

1. Representing something else; representing by resemblance; typical.

This they will say, was *figurative*, and served by God's appointment but for a time, to shadow out the true glory of a more divine sanctity.

2. Representing by resemblance; not literal or direct. A *figurative* expression, is one in which the words are used in a sense different from that in which they are ordinarily used; as,

Slander,

Whose edge is sharper than the sword. *Shak.*
Abounding with figures of speech; as a description highly *figurative*.

FIGURATIVELY, *adv.* By a figure; in a manner to exhibit ideas by resemblance; in a sense different from that which words originally imply. Words are used *figuratively*, when they express something different from their usual meaning.

FIGURE, *n.* *fig'ur*. [Fr. *figure*; *L. figura*, from *figo*, to fix or set; *W. fygur*, from *fogiare*, to feign. See *Feign*.]

1. The form of any thing as expressed by the outline or terminating extremities. Flowers have exquisite *figures*. A triangle is a *figure* of three sides. A square is a *figure* of four equal sides and equal angles.

2. Shape; form; person; as a lady of elegant *figure*.

A good *figure*, or person, in man or woman, gives credit at first sight to the choice of either.

Richardson.

3. Distinguished appearance; eminence; distinction; remarkable character. Ames made a *figure* in Congress; Hamilton, in the cabinet.

4. Appearance of any kind; as an ill *figure*; a mean *figure*.

5. Magnificence; splendor; as, to live in *figure* and indulgence. *Lav.*

6. A statue; an image; that which is formed in resemblance of something else; as the *figure* of a man in plaster.

7. Representation in painting; the hues and colors which represent an animal, particularly a person; as the principal *figures* of a picture; a subordinate *figure*.

8. In *manufactures*, a design or representation wrought on damask, velvet and other stuffs.

9. In *logic*, the order or disposition of the middle term in a syllogism with the parts of the question. *Hutts.*

10. In *arithmetic*, a character denoting a number; as 2, 7, 9.

11. In *astrology*, the horoscope; the diagram of the aspects of the astrological houses. *Shak.*

12. In *theology*, type; representative.

Who was the *figure* of him that was to come. *Rom. v.*

13. In *rhetoric*, a mode of speaking or writing in which words are deflected from their ordinary signification, or a mode more beautiful and emphatical than the ordinary way of expressing the sense; the language of the imagination and passions; as, knowledge is the light of the mind; the soul mounts on the wings of faith; youth is the morning of life. In strictness, the change of a word is a *tropé*, and any alteration of a sentence a *figure*; but these terms are often confounded. *Locke.*

14. In *grammar*, any deviation from the rules of analogy or syntax.

15. In *dancing*, the several steps which the dancer makes in order and cadence, considered as they form certain figures on the floor.

FIGURE, *v. t.* *fig'ur*. To form or mold into any determinate shape.

Accept this goblet, rough with *figured* gold. *Dryden.*

2. To show by a corporeal resemblance, as in picture or statuary.

3. To cover or adorn with figures or images; to mark with figures; to form figures in by art; as, to *figure* velvet or muslin.

4. To diversify; to variegate with adventitious forms of matter.

5. To represent by a typical or figurative resemblance.

The matter of the sacraments *figureth* their end. *Hooker.*

6. To imagine; to image in the mind. *Hooker.*

7. To prefigure; to foreshow. *Shak.*

8. To form figuratively; to use in a sense not literal; as *figured* expressions. [*Little used*.] *Locke.*

9. To note by characters.

As through a crystal glass the *figured* hours are seen. *Dryden.*

10. In *music*, to pass several notes for one; to form runnings or variations. *Encyc.*

FIGURE, *v. i.* To make a figure; to be distinguished. The envoy *figured* at the court of St. Cloud.

FIGURE-CASTER, *n.* A pretender to **FIGURE-FLINGER**, *n.* astrology. *Obs.*

FIGURE-STONE, *n.* A name of the agalmatolite, or bildstein.

FIGURED, *pp.* Represented by resemblance; adorned with figures; formed into a determinate figure.

In *music*, free and florid.

FIGURING, *ppr.* Forming into determinate shape; representing by types or resemblances; adorning with figures; making a distinguished appearance.

FILACEOUS, *a.* [*L. filum*, a thread; *Fr. file*; *Sp. hilo*.] Composed or consisting of threads. *Bacon.*

FILACER, *n.* [*Norm. filicer*, from *file*, a thread, or *file*, *L. filum*; *Sp. hilo*.]

An officer in the English Court of Common Pleas, so called from filing the writs or which he makes process. There are fourteen of them in their several divisions and counties. They make out all original processes, real, personal and mixed. *Harris.*

FILAMENT, *n.* [*Fr. from L. filamenta*, threads, from *filum*.]

A thread; a fiber. In *anatomy* and *natural history*, a fine thread of which flesh, nerves, skin, plants, roots, &c., and also some minerals, are composed. So the spider's web is composed of *filaments*. The thread-like part of the stamens of plants, is called the *filament*.

FILAMENTOUS, *a.* Like a thread; consisting of fine filaments.

FILANDERS, *n.* [*Fr. filandres*, from *filum*, a thread.]

A disease in hawks, consisting of filaments of coagulated blood; also, small worms wrapt in a thin skin or net, near the reins of a hawk. *Encyc.*

FILATORY, *n.* [*from L. filum*, a thread.] A machine which forms or spins threads.

This manufactory has three *filatories*, each of 640 reels, which are moved by a water-wheel, and besides a small *filatory* turned by men. *Tooke.*

FILBERT, *n.* [*L. avellana*, with which the first syllable corresponds; *fil*, *vel*.]

The fruit of the Corylus or hazel; an egg-shaped nut, containing a kernel, that is a mild, farinaceous, oily taste, which is agreeable to the palate. The oil is said to be little inferior to the oil of almonds. *Encyc.*

FILCH, *v. t.* [This word, like *pilfer*, is probably from the root of *file* or *peel*, to strip or rub off. But I know not from what source we have received it. In *Sp. pellizar* is to pilfer, as *flouter*, in French, is to pick the pocket.]

To steal something of little value; to pilfer; to steal; to pillage; to take wrongfully from another.

Fain would they *filch* that little food away. *Dryden.*

But he that *filches* from me my good name,

Robs me of that which not enriches him,

And makes me poor indeed. *Shak.*

FILCHED, *pp.* Stolen; taken wrongfully from another; pillaged; pilfered.

FILCHER, *n.* A thief; one who is guilty of petty theft.

FILCHING, *ppr.* Stealing; taking from another wrongfully; pilfering.

FILCHINGLY, *adv.* By pilfering; in a thievish manner.

FILE, *n.* [*Fr. file*, a row; *filet*, a thread; *L. filum*; *Sp. hilo*; *Port. fila*; *It. fila*, *filo*; *Russ. biel*, a thread of flax. The primary sense is probably to draw out or extend, or to twist. *W. filhwa*, to twist.]

1. A thread, string or line; particularly, a line or wire on which papers are strung in due order for preservation, and for conveniently finding them when wanted. Documents are kept on *file*.

2. The whole number of papers strung on a line or wire; as a *file* of writs. A *file* is a record of court.

3. A bundle of papers tied together, with the title of each indorsed; the mode of *arranging and keeping papers being changed, without a change of names*.

4. A roll, list or catalogue. *Shak.*

5. A row of soldiers ranged one behind another, from front to rear; the number of men constituting the depth of the battalion or squadron.

FILE, *v. t.* To string; to fasten, as papers, on a line or wire for preservation. Declarations and affidavits must be *filed*. An original writ may be *filed* after judgment.

2. To arrange or insert in a bundle, as papers, indorsing the title on each paper. *This is now the more common mode of filing papers in public and private offices.*

3. To present or exhibit officially, or for trial; as, to *file* a bill in chancery.

FILE, *v. i.* To march in a file or line, as soldiers, not abreast, but one after another.

FILE, *n.* [*Sax. frol*; *D. vyl*; *G. feile*; *Sw. Dan. fil*, a file; *Russ. pila*, a saw; perhaps connected in origin with *polish*, which see. *Class Bl. No. 30, 32, 33, 45.*]

An instrument used in smoothing and polish-