeding at large or in the forest, [for we have no manors,] and I have heard a shiftless fellow, a vagabond, called a *shack*.

SHACK, *v. i.* To shed, as corn at harvest. *Local. Grosc.*

2. To feed in stubble, or upon the waste corn of the field. *Local. Pegge.*

SHACK'LE, *n.* Stubble.

[In Scottish, *shag* is the refuse of barley, or that which is not well filled, and is given to horses. The word *shack* then is probably from a root which signifies to break, to reject, or to waste, or it may be allied to *shag* and *shake*.]

SHACK'LE, *v. t.* [Sax. *seacael*; D. *schakel*, a link or mesh; Sax. *seac-line*, a rope to fasten the foot of a sail. Qu. the root שך. Class Sg. No. 74. But we find the

word perhaps in the Ar. شاك, from

شاك shakala, to tie the feet of a beast or bird.]

1. To chain; to fetter; to tie or confine the limbs so as to prevent free motion.

So the stretch'd cord the *shackled* dancer tries,

As prone to fall as impotent to rise. *Smith.*

2. To bind or confine so as to obstruct or embarrass action.

You must not *shackle* him with rules about indifferent matters. *Locke.*

SHACK'LE, *n.* [generally used in the plural.] Fetters, gyves, handcuffs, cords or something else that confines the limbs so as to restrain the use of them, or prevent free motion. *Dryden.*

2. That which obstructs or embarrasses free action.

His very will seems to be in bonds and shackles. *South.*