

and what the French call *etage*, we call a *story*. Hence,

1. A floor or platform of any kind elevated above the ground or common surface, as for an exhibition of something to public view; as a *stage* for a mountebank; a *stage* for speakers in public; a *stage* for mechanics. Seamen use floating *stages*, and *stages* suspended by the side of a ship, for caulking and repairing.
2. The floor on which theatrical performances are exhibited, as distinct from the pit, &c. Hence,
3. The theater; the place of scenic entertainments.

Knights, squires and steeds must enter on the stage. Pope.

4. Theatrical representations. It is contended that the *stage* is a school of morality. Let it be inquired, where is the person whom the *stage* has reformed?
5. A place where any thing is publicly exhibited.

When we are born, we cry that we are come To this great stage of fools. Shak.

6. Place of action or performance; as the *stage* of life.
7. A place of rest on a journey, or where a relay of horses is taken. When we arrive at the next *stage*, we will take some refreshment. Hence,
8. The distance between two places of rest on a road; as a *stage* of fifteen miles.
9. A single step; degree of advance; degree of progression, either in increase or decrease, in rising or falling, or in any change of state; as the several *stages* of a war; the *stages* of civilization or improvement; *stages* of growth in an animal or plant; *stages* of a disease, of decline or recovery; the several *stages* of human life.
10. [instead of *stage-coach*, or *stage-wagon*.] A coach or other carriage running regularly from one place to another for the conveyance of passengers.

I went in the six-penny stage. Swift.  
A parcel sent by the stage. Cowper.  
American usage.

STAGE, *v. t.* To exhibit publicly. [Not in use.] Shak.

STAGE-COACH, *n.* [*stage* and *coach*.] A coach that runs by stages; or a coach that runs regularly every day or on stated days, for the conveyance of passengers. Addison.

STAGELY, *a.* Pertaining to a stage; becoming the theater. [Little used.] Taylor.

STAGE-PLAY, *n.* [*stage* and *play*.] Theatrical entertainment. Dryden.

STAGE-PLAYER, *n.* An actor on the stage; one whose occupation is to represent characters on the stage. Garrick was a celebrated *stage-player*.

STAGER, *n.* A player. [Little used.]  
2. One that has long acted on the stage of life; a practitioner; a person of cunning; as an old cunning *stager*; an experienced *stager*; a *stager* of the wiser sort. Dryden.

[I do not recollect to have ever heard this word used in America.]

STAGERY, *n.* Exhibition on the stage. [Not in use.] Milton.

STAG-EVIL, *n.* A disease in horses.

STAG-GARD, *n.* [from *stag*.] A stag of four years of age. Dict.  
Ainsworth.

STAG-GER, *v. i.* [D. *staggeren*. Kiliaan.]  
1. To reel; to vacillate; to move to one side and the other in standing or walking; not to stand or walk with steadiness. Boyle.

Deep was the wound; he stagger'd with the blow. Dryden.

2. To fail; to cease to stand firm; to begin to give way.  
The enemy staggers. Addison.
3. To hesitate; to begin to doubt and waver in purpose; to become less confident or determined. Shak.

Abraham staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief. Rom. iv.

STAG-GER, *v. t.* To cause to reel. Shak.

2. To cause to doubt and waver; to make to hesitate; to make less steady or confident; to shock.

Whoever will read the story of this war, will find himself much staggered. Howell.

When a prince fails in honor and justice, it is enough to stagger his people in their allegiance. L'Estrange.

STAG-GERED, *pp.* Made to reel; made to doubt and waver.

STAG-GERING, *ppr.* Causing to reel, to waver or to doubt.

STAG-GERING, *n.* The act of reeling. Arbuthnot.

2. The cause of staggering.
- STAG-GERINGLY, *adv.* In a reeling manner.

2. With hesitation or doubt.

STAG-GERS, *n. plu.* A disease of horses and cattle, attended with reeling or giddiness; also, a disease of sheep, which inclines them to turn about suddenly. Cye.

2. Madness; wild irregular conduct. [Not in use.] Shak.

STAG-GER-WÖRT, *n.* A plant, ragwort.

STAG-NANCY, *n.* [See *Stagnant*.] The state of being without motion, flow or circulation, as in a fluid.

STAG-NANT, *a.* [L. *stagnans*, from *stagnare*, to be without a flowing motion, It. *stagnare*. Qu. W. *tagu*, to stop.]

1. Not flowing; not running in a current or stream; as a *stagnant* lake or pond; *stagnant* blood in the veins.

2. Motionless; still; not agitated; as water quiet and *stagnant*. Woodward.

The gloomy slumber of the *stagnant* soul. Johnson.

3. Not active; dull; not brisk; as, business is *stagnant*.

STAG-NATE, *v. i.* [L. *stagnare*, *stagnum*; It. *stagnare*.]

1. To cease to flow; to be motionless; as, blood *stagnates* in the veins of an animal; air *stagnates* in a close room.

2. To cease to move; not to be agitated. Water that *stagnates* in a pond or reservoir, soon becomes foul.

3. To cease to be brisk or active; to become dull; as, commerce *stagnates*; business *stagnates*.

STAG-NATION, *n.* The cessation of flowing or circulation of a fluid; or the state of being without flow or circulation; the state of being motionless; as the *stagna-*

*tion* of the blood; the *stagnation* of water or air; the *stagnation* of vapors.

2. The cessation of action or of brisk action; the state of being dull; as the *stagnation* of business. Addison.

STAG-WORM, *n.* An insect that is troublesome to deer.

STAG-YRITE, *n.* An appellation given to Aristotle from the place of his birth.

STALD, *pret.* and *pp.* of *stay*; so written for *stayed*.

2. *a.* [from *stay*, to stop.] Sober; grave; steady; composed; regular; not wild, volatile, flighty or fanciful; as *staid* wisdom.

To ride out with *staid* guides. Milton.

STA-IDNESS, *n.* Sobriety; gravity; steadiness; regularity; the opposite of *wildness*.

If he sometimes appears too gay, yet a secret gracefulness of youth accompanies his writings, though the *staidness* and sobriety of age be wanting. Dryden.

STAIN, *v. t.* [W. *ystaenaw*, to spread over, to stain; *ystaenw*, to cover with tin; *ystaen*, that is spread out, or that is sprinkled, a *stain*, tin, L. *stannum*; *taen*, a spread, a sprinkle, a layer; *taenu*, to spread, expand, sprinkle, or be scattered. This coincides in elements with Gr. *τείνω*. The French *teindre*, Sp. *teñir*, It. *tingere*, Port. *tingir*, to stain, are from the L. *tingo*, Gr. *τεγγω*, Sax. *dengan*, Eng. *dye*; a word formed by different elements. *Stain* seems to be from the Welsh, and if *taen* is not a contracted word, it has no connection with the Fr. *teindre*.]

1. To discolor by the application of foreign matter; to make foul; to spot; as, to *stain* the hand with dye; to *stain* clothes with vegetable juice; to *stain* paper; armor *stained* with blood.

2. To dye; to tinge with a different color; as, to *stain* cloth.

3. To impress with figures, in colors different from the ground; as, to *stain* paper for hangings.

4. To blot; to soil; to spot with guilt or infamy; to tarnish; to bring reproach on; as, to *stain* the character.

Of honor void, of innocence, of faith, of purity,

Our wonted ornaments now soil'd and stain'd— Milton.

STAIN, *n.* A spot; discoloration from foreign matter; as a *stain* on a garment or cloth.

2. A natural spot of a color different from the ground.

Swift trouts, diversified with crimson *stains*. Pope.

3. Taint of guilt; tarnish; disgrace; reproach; as the *stain* of sin.

Nor death itself can wholly wash their *stains*. Dryden.

Our opinion is, I hope, without any blemish or *stain* of heresy. Hooker.

4. Cause of reproach; shame.

Hereby I will lead her that is the praise and yet the *stain* of all womankind. Sidney.

STAINED, *pp.* Discolored; spotted; dyed; blotted; tarnished.

STAINER, *n.* One who stains, blots or tarnishes.

2. A dyer.