

dwelling on each note. The ordinary or common *measure* is one second. *Encyc.*

12. In *poetry*, the measure or meter is the manner of ordering and combining the quantities, or the long and short syllables. Thus hexameter, pentameter, iambic, Sapphic verses, &c. consist of different *measures*. *Encyc.*

13. In *dancing*, the interval between steps, corresponding to the interval between notes in the music.

My legs can keep no *measure* in delight.

Shak.

14. In *geometry*, any quantity assumed as one or unity, to which the ratio of other homogeneous or similar quantities is expressed. *Encyc.*

15. Means to an end; an act, step or proceeding towards the accomplishment of an object; an *extensive signification of the word, applicable to almost every act preparatory to a final end, and by which it is to be attained*. Thus we speak of legislative *measures*, political *measures*, public *measures*, prudent *measures*, a rash *measure*, effectual *measures*, inefficient *measures*.

In *measure*, with moderation; without excess.

Without *measure*, without limits; very largely or copiously.

To have *hard measure*, to be harshly or oppressively treated.

Lineal or long measure, measure of length; the measure of lines or distances.

Liquid measure, the measure of liquors.

MEASURE, *v. t. mezh'ur*. To compute or ascertain extent, quantity, dimensions or capacity by a certain rule; as, to *measure* land; to *measure* distance; to *measure* the altitude of a mountain; to *measure* the capacity of a ship or of a cask.

2. To ascertain the degree of any thing; as, to *measure* the degrees of heat, or of moisture.

3. To pass through or over.

We must *measure* twenty miles to day.

Shak.

The vessel plows the sea,
And *measures* back with speed her former way.

Dryden.

4. To judge of distance, extent or quantity; as, to *measure* any thing by the eye.

Great are thy works, Jehovah, infinite
Thy power; what thought can *measure* thee?

Milton.

5. To adjust; to proportion.

To secure a contented spirit, *measure* your desires by your fortunes, not your fortunes by your desires.

Taylor.

6. To allot or distribute by measure.

With what *measure* ye mete, it shall be *measured* to you again. Matt. vii.

MEASURED, *pp. mezh'ured*. Computed or ascertained by a rule; adjusted; proportioned; passed over.

2. *a. Equal; uniform; steady*. He walked with *measured* steps.

MEASURELESS, *a. mezh'urless*. Without measure; unlimited; immeasurable.

Shak.

MEASUREMENT, *n. mezh'urment*. The act of measuring; mensuration. *Burke.*

MEASURER, *n. mezh'urer*. One who measures; one whose occupation or duty is to measure commodities in market.

MEASURING, *ppr. mezh'uring*. Computing or ascertaining length, dimensions, capacity or amount.

2. *a. A measuring* cast, a throw or cast that requires to be measured, or not to be distinguished from another but by measuring. *Waller.*

MEAT, *n. [Sax. mæc, mæc; Goth. mats; Sw. mat; Dan. mad; Hindoo, mas. In W. maethu signifies to feed, to nourish, Corn. methia. In the language of the Mohegans, in America, meetseh signifies, eat thou; meetsoo, he eats. Qu. matz and mast.]*

1. Food in general; any thing eaten for nourishment, either by man or beast.

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb—to you it shall be for *meat*. Gen. i. Every moving thing that liveth, shall be *meat* for you. Gen. ix.

Thy carcase shall be *meat* to all fowls of the air. Deut. xxviii.

2. The flesh of animals used as food. *This is now the more usual sense of the word.* The *meat* of carnivorous animals is tough, coarse and ill flavored. The *meat* of herbivorous animals is generally palatable.

3. In *Scripture*, spiritual food; that which sustains and nourishes spiritual life or holiness.

My flesh is *meat* indeed. John vi.

4. Spiritual comfort; that which delights the soul.

My *meat* is to do the will of him that sent me. John iv.

5. Products of the earth proper for food. Hab. iii.

6. The more abstruse doctrines of the gospel, or mysteries of religion. Heb. v.

7. Ceremonial ordinances. Heb. xiii.

To sit at *meat*, to sit or recline at the table.

Scripture.

ME/ATED, *a. Fed; fattened. [Not used.]* *Tusser.*

MEATHIE, *n. [W. mez. See Mead.]* Liquor or drink. *[Not used.]* *Milton.*

ME/AT-OFFERING, *n.* An offering consisting of meat or food.

ME/ATY, *a. Fleishy, but not fat. [Local.]* *Grose.*

MEAWL. [See Mead.]

ME/AZLING, *ppr.* Falling in small drops; properly mizzling, or rather mistling, from mist. *Arbuthnot.*

MECHAN/IC, } *[L. mechanicus; Fr. MECHAN/ICAL, } a. mechanique; Gr. μηχανικός, from μηχανή, a machine.]*

1. Pertaining to machines, or to the art of constructing machines; pertaining to the art of making wares, goods, instruments, furniture, &c. We say, a man is employed in *mechanical* labor; he lives by *mechanical* occupation.

2. Constructed or performed by the rules or laws of mechanics. The work is not *mechanical*.

3. Skilled in the art of making machines; bred to manual labor. *Johnson.*

4. Pertaining to artisans or mechanics; vulgar.

To make a god, a hero or a king,
Descend to a *mechanic* dialect.

Roscommon.

5. Pertaining to the principles of mechanics, in philosophy; as *mechanical* powers or forces; a *mechanical* principle.

6. Acting by physical power; as *mechanical* pressure.

The terms *mechanical* and *chimical*, are thus distinguished: those changes which bodies undergo without altering their constitution, that is, losing their identity, such as changes of place, of figure, &c. are *mechanical*; those which alter the constitution of bodies, making them different substances, as when flour, yeast and water unite to form bread, are *chimical*. In the one case, the changes relate to *masses* of matter, as the motions of the heavenly bodies, or the action of the wind on a ship under sail; in the other case, the changes occur between the *particles* of matter, as the action of heat in melting lead, or the union of sand and lime forming mortar. Most of what are usually called the *mechanic arts*, are partly *mechanical*, and partly *chimical*.

MECHAN/IC, *n.* A person whose occupation is to construct machines, or goods, wares, instruments, furniture, and the like.

2. One skilled in a mechanical occupation or art.

MECHAN/ICALLY, *adv.* According to the laws of mechanism, or good workmanship.

2. By physical force or power.

3. By the laws of motion, without intelligence or design, or by the force of habit. We say, a man arrives to such perfection in playing on an instrument, that his fingers move *mechanically*.

Mechanically turned or inclined, naturally or habitually disposed to use mechanical arts. *Swift.*

MECHAN/ICALNESS, *n.* The state of being mechanical, or governed by mechanism.

MECHAN/ICIAN, *n.* One skilled in mechanics.

MECHAN/ICS, *n.* That science which treats of the doctrines of motion. It investigates the forces by which bodies are kept either in equilibrium or in motion, and is accordingly divided into statics and dynamics.

A mathematical science which shows the effects of powers or moving forces, so far as they are applied to engines, and demonstrates the laws of motion. *Harris.*

It is a well known truth in *mechanics*, that the actual and theoretical powers of a machine will never coincide. *J. Appleton.*

MECHAN/ISM, *n.* The construction of a machine, engine or instrument, intended to apply power to a useful purpose; the structure of parts, or manner in which the parts of a machine are united to answer its design.

2. Action of a machine, according to the laws of mechanics.

MECHAN/IST, *n.* The maker of machines, or one skilled in mechanics.

MECH/LIN, *n.* A species of lace, made at Mechlin.

MECHO/ACAN, *n.* White jalap, the root of an American species of Convolvulus, from Mechoacan, in Mexico; a purgative of slow operation, but safe. *Encyc.*

MECO/NIATE, *n.* A salt consisting of meconic acid and a base.

MECON/IC, *a.* Meconic acid is an acid contained in opium.

MEC/ONITE, *n.* A small sandstone; ammite. *Core. De Costa.*