

**AIR**, *v. t.* [*Sax. egliau*, to be troubled, to be irksome; *egle*, trouble, grief. In the *Saxon*, to be, is impernal.]  
To trouble; to affect with uneasiness, either of body or mind; used to express some uneasiness or affection, whose cause is unknown; as, what *aills* the man? I know not what *aills* him.

What *aileth* thee, Hagar? Gen. xxi.  
It is never used to express a specific disease. We never say, he *aills* a pleurisy; but it is usual to say, he *aills* something; he *aills* nothing; nothing *aills* him.

**AIR**, *n.* Indisposition, or morbid affection.  
**AIRING**, *ppr.* Discussed; indisposed; full of complaints.

**AIRMENT**, *n.* Disease; indisposition; morbid affection of the body; but the word is not applied ordinarily to acute diseases.

**AIM**, *v. i.* [*Qu. Ir. oigham*, to eye. Skinner refers this word to the old *Fr. esmer*. If this was the orthography, I know not its affinities.]

To point at, with a missive weapon; to direct the intention or purpose; to attempt to reach, or accomplish; to tend towards; to endeavor; followed by *at* before the object; as, a man *aims* at distinction; or *aims* to be rich.

**AIM**, *v. t.* To direct or point as a weapon; to direct to a particular object; as, to *aim* a musket or an arrow, the fist or a blow; to *aim* a satire or a reflection at some person or vice.

**AIM**, *n.* The pointing or direction of a missile weapon; the direction of any thing to a particular point or object, with a view to strike or affect it; as a spear, a blow, a discourse or remark.

2. The point intended to be hit, or object intended to be affected; as, a man missed his *aim*.

3. *Figuratively*, a purpose; intention; design; scheme; as, men are often disappointed of their *aim*.

4. Conjecture; guess.  
It is impossible, by *aim*, to tell it. [*Not used*.]  
*Spenser on Ireland.*

**AIMED**, *pp.* Pointed; directed; intended to strike or affect.

**AIMER**, *n.* One that aims.

**AIMING**, *ppr.* Pointing a weapon at an object; directing any thing to an object; intending; purposing.

**AIMLESS**, *a.* Without aim. *May.*

**AIR**, *n.* [*Fr. air*; *L. aer*; *Gr. ær*; *Ir. aria*; *Sp. ayre*; *Port. ar*; *Arm. ear*, *ær*; *Ir. aer*; *W. aeyr*; *Ch. אַר*; *Syr. {}*; *Eth. ለየረ*.  
*Ar. لاء*.]

This word, in the *Semitic* languages, falls under the root *איר* Heb. and *Ch.* to shine. The radical sense is to open, expand; whence clear; or to flow, to shoot, to radiate.]

1. The fluid which we breathe. Air is inodorous, invisible, insipid, colorless, elastic, possessed of gravity, easily moved, rarefied, and condensed.

*Atmospheric air* is a compound fluid, consisting of oxygen gas, and nitrogen or azote; the proportion of each is stated by chemists differently; some experiments maintain the oxygen a twenty-eighth part of a hundred; others, not more than a

twenty-third, or something less. The latter is probably the true proportion.

*Oxygen gas* is called vital air. The body of air surrounding the earth is called the *atmosphere*. The specific gravity of air is to that of water, nearly as 1 to 828. Air is necessary to life; being inhaled into the lungs, the oxygenous part is separated from the azotic, and it is supposed to furnish the body with heat and animation. It is the medium of sounds and necessary to combustion.

2. Air in motion; a light breeze.

Let vernal *airs* through trembling osiers play.

*Pope.*

3. Vent; utterance abroad; publication; publicity; as, a story has taken *air*.

You gave it *air* before me. *Dryden.*

*Wind* is used in like manner.

4. A tune; a short song or piece of music adapted to words; also, the peculiar modulation of the notes, which gives music its character; as, a *soft air*. A song or piece of poetry for singing; also, the leading part of a tune, or that which is intended to exhibit the greatest variety of melody.

5. The peculiar look, appearance, manner or mien of a person; as, a heavy *air*; the *air* of youth; a graceful *air*; a lofty *air*. It is applied to manners or gestures, as well as to features.

6. *Airs*, in the plural, is used to denote an affected manner, show of pride, haughtiness; as, when it is said of a person, he puts on *airs*. The word is used also to express the artificial motions or carriage of a horse.

7. In *painting*, that which expresses the life of action; manner; gesture; attitude.

8. Any thing light or uncertain; that is light as *air*.

Who builds his hope in *air* of your fair looks.  
*Qu. Obs.*

9. Advice; intelligence; information. *Obs.*  
*Bacon.*

10. Different states of *air* are characterized by different epithets; as, good *air*, foul *air*, morning *air*, evening *air*; and sometimes *airs* may have been used for ill-scent or vapor, but the use is not legitimate.

To *take the air*, is to go abroad; to walk or ride a little distance.

To *take air*, is to be divulged; to be made public.

**AIR**, *v. t.* To expose to the air; to give access to the open air; to ventilate; as, to *air* clothes; to *air* a room.

2. To expose to heat; to warm; as, to *air* liquors.

3. To dry by a fire; to expel dampness; as, to *air* linen.

**AIRA**, *n.* Hair grass, a genus of plants.

**AIR-BALLOON**. [See *Balloon*.]

**AIR-BLADDER**, *n.* A vesicle or cuticle filled with air; also, the bladder of a fish. *Arbuthnot.*

**AIR-BORN**, *a.* Born of the air. *Congreve.*

**AIR-BRAVING**, *a.* Braving the winds. *Shak.*

**AIR-BUILT**, *a.* Erected in the air; having no solid foundation; chimerical; as, an *air-built* castle; *air-built* hopes.

**AIR-DRAWN**, *a.* Drawn in air; imaginary. *Shak.*

**AIR-ED**, *pp.* Exposed to air; cleansed by

air; heated or dried by exposure to a fire; ventilated.

**AIRER**, *n.* One who exposes to the air.

**AIR-GUN**, *n.* A pneumatic engine, resembling a musket, to discharge bullets by means of the elastic force of compressed air. *Encyc.*

**AIR-HOLDER**, *n.* [*Air and hold*.]

An instrument for holding air, for the purpose of counteracting the pressure of a decreasing column of mercury. *Clayfield. Davy.*

**AIR-HOLE**, *n.* An opening to admit or discharge air.

**AIRINESS**, *n.* Exposure to a free current of air; openness to the air; as, the *airiness* of a country seat.

2. Gayety; levity; as, the *airiness* of young persons.

**AIRING**, *ppr.* Exposing to the air; warming; drying.

**AIRING**, *n.* An exposure to the air, or to a fire, for warming or drying; also, a walk or ride in the open air; a short excursion. The exercise of horses in the open air.

**AIR-JACKET**, *n.* A leather jacket, to which are fastened bags or bladders filled with air, to render persons buoyant in swimming. *Encyc.*

**AIRLESS**, *a.* Not open to a free current of air; wanting fresh air, or communication with open air.

**AIRLING**, *a.* A thoughtless, gay person. *Johnson.*

**AIR-PIPE**, *n.* A pipe used to draw foul air from a ship's hold, by means of a communication with the furnace, and the rarefaction of the air by fire. This pipe is intended to supply the combustion with the air of the hold, by preventing the access of other air to the fire. *Encyc.*

**AIR-POISE**, *n.* [*Air and poise*.]  
An instrument to measure the weight of the air.

**AIR-PUMP**, *n.* A machine for exhausting the air of a vessel. The machines for this purpose are of different constructions.

**AIR-SACS**, *n.* Air bags in birds, which are certain receptacles of air, or vesicles lodged in the fleshy parts, in the hollow bones and in the abdomen, which all communicate with the lungs. These are supposed to render the body specifically lighter, and to supply the place of a muscular diaphragm. *Encyc.*

**AIR-SHAFT**, *n.* A passage for air into a mine, usually opened in a perpendicular direction, and meeting the adits or horizontal passages, to cause a free circulation of fresh air through the mine. *Encyc.*

**AIR-STIRRING**, *a.* Putting the air in motion. *May.*

**AIR-THREAD**, *n.* A name given to the spider's webs, which are often seen floating in the air. These filaments are attached to the tops or ends of branches of shrubs or trees, and serve to support the spider when in quest of prey. *Encyc.*

**AIR-THREATENING**, *a.* Threatening the air; lofty. *Todd.*

**AIR-VESEL**, *n.* A spiral duct in plants containing air, and supposed to be analogous to the lungs in animals. *Encyc.*

**AIRY**, *a.* Consisting of air; as, an *airy* substance.