

Or is often used to express an alternative of terms, definitions or explanations of the same thing in different words. Thus we say, a thing is a square, *or* a figure under four equal sides and angles.

Or ever. In this phrase, *or* is supposed to be a corruption of *ere*, Sax. *ære*, before; that is, *before ever*.

OR, in heraldry, gold. [Fr. *or*, L. *aurum*.]

ORACH, } A plant of the genus *Atriplex*, used as a substitute for spinage. *Encyc.*

Wild *orach* is of the genus *Chenopodium*.

ORACLE, *n.* [Fr. from L. *oraculum*, from *oro*, to utter; Sp. *oraculo*; It. *oracolo*.]

1. Among pagans, the answer of a god or some person reputed to be a god, to an inquiry made respecting some affair of importance, usually respecting some future event, as the success of an enterprise or battle.

2. The deity who gave *or* was supposed to give answers to inquiries; as the Delphic *oracle*.

3. The place where the answers were given. *Encyc.*

4. Among christians, *oracles*, in the plural, denotes the communications, revelations or messages delivered by God to prophets. In this sense it is rarely used in the singular; but we say, the *oracles* of God, divine *oracles*, meaning the Scriptures.

5. The sanctuary or most holy place in the temple, in which was deposited the ark of the covenant. 1 Kings vi.

6. Any person or place where certain decisions are obtained. *Pope.*

7. Any person reputed uncommonly wise, whose determinations are not disputed, or whose opinions are of great authority.

8. A wise sentence or decision of great authority.

ORACLE, *v. i.* To utter oracles. *Milton.*

ORACULAR, } *a.* Uttering oracles; as an
ORACULOUS, } *oracular* tongue.

The *oraculous* seer. *Pope.*
2. Grave; venerable; like an oracle; as an *oracular* shade.

They have something venerable and *oracular* in that unadorned gravity and shortness in the expression. *Pope.*

3. Positive; authoritative; magisterial; as *oraculous* expressions of sentiments.

4. Obscure; ambiguous, like the oracles of pagan deities. *King.*

ORACULARLY, } *adv.* In the manner of
ORACULOUSLY, } an oracle.

2. Authoritatively; positively. *Burke.*

ORACULOUSNESS, *n.* The state of being *oracular*.

ORAISON, *n.* [Fr. *oraison*; L. *oratio*.] Prayer; verbal supplication or oral worship; now written *orison*. *Shak. Dryden.*

ORAL, *n.* [Fr. from L. *os*, *oris*, the mouth.] Uttered by the mouth or in words; spoken, not written; as *oral* traditions; *oral* testimony; *oral* law. *Addison.*

ORALLY, *adv.* By mouth; in words, without writing; as traditions derived *orally* from ancestors.

ORANGE, *n.* [Fr. from L. *aurantium*; so named from *aurum*, gold, which the or-

ange resembles in color; It. *arancio*; Sp. *naranja*; Port. *laranja*; D. *oranje*; G. *orange*.]

The fruit of a species of *Citrus* which grows in warm climates. The fruit is round and depressed; it has a rough rind, which when ripe is yellow. This contains a vesicular pulp inclosed in nine cells for seeds. The tree producing oranges grows to the height of ten or twelve feet and bears the same name.

ORANGE-MUSK, *n.* A species of pear.

ORANGE-PEEL, *n.* The rind of an orange separated from the fruit.

ORANGERY, *n.* [Fr. *orangerie*.] A plantation of orange trees. *Johnson.*

ORANGE-TAWNY, *a.* Of the color of an orange. *Bacon.*

ORANGE-WIFE, *n.* A woman that sells oranges.

ORANG-OU'TANG, *n.* The satyr or great ape (*Simia satyrus*), an animal with a flat face and deformed resemblance of the human form. These animals walk erect like man, feed on fruits, sleep on trees, and make a shelter against inclemencies of the weather. They grow to the height of six feet, are remarkably strong, and wield weapons with the hand. They are solitary animals, inhabiting the interior of Africa and the isles of Sumatra, Borneo and Java. *Encyc.*

The orang-outang is found only in S. Eastern Asia. The African animal resembling it, is the chimpanzee (*Simia troglodytes*). *Cuvier.*

ORATION, *n.* [L. *oratio*, from *oro*, to pray, to utter.]

1. A speech or discourse composed according to the rules of oratory, and spoken in public. Orations may be reduced to three kinds; demonstrative, deliberative, and judicial. *Encyc.*

2. In *modern usage*, an oration differs from a sermon, from an argument at the bar, and from a speech before a deliberative assembly. The word is now applied chiefly to discourses pronounced on special occasions, as a funeral *oration*, an *oration* on some anniversary, &c. and to academic declamations.

3. A harangue; a public speech or address.

ORATOR, *n.* [L.] A public speaker. In ancient Rome, orators were advocates for clients in the forum and before the senate and people. They were employed in causes of importance instead of the common patron. *Encyc.*

2. In *modern usage*, a person who pronounces a discourse publicly on some special occasion, as on the celebration of some memorable event.

3. An eloquent public speaker; a speaker, by way of eminence. We say, a man writes and reasons well, but is no *orator*. Lord Chatham was an *orator*.

4. In France, a speaker in debate in a legislative body.

5. In *chancery*, a petitioner.

6. An officer in the universities in England.

ORATORIAL, } Pertaining to an ora-
ORATORICAL, } tor or to oratory;
rhetorical; becoming an orator. We say, a man has many *oratorical* flourishes, or he speaks in an *oratorical* way. *Watts.*

ORATORIAL, } *adv.* In a rhetorical
ORATORICALLY, } manner.

ORATORIO, *n.* [It.] In Italian music, a sacred drama of dialogues, containing recitatives, duets, trios, ritornellos, choruses, &c. The subjects are mostly taken from the Scriptures. *Encyc.*

2. A place of worship; a chapel.

ORATORY, *n.* [Low L. *oratoria*, from *orator*.]

1. The art of speaking well, or of speaking according to the rules of rhetoric, in order to persuade. To constitute *oratory*, the speaking must be just and pertinent to the subject; it must be methodical, all parts of the discourse being disposed in due order and connection; and it must be embellished with the beauties of language and pronounced with eloquence. Oratory consists of four parts, *invention, disposition, elocution, and pronunciation*. *Encyc. Cyc.*

2. Exercise of eloquence. *Arbutnot.*

3. Among the Romanists, a close apartment near a bed-chamber, furnished with an altar, a crucifix, &c. for private devotions.

4. A place allotted for prayer, or a place for public worship. *Hooker. T aylor.*

ORATRESS, } *n.* A female orator. *Warner.*

ORATRIX, } *n.* A female orator. *Warner.*

ORB, *n.* [L. *orbis*; Fr. It. Sp. *orbe*.] A spherical body; as the celestial *orbs*.

2. In *astronomy*, a hollow globe or sphere. *Encyc.*

3. A wheel; a circular body that revolves or rolls: as the *orbs* of a chariot. *Milton.*

4. A circle; a sphere defined by a line; as, he moves in a larger *orb*.

5. A circle described by any mundane sphere; an orbit. *Holiday. Shak. Dryden.*

6. Period; revolution of time. *Shak.*

7. The eye. *Milton.*

8. In *tactics*, the circular form of a body of troops, or a circular body of troops. *Encyc.*

The ancient astronomers conceived the heavens as consisting of several vast azure transparent *orbs* or spheres inclosing one another, and including the bodies of the planets. *Hutton.*

ORB, *v. t.* To form into a circle. *Milton.*

ORBATE, *a.* [L. *orbatus*.] Bereaved; fatherless; childless.

ORBATIION, *n.* [L. *orbatio*, from *orbo*, to bereave.]

Privation of parents or children, or privation in general. [Not used.]

ORBED, *a.* Round; circular; orbicular. *Shak.*

2. Formed into a circle or round shape. *Milton.*

3. Rounded or covered on the exterior.

The wheels were *orbed* with gold. *Addison.*

ORBIC, *a.* Spherical. *Bacon.*

ORBICULAR, *a.* [Fr. *orbiculaire*, from L. *orbiculus*.] Spherical; circular; in the form of an orb. *Milton. Addison.*

ORBICULARLY, *adv.* Spherically.

ORBICULARNESS, *n.* Sphericity; the state of being orbicular.

ORBICULATE, } [L. *orbiculatus*.]
ORBICULATED, } *a.* Made or being in the form of an orb. In botany, an *orbicu-*