

# Q.

## Q U A

**Q** is the seventeenth letter of the English Alphabet; an articulation borrowed from the oriental *koph* or *qoph*, Ch. and Heb. *ק*, Samaritan *פ*. Syriac *ܩ*, Arabic *ق*; Kaf.

It is supposed to be an articulation more deeply guttural than that of *K*; indeed it might have been pronounced as we pronounce *qu*; for we observe that in the Latin language, from which the moderns have borrowed the letter, it is always followed by *u*, as it is in English. This letter is not in the Greek alphabet. In our mother tongue, the Anglo Saxon, this letter is not used; but in the place of *qu*, *cu*, or more generally, *cw* is used; as in *civic*, quick; *cwen*, queen. This letter is superfluous; for *ku* or *koo*, in English, have precisely the same sounds as *qu*. It is alleged that in expressing *q*, the cheeks are contracted, and the lips put into a canular form, for the passage of the breath; circumstances which distinguish it from *k*. This appears to be a mistake. This position of the organs is entirely owing to the following letter *u*; and *kuestion* and *question* are pronounced precisely alike, and with the same configuration of the organs. For *qu* in English, the Dutch use *kw*, the Germans *qu*, the Swedes and the Danes *qv*, which answer to our *kw*. The Gothic has a character which answers to *qu*. It appears then that *q* is precisely *k*, with this difference in use, that *q* is always followed by *u* in English, and *k* is not. *Q* never ends an English word. Its name *cue*, is said to be from the French *queue*, a tail.

As a numeral, *Q* stands for 500, and with a dash, *Q̄*, for 500,000.

Used as an abbreviation, *Q*. stands for *quantity*, or *quantum*; as among physicians, *q. pl. quantum placet*, as much as you please; *q. s. quantum sufficit*, as much as is required, or as is sufficient.

Among mathematicians, *Q. E. D.* stands for *quod erat demonstrandum*, which was to be demonstrated; *Q. E. F. quod erat faciendum*, which was to be done.

In the notes of the ancients, *Q*. stands for *Quintus*, or *Quintius*; *Quint.* for *Quintilius*; and *Quæ.* for *questor*.

In English, *Q.* is an abbreviation for *question*.

**QUAB**, *n.* [*G. quappe*; *D. kvab*; *Dan. kvabbe*.]

A fish of Russian rivers, which delights in clear water. *Dict. Nat. Hist.*

**QUACHIL'TO**, *n.* A Brazilian fowl of the moor-hen kind, of a fine black color variegated with white. Its voice resembles the crowing of a cock. *Dict. Nat. Hist.*

**QUACK**, *v. i.* [*D. kvaaken*, *G. quaken*, *Dan. qvækker*, to croak.]

1. To cry like a duck or goose. *King.*

2. To boast; to bounce; to talk noisily and ostentatiously; as, pretenders to medical skill *quack* of their cures. *Hudibras.*

**QUACK**, *n.* [from the verb.] A boaster; one who pretends to skill or knowledge which he does not possess. *Felton.*

2. A boastful pretender to medical skill which he does not possess; an empiric; an ignorant practitioner. *Addison.*

**QUACK'ERY**, *n.* The boastful pretensions or mean practice of an ignoramus, particularly in medicine; empiricism.

**QUACK'ISH**, *a.* Like a quack; boasting of skill not possessed; trickish. *Burke.*

**QUACK'ISM**, *n.* The practice of quackery. *Ash.*

**QUACK'LED**, } *a.* Almost choked or suffocated.

**QUACK'ENED**, } *a.* focated.

**QUACK'SALVER**, *n.* [*Sw. quacksalvare*; *quack and salve*.]

One who boasts of his skill in medicines and salves, or of the efficacy of his prescriptions; a charlatan. *Brown. Burton.*

**QUAD**, *a.* [*D. kwaad*.] Evil; bad. [*Not used*.] *Gower.*

**QUAD'RAGENE**, *n.* [*L. quadrageni*.] A papal indulgence multiplying remissions by forties. *Taylor.*

**QUADRAGES'IMA**, *n.* [*L. quadragesimus*, fortieth, from *quatuor*, four.]

Lent; so called because it consists of forty days. *Encyc.*

**QUADRAGES'IMAL**, *a.* [*supra*.] Belonging to Lent; used in Lent. *Sanderson.*

**QUADRAGES'IMALS**, *n. plu.* [*supra*.] Offerings formerly made to the mother church on mid-lent Sunday.

**QUAD'ANGLE**, *n.* [*L. quadratus*, square, from *quatuor*, four, and *angulus*, angle.]

In geometry, a quadrilateral figure; a square; a figure consisting of four sides and four angles. *Encyc.*

**QUADRAN'GULAR**, *a.* [*supra*.] Square; having four sides and four angles. *Woodward.*

2. In botany, having four prominent angles, as a stem or leaf. *Martyn.*

**QUAD'RANT**, *n.* [*L. quadrans*, a fourth.]

1. The fourth part; the quarter. *Brown.*

2. In geometry, the quarter of a circle; the arc of a circle containing ninety degrees; also, the space or area included between this arc and two radii drawn from the center to each extremity. *Encyc.*

3. An instrument for taking the altitudes of the sun or stars, of great use in astronomy and navigation. Quadrants are variously made, but they all consist of the quarter of a circle whose limb is divided into ninety degrees; or, as in Hadley's reflecting quadrant, an arc of forty five degrees is made to serve the same purpose as an arc of ninety degrees.

*Quadrant of altitude*, an appendage of the artificial globe, consisting of a slip of brass of the length of a quadrant of one of the

great circles of the globe, and graduated. It is filled to the meridian and movable round to all points of the horizon. It serves as a scale in measuring altitudes, azimuths, &c. *Encyc.*

**QUADRANT'AL**, *a.* [*supra*.] Pertaining to a quadrant; also, included in the fourth part of a circle; as *quadrantal space*. *Derham.*

**QUADRANT'AL**, *n.* [*supra*.] A vessel used by the Romans; originally called *amphora*. It was square and contained 80 pounds of water. *Encyc.*

**QUAD'RAT**, *n.* [*L. quadratus*, squared.]

1. In printing, a piece of metal used to fill the void spaces between words, &c. Quadrats are of different sizes; as *quadrats*, &c.

2. A mathematical instrument, called also a geometrical square, and *line of shadows*. *Encyc.*

**QUAD'RATE**, *a.* Square; having four equal and parallel sides.

2. Divisible into four equal parts. *Brown.*

3. Square; equal; exact. *Hovell.*

4. Suited; fitted; applicable; correspondent. *Harvey.*

**QUAD'RATE**, *n.* A square; a surface with four equal and parallel sides. *Wotton. Milton.*

2. In astrology, an aspect of the heavenly bodies, in which they are distant from each other ninety degrees, or the quarter of a circle; the same as *quartile*. *Dict.*

**QUAD'RATE**, *v. i.* [*L. quadro*; *Fr. quadrer*, *cadrer*.]

To suit; to correspond; to agree with; to be accommodated; followed by *with*.

Aristotle's rules for epic poetry—cannot be supposed to *quadrare* exactly with modern heroic poems. *Addison.*

**QUADRAT'IC**, *a.* Square; denoting a square or pertaining to it.

*Quadratic equation*, in algebra, an equation in which the unknown quantity is of two dimensions, or raised to the second power; or one in which the highest power of the unknown quantity is a square. *Encyc. Bailey.*

**QUAD'RATRIX**, *n.* A square or squared figure. *Bailey.*

2. In geometry, a mechanical line by means of which we can find right lines equal to the circumference of circles or other curves and their several parts. *Encyc.*

**QUAD'RATURE**, *n.* [*L. quadratura*.] The act of squaring; the reducing of a figure to a square. Thus the finding of a square which shall contain just as much area as a circle or a triangle, is the *quadrature* of that circle or triangle. *Encyc.*

2. A quadrate; a square. *Milton.*

3. In astronomy, the aspect of the moon when distant from the sun 90 degrees or a quarter of the circle; or when the moon is at an equal distance from the points of conjunction and opposition.