

degree or extent, applicable to the case; as, life is at *best* very short.

To make the *best* of, to carry to its greatest perfection; to improve to the utmost; as, to make the *best* of a sum of money, or a piece of land. Also, to permit the least possible inconvenience; as, to make the *best* of ill fortune or a bad bargain.

The *best* of the way. We had made the *best* of our way to the city; that is, the most, the greatest part of the distance. [This is the primary sense of the word.]

BEST, *adv.* In the highest degree; beyond all other; as, to love one *best*; to like this *best*; to please *best*.

2. To the most advantage; with the most ease; as, "which instrument can you *best* use?"

3. With most profit or success; as, money is *best* employed in manufactures; this medicine will answer *best* in the present case.

4. Most intimately or particularly; most correctly; as, what is expedient is *best* known to himself.

BEST-TEMPERED, *a.* Having the most kind or mild temper.

BESTAIN, *v. t.* [*be* and *stain*.] To mark with stains; to discolor, either the whole surface of a thing, or in spots. *Shak.*

BESTEAD, *v. t.* *bested*, *pret.* and *pp.* *bested*. [*be* and *stead*.] To profit. *Milton.*

2. To accommodate. They shall pass through it, *hardly bested*. *Is. 8.*

That is, distressed; perplexed. *Spenser.*

BESTIAL, *a.* [from *beast*.]

1. Belonging to a beast, or to the class of beasts.

2. Having the qualities of a beast; brutal; below the dignity of reason or humanity; carnal; as, a *bestial* appetite. *Shak.*

BESTIALITY, *n.* The quality of beasts; the state or manners of man which resemble those of brutes.

2. Unnatural connection with a beast.

BESTIALIZE, *v. t.* To make like a beast.

BESTIALLY, *adv.* Brutally; in a manner below humanity.

BESTICK, *v. t.* *pret.* and *pp.* *bestuck*. [*be* and *stick*.]

To stick over, as with sharp points; to mark, by inflicting points or spots here and there.

Truth shall retire, *bestuck* with slanderous darts. *Milton.*

BESTIR, *v. t.* *bestur*. [*be* and *stir*.] To put into brisk or vigorous action; to move with life and vigor; usually with the reciprocal pronoun; as, rise and *bestir* yourselves.

BESTIRRED, *pp.* Roused into vigorous action; quickened in action.

BESTIRRING, *pp.* Moving briskly; putting into vigorous action.

BESTNESS, *n.* The state of being best. [*Not used*.] *Morton.*

BESTORM, *v. i.* [*be* and *storm*.] To storm; to rage. [*Not used*.] *Young.*

BESTOW, *v. t.* [*be* and *stow*, a place. See *Stow*.] Literally, to set or place.

1. To give; to confer; to impart; with the sense of gratuity, and followed by *on* or *upon*.

Consecrate yourselves to the Lord, that he may bestow on you a blessing. Ex. xxxii.

Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor. 1 Cor. xiii. 3.

This word should never be followed by *to*.

2. To give in marriage; to dispose of. I could have bestowed her upon a fine gentleman.

3. To apply; to place for the purpose of exertion, or use; as, to bestow our whole force upon an object. *Tatler.*

4. To lay out, or dispose of; to give in payment for; as, to bestow money for what we desire. Deut. xiv. 26.

5. To lay up in store; to deposit for safe keeping; to stow; to place. I have no room where to bestow my fruits. Luke xii.

BESTOWAL, *n.* A conferring; disposal. [*Little used*.]

BESTOWED, *pp.* Given gratuitously; conferred; laid out; applied; deposited for safe keeping.

BESTOWER, *n.* One who bestows; a giver; a dispenser.

BESTOWING, *pp.* Conferring gratuitously; laying out; applying; depositing in store.

BESTOWMENT, *n.* The act of giving gratuitously; a conferring.

God the father had committed the bestowment of the blessings purchased, to his son. Edwards on Redemption. 372.

If we consider this bestowment of gifts in this view. Chauncey, U. S. S. 155.

Whatever may be the secret counsel of his will respecting his own bestowment of saving grace. Smalley, Sermon. p. 37.

2. That which is conferred, or given; donation.

They strengthened his hands by their liberal bestowments on him and his family. Christ, Mag. iii. 665.

The free and munificent bestowment of the Sovereign Judge. Thodgy.

BESTRAD-DLE, *v. t.* To bestride. [See *Straddle*.]

BESTRAIGHT, *a.* Distracted; inad. [*Not used*.] *Shak.*

BESTREW, *v. t.* *pret.* *bestrewed*; *pp.* *bestrewed*, *bestrown*. [*be* and *strew*.] To scatter over; to besprinkle; to strow. *Milton.*

BESTREWED, *pp.* of *bestrew*.

BESTRIDE, *v. t.* *pret.* *bestrid*; *pp.* *bestrid*, *bestriden*. [*be* and *stride*.]

1. To stride over; to stand or sit with any thing between the legs, or with the legs extended across; as, to *bestride* the world, like a colossus; to *bestride* a horse. *Shak.*

2. To step over; as, to *bestride* a threshold. *Shak.*

Bestriding sometimes includes riding, or defending, as Johnson remarks; but the particular purposes of the act, which depend on the circumstances of the case, can hardly be reduced to definition.

BESTRIDING, *pp.* Extending the legs over any thing, so as to include it between them.

BESTROWN, *pp.* of *bestrew*. Sprinkled over.

BESTUCK, *pp.* of *bestick*. Pierced in various places with sharp points.

BESTUD, *v. t.* [*be* and *stud*.] To set with studs; to adorn with bosses; as, to *bestud* with stars. *Milton.*

BESTUDED, *pp.* Adorned with studs.

BESTUD-DING, *pp.* Setting with studs; adorning as with bosses.

BESWIKE, *v. t.* *beswik*. [Sax. *beswican*.] To allure. [*Not used*.] *Gower.*

BET, *n.* [Sax. *bad*, a pledge; *badian*, to give or take a pledge.]

A wager; that which is laid, staked or pledged in a contest, to be won, either by the victorious party himself, or by another person, in consequence of his victory. At a race, a man lays a *bet* on his own horse, or on the horse of another man.

BET, *v. t.* To lay a bet; to lay a wager; to stake or pledge something upon the event of a contest.

BET, the old participle of *beat*, is obsolete or vulgar.

BETAKE, *v. t.* *pret.* *betook*; *pp.* *betaken*. [*be* and *take*. Sax. *betacan*.]

1. To take to; to have recourse to; to apply; to resort; with the reciprocal pronoun; as, to *betake* ourselves to arms, or to action. It generally implies a motion towards an object, as to *betake* ourselves to a shady grove; or an application of the mind or faculties, corresponding with such motion, as to *betake* ourselves to study or to vice.

2. Formerly, to take or seize. Obs. *Spenser.*

BETAKE, *part.* of *betake*.

BETA KING, *pp.* Having recourse to; applying; resorting.

BETAGHT, *pret.* of *betake*. [*Not used*.] *Chaucer.*

BETEE-M, *v. t.* [*be* and *teem*.] To bring forth; to produce; to shed; to bestow. [*Not used*.] *Spenser.*

BETEL, *n.* A species of pepper, the leaves of which are chewed by the inhabitants of the East Indies. It is a creeping or climbing plant like the ivy, the leaves somewhat resembling those of the citron. It is planted by a tree, or supported by props. In India, betel is taken after meals; during a visit, it is offered to friends when they meet, and when they separate; in short, nothing is to be done without betel. To correct the bitterness of the leaves, a little *areca* is wrapped in them with the *chinnam*, a kind of burnt lime made of shells. *Encyc.*

BETHINK, *v. t.* *pret.* and *pp.* *bethought*. [*be* and *think*.]

To call to mind; to recall or bring to recollection, reflection, or consideration; generally followed by a reciprocal pronoun, with *of* before the subject of thought.

I have *bethought* myself of another fault. *Shak.*

BETHINK, *v. i.* To have in recollection; to consider. *Spenser.*

BETH LEHEM, *n.* [Heb. *the house of food* or *bread*.]

1. A town or village in Judea, about six miles south-east of Jerusalem; famous for its being the place of Christ's nativity.

2. A hospital for lunatics; corrupted into *bedlam*.

BETH-LEHITE, *n.* An inhabitant of Beth-lehem; a lunatic.

2. In church history, the Bethlehmites were a sort of Monks, introduced into England in the year 1257, who were habited like the Dominicans, except that they wore a star with five rays, in memory of the comet or