

The highest degree of respect and reverence; respect mingled with some degree of awe; a feeling or sentiment excited by the dignity and superiority of a person, or by the sacredness of his character, and with regard to place, by its consecration to sacred services.

We find a secret awe and veneration for one who moves above us in a regular and illustrious course of virtue. *Addison.*

VEN'ERATOR, *n.* One who venerates and reverences.

VEN'EREAL, *a.* [*L. venereus*, from *Venus*; *W. Gwener*, from *gwen*, white, fair. See *Venus*.]

1. Pertaining to the pleasures of sexual commerce. A *venereal* person is one addicted to sexual pleasures or venery. *Cyc.*

2. Proceeding from sexual intercourse; as the *venereal* disease; *venereal* virus or poison.

3. Adapted to the cure of the lues venerea; as *venereal* medicines.

4. Adapted to excite venereal desire; aphrodisiac; provocative. *Cyc.*

5. Consisting of copper, called by chimists formerly *Venus*. *Obs.* *Boyle.*

VEN'EREAN, *a.* Venereal. [*Not used.*] *Howell.*

VEN'EREOUS, *a.* [*L. venereus*.] Lustful; libidinous. *Derham.*

VEN'EROUS, for *venereous*. [*Not used.*]

VEN'ERY, *n.* [from *Venus*.] The pleasures of the bed.

Contentment, without the pleasure of lawful venery, is continence; of unlawful, chastity. *Grew.*

VEN'ERY, *n.* [*Fr. venerie*; from *L. venor*, to hunt, that is, to drive or rush.]

The act or exercise of hunting; the sports of the chase.

Beasts of venery and fishes. *Brown.*

VEN'ESEC'TION, *n.* [*L. vena*, vein, and *sectio*, a cutting.]

The act or operation of opening a vein for letting blood; blood-letting; phlebotomy. *Cyc.* *Wiseman.*

VEN'EY, *n.* [*Fr. venez*, from *venir*, to come.] A bout; a thrust; a hit; a turn at fencing.

Three *veney*s for a dish of stewed prunes. *Obs.* *Shak.*

VEN'GE, *v. t. venj.* [*Fr. venger*.] To avenge; to punish. [*Not in use.*] [See *Avenge* and *Revenge*.] *Shak.*

VEN'GEABLE, *a. venj'able*. [from *venge*.] Revengeful; as *vengeable* despite. [*Not in use.*] *Spenser.*

VENGEANCE, *n. venj'ance*. [Fr. from *venger*, to revenge, *L. vindico*.]

The infliction of pain on another, in return for an injury or offense. Such infliction, when it proceeds from malice or mere resentment, and is not necessary for the purposes of justice, is revenge, and a most heinous crime. When such infliction proceeds from a mere love of justice, and the necessity of punishing offenders for the support of the laws, it is *vengeance*, and is warrantable and just. In this case, *vengeance* is a just retribution, recompense or punishment. In this latter sense the word is used in Scripture, and frequently applied to the punishments inflicted by God on sinners.

To me belongeth *vengeance* and recompense. Deut. xxxii.

The Lord will take *vengeance* on his adversaries. Nah. i.

With a *vengeance*, in familiar language, signifies with great violence or vehemence; as, to strike one with a *vengeance*.

Formerly, what a *vengeance*, was a phrase used for what emphatical.

But what a *vengeance* makes thee fly? *Hudibras.*

VEN'GEFUL, *a. venj'ful*. Vindictive; retributive; as God's *vengeful* ire. *Milton.*

2. Revengeful.

VEN'GEMENT, *n. venj'ment*. Avengement; penal retribution. [*Avengement* is generally used.]

VEN'GER, *n.* An avenger. [*Not in use.*] *Spenser.*

VEN'IALE, *a.* [See *Venial*.] Venial; pardonable. [*Not in use.*] *Brown.*

VEN'IABLY, *adv.* Pardonably; excusably. [*Not used.*] *Brown.*

VEN'IAL, *a.* [*It. veniale*; *Sp. venial*; *Fr. veniel*; from *L. venia*, pardon, leave to depart, from the root of *venio*, and signifying literally a going or passing.]

1. That may be forgiven; pardonable; as a *venial* fault or transgression. The reformed churches hold all sins to be *venial*, through the merits of the Redeemer; but the most trifling sins not to be *venial*, except through the righteousness and atonement of Christ.

2. In *familiar language*, excusable; that may be allowed or permitted to pass without censure; as a *venial* slip or fault.

3. Allowed.

Permitting him the while *Venial* discourse unblam'd. *Milton.*

VEN'IALNESS, *n.* State of being excusable or pardonable.

Venire facias, or *venire*, in law, a writ or precept directed to the sheriff, requiring him to summon twelve men, to try an issue between parties. It is also a writ in the nature of a summons to cause the party indicted on a penal statute, to appear.

VENISON, *n. ven'izn*, or *ven'zn*. [*Fr. venaison*, from *L. venatio*, a hunting, from *venor*, to hunt.]

The flesh of beasts of game, or of such wild animals as are taken in the chase. It is however, in the United States, applied exclusively to the flesh of the deer or cervine genus of animals.

VEN'OM, *n.* [*Fr. venin*; *It. veneno*; *L. venenum*; *W. gwenwyn*. It appears by the Welsh word and its affinities, that the primary sense is raging, furious, and hence it is to be referred to the root of *L. venor*, to hunt, to drive or chase; *venio*, to come. See *Venus*, &c.]

1. Poison; matter fatal or injurious to life. *Venom* is generally used to express noxious matter that is applied externally, or that is discharged from animals, as that of bites and stings of serpents, scorpions, &c.; and *poison*, to express substances taken into the stomach. *Cyc.*

2. Spite; malice.

VEN'OM, *v. t.* To poison; to infect with venom. [Little used, but *envenom* is in use and elegant. *Venom* may be elegantly used in poetry.]

VEN'OMOUS, *a.* Poisonous; noxious to animal life; as, the bite of a serpent may be *venomous*. The sack at the base of the rattlesnake's teeth, contains *venomous* matter.

2. Noxious; mischievous; malignant; as a *venomous* progeny. *Brown.*

3. Spiteful; as a *venomous* writer.

VEN'OMOUSLY, *adv.* Poisonously; malignantly; spitefully. *Dryden.*

VEN'OMOUSNESS, *n.* Poisonousness; noxiousness to animal life.

2. Malignity; spitefulness.

VEN'OUS, *a.* [*L. venosus*, from *vena*, a vein.]

1. Pertaining to a vein or to veins; contained in veins; as *venous* blood, which is distinguishable from arterial blood by its darker color.

2. In botany, veined. A *venous leaf*, has vessels branching, or variously divided, over its surface. *Martyn.*

VENT, *n.* [*Fr. vente*, *Sp. venta*, sale, from *vendre*, *Sp. vender*; from the root of *L. renio*, Eng. *wind*, &c.; properly a passage.]

1. A small aperture; a hole or passage for air or other fluid to escape; as the *vent* of a cask.

2. The opening in a cannon or other piece of artillery, by which fire is communicated to the charge.

3. Passage from secrecy to notice; publication. *Wotton.*

4. The act of opening. *Phillips.*

5. Emission; passage; escape from confinement; as, his smothered passions urge for *vent*.

6. Discharge; utterance; means of discharge.

Had like grief been dew'd in tears,
Without the *vent* of words— *Milton.*

7. Sale; as the *vent* of a thousand copies of a treatise. *Popc.*

8. Opportunity to sell; demand.
There is no *vent* for any commodity except wool. *Temple.*

9. An inn; a baiting place. [*Not in use.*]

To give *vent*to, to suffer to escape; to let out; to pour forth.

VENT, *v. t.* To let out at a small aperture.

2. To let out; to suffer to escape from confinement; to utter; to pour forth; as, to *vent* passion or complaint.

The queen of heav'n did thus her fury *vent*.
Dryden.

3. To utter; to report. [*Not in use.*] *Stephens.*

4. To publish.

The sectators did greatly enrich their inventions by *venting* the stolen treasures of divine letters. [*Not used.*] *Raleigh.*

5. To sell.

Therefore did those nations *vent* such spice. [*Not in use.*] *Raleigh.*

[Instead of *vent* in the latter sense, we use *vend*.]

VENT, *v. t.* To snuff. [*Not in use.*] *Spenser.*

VENT'AGE, *n.* A small hole. [*Not in use.*] *Shak.*

VENT'AIL, *n.* [Fr. a folding door.] That part of a helmet made to be lifted up; the part intended for the admission of air, or for breathing.