

A walrus with fiery eyes—*retractile* from external injuries. *Pennant.*

**RETRACTING**, *ppr.* Recalling; disavowing; recanting.

**RETRACT'ION**, *n.* [from *retract.*] The act of withdrawing something advanced, or changing something done. *Woodward.*

2. Recantation; disavowal of the truth of what has been said; declaration of change of opinion. *Sidney.*

3. Act of withdrawing a claim.

Other men's insatiable desire of revenge, hath beguiled church and state of the benefit of my *retractions* or concessions. *K. Charles.*

**RETRACT'IVE**, *a.* Withdrawing; taking from.

**RETRACT'IVE**, *n.* That which withdraws or takes from.

**RETRACT'CT**, *n.* Retreat. *Obs.* [See *Retreat.*] *Bacon.*

**RETRACT'IT**, *n.* [It. *ritratto*, from *ritrarre*, to draw.] A cast of countenance; a picture. *Obs.* *Spenser.*

**RETRAX'IT**, *n.* [L. *retraho*, *retrahi.*] In law, the withdrawing or open renunciation of a suit in court, by which the plaintiff loses his action. *Blackstone.*

**RETRE'AT**, *n.* [Fr. *retraite*, from *retraire*; *re* and *traire*, to draw; L. *retractus*, *retrahō*; *re* and *trahō*; It. *ritratta.*]

1. The act of retiring; a withdrawing of one's self from any place.

But beauty's triumph is well tim'd *retreat*. *Pope.*

2. Retirement; state of privacy or seclusion from noise, bustle or company.

Here in the calm still mirror of *retreat*. *Pope.*

3. Place of retirement or privacy.

He built his son a house of pleasure—and spared no cost to make it a delicious *retreat*. *L'Estrange.*

4. Place of safety or security.

That pleasing shade they sought, a soft *retreat*  
From sudden April show'rs, a shelter from the heat. *Dryden.*

5. In *military affairs*, the retiring of an army or body of men from the face of an enemy or from any ground occupied to a greater distance from the enemy, or from an advanced position. A *retreat* is properly an orderly march, in which circumstance it differs from a *flight*. *Encyc.*

6. The withdrawing of a ship or fleet from an enemy; or the order and disposition of ships declining an engagement.

7. The beat of the drum at the firing of the evening gun, to warn soldiers to forbear firing and the sentinels to challenge. *Encyc.*

**RETRE'AT**, *v. i.* To retire from any position or place.

2. To withdraw to a private abode or to any secluded situation. *Milton.*

3. To retire to a place of safety or security; as, to *retreat* into a den or into a fort.

4. To move back to a place before occupied; to retire.

The rapid currents drive,  
Towards the *retreating* sea, their furious tide. *Milton.*

5. To retire from an enemy or from any advanced position.

**RETRE'ATED**, as a passive participle, though used by Milton, is not good English.

**RETRENCH'**, *v. t.* [Fr. *retrancher*; *re* and *trancher*, to cut; It. *trincea*, a trench; *trincerare*, to intrench; *trinciare*, to carve; W. *trycu*, to cut.]

1. To cut off; to pare away.

And thy exuberant parts *retrench*. *Denham.*

2. To lessen; to abridge; to curtail; as, to *retrench* superfluities or expenses.

3. To confine; to limit. [Not proper.] *Atterbury.*

**RETRENCH'**, *v. i.* To live at less expense.

It is more reputable to *retrench* than to live embarrassed. *Addison.*

**RETRENCH'ED**, *pp.* Cut off; curtailed; diminished.

**RETRENCH'ING**, *ppr.* Cutting off; curtail.

**RETRENCH'MENT**, *n.* [Fr. *retranchement*; Sp. *atrincheramiento.*]

1. The act of lopping off; the act of removing what is superfluous; as the *retrenchment* of words or lines in a writing. *Dryden.* *Addison.*

2. The act of curtailing, lessening or abridging; diminution; as the *retrenchment* of expenses.

3. In *military affairs*, any work raised to cover a post and fortify it against an enemy; such as fascines, gabions, sand-bags and the like. *Encyc.*

Numerous remains of Roman *retrenchments*, constructed to cover the country—*D'Anville, Trons.*

**RETRIBUTE**, *v. t.* [Fr. *retribuer*; L. *retribuō*; *re* and *tribuo*, to give or bestow.]

To pay back; to make payment, compensation or reward in return; as, to *retribute* one for his kindness; to *retribute* to a criminal what is proportionate to his offense. *Locke.*

**RETRIBUTED**, *pp.* Paid back; given in return; rewarded.

**RETRIBUTER**, *n.* One that makes retribution.

**RETRIBUTING**, *ppr.* Requiring; making repayment; rewarding.

**RETRIBUT'ION**, *n.* [Fr.] Repayment; return accommodated to the action; reward; compensation.

In good offices and due *retributions*, we may not be pinching and niggardly. *Hall.*

2. A gratuity or present given for services in the place of a salary. *Encyc.*

3. The distribution of rewards and punishments at the general judgment.

It is a strong argument for a state of *retribution* hereafter, that in this world virtuous persons are very often unfortunate, and vicious persons prosperous. *Spectator.*

**RETRIBUT'IVE**, } *a.* Repaying; reward-

**RETRIBUT'ORY**, } ing for good deeds, and punishing for offenses; as *retributive* justice.

**RETRIE'VABLE**, *a.* [from *retrieve.*] That may be retrieved or recovered. *Gruy.*

**RETRIE'VE**, *v. t.* [Fr. *retrouver*, to find again; It. *ritrovare.* See *Trover.*]

1. To recover; to restore from loss or injury to a former good state; as, to *retrieve* the credit of a nation; to *retrieve* one's character; to *retrieve* a decayed fortune.

2. To repair.

Accept my sorrow, and *retrieve* my fall.

*Prior*

3. To regain.

With late repentance now they would *retrieve*

The bodies they forsook, and wish to live.

*Dryden.*

4. To recall; to bring back; as, to *retrieve* men from their cold trivial conceits.

*Berkeley.*

**RETRIE'VE**, *n.* A seeking again; a discovery. [Not in use.] *B. Jonson*

**RETRIE'VED**, *pp.* Recovered; repaired; regained; recalled.

**RETRIE'VING**, *ppr.* Recovering; repairing; recalling.

**RETROAC'TION**, *n.* [L. *retro*, backward, and *actio*.]

1. Action returned, or action backwards.

2. Operation on something past or preceding.

**RETROAC'TIVE**, *a.* [Fr. *retroactif*; L. *retro*, backward, and *active*.]

Operating by returned action; affecting what is past; retrospective. *Beddoes.*

A *retroactive law* or *statute*, is one which operates to affect, make criminal or punishable, acts done prior to the passing of the law.

**RETROAC'TIVELY**, *adv.* By returned action or operation; by operating on something past. *Wheaton.*

**RETROCE'DE**, *v. t.* [L. *retro*, back, and *cedo*, to give; Fr. *retroceder.*]

To cede or grant back; as, to *retrocede* a territory to a former proprietor.

**RETROCE'DED**, *pp.* Granted back.

**RETROCE'DING**, *ppr.* Ceding back.

**RETROCES'SION**, *n.* A ceding or granting back to a former proprietor. *Am. State Papers.*

2. The act of going back. *More.*

**RETRODUC'TION**, *n.* [L. *retroduco*; *retro*, back, and *duco*, to lead.] A leading or bringing back.

**RETROFLEX**, *a.* [L. *retro*, back, and *flexus*, bent.]

In *botany*, bent this way and that, or in different directions, usually in a distorted manner; as a *retroflex* branch. *Martyn.*

**RETROFRACT**, } *a.* [L. *retro*, back, and *fractus*, broken.]

**RETROFRACT'ED**, } Reduced to hang down as it were by force so as to appear as if broken; as a *retrofract* peduncle. *Martyn.*

Bent back towards its insertion, as if it were broken. *Lee.*

**RETROGRADATION**, *n.* [Fr. See *Retrograde.*]

1. The act of moving backwards; applied to the apparent motion of the planets. *Ray.*

2. A moving backwards; decline in excellence. *N. Chipman.*

**RETROGRADE**, *a.* [Fr. from L. *retrogradior*; *retro*, backwards, and *gradior*, to go.]

1. Going or moving backwards. *Bacon.*

2. In *astronomy*, apparently moving backward and contrary to the succession of the signs, as a planet. *Harris.*

3. Declining from a better to a worse state.

**RET'ROGRADE**, *v. i.* [Fr. *retrograder*; L. *retrogradior*; *retro* and *gradior*, to go.] To go or move backward. *Bacon.*