

va-mesell, or *man-mesell*, a woman or madam, seems to indicate that the first syllable is a prefix, and *mesell*, Eng. *miss*, a distinct word. But *damoiselle*, Norm. *dameille*, from which we have *damsel*, is doubtless from the Italian *dammigella*, a diminutive formed from *dama*, like the *L. domicitum*, from *domus*, and *periclitus*, from the root of *periclitus*. The Italian *dammigella*, in the masculine gender, shows the propriety of the ancient application of *damsel* to males.]

A young woman. Formerly, a young man or woman of noble or genteel extraction; as *Damsel* Pepin; *Damsel* Richard, prince of Wales. It is now used only of young women, and is applied to any class of young unmarried women, unless to the most vulgar, and sometimes to country girls.

With her train of *damsels* she was gone.

Dryden.

Then Boaz said, whose *damsel* is this? Ruth ii.

This word is rarely used in conversation, or even in prose writings of the present day; but it occurs frequently in the scriptures, and in poetry.

DAM-SON, *n.* *dam'zon*. [contracted from *damascene*, the Damascus plum.]

The fruit of a variety of the *Prunus domestica*; a small black plum.

DAN, *n.* [*Sp. don*. Qu. from *dominus*, or Ar.

דן to be chief, to judge, Heb. Ch.

Syr. Eth. *pn*. Class Dn. No. 2. 4.]

A title of honor equivalent to *master*; used by Shakespeare, Prior, &c., but now obsolete.

D'ANZER, *v. i.* *dans*. [Fr. *dansez*; Sp. *danzar*; Port. *dançar*; Arm. *dançol*; It. *danza*; G. *tanzen*; Sw. *danza*; Dan. *danse*; D. *dansen*; Basque *dantza*; Russ. *танцы*. Qu. the radical letters, and the Oriental דן, with a casual *n*.]

1. Primarily, to leap or spring; hence, to leap or move with measured steps, regulated by a tune, sung or played on a musical instrument; to leap or step with graceful motions of the body, corresponding with the sound of the voice or of an instrument.

There is a time to mourn, and a time to dance. Eccles. iii.

2. To leap and frisk about; to move nimbly or up and down.

To dance attendance, to wait with obsequiousness; to strive to please and gain favor by assiduous attentions and officious civilities; as, to dance attendance at court.

D'ANCE, *v. t.* To make to dance; to move up and down, or back and forth; to dandle; as, to dance a child on the knee.

Bacon.

D'ANCE, *n.* In a general sense, a leaping and frisking about. Appropriately, a leaping or stepping with motions of the body adjusted to the measure of a tune, particularly by two or more in concert. A lively brisk exercise or amusement, in which the movements of the persons are regulated by art, in figure, and by the sound of instruments, in measure.

2. A tune by which dancing is regulated, as the minuet, the waltz, the cotillon, &c.

D'ANCER, *n.* One who practices dancing, or is skillful in the performance.

D'ANCING, *ppr.* Leaping and stepping to the sound of the voice or of an instrument; moving in measured steps; frisking about.

DANCING-MASTER, *n.* One who teaches the art of dancing.

DANCING-SCHOOL, *n.* A school in which the art of dancing is taught.

DAN-DELION, *n.* [Fr. *dent de lion*, lion's tooth.]

A well known plant of the genus *Leontodon*, having a naked stalk, with one large flower.

DANDIPRAT, *n.* [Fr. *dandin*, a ninny; It. *dondolone*, a loiterer; *dondolo*, any thing swinging; *dondolare*, to swing, to loiter. The Sp. and Port. *tonto*, a dolt, may be of the same family. Qu. *prat*.]

A little fellow; an urchin; a word of fondness or contempt. Johnson.

DAN DLE, *v. t.* [G. *tandeln*, to toy, to trifle, to lounge, to dandle; Fr. *dandin*, to jog; It. *dondolare*, to swing, to loiter; Sp. and Port. *tontear*, to dote, to talk nonsense; Scot. *dandill*, *dander*. These words seem to be allied.]

1. To shake or jolt on the knee, as an infant; to move up and down in the hand; literally, to amuse by play.

Ye shall be dandled on her knees. Is. lxxvi.

2. To fondle; to amuse; to treat as a child; to toy with.

I am ashamed to be dandled thus. Addison.

3. To delay; to protract by trifles. Ohs. Spenser.

DANDED, *pp.* Danced on the knee, or in the arms; fondled; amused by trifles or play.

DANDLER, *n.* One who dandles or fondles children.

DANDLING, *ppr.* Shaking and jolting on the knee; moving about in play or for amusement, as an infant.

DANDRUFF, *n.* [Qu. Sax. *tan*, a scab, tetter, and *drof*, sordid; or Fr. *teigne*, Arm. *tign*, or *taign*.]

A scurf which forms on the head, and comes off in small scales or particles.

DANDY, *n.* [Qu. Scot. *dandie*. See *Dandiprat*.]

In modern usage, a male of the human species, who dresses himself like a doll, and who carries his character on his back.

DANDYISM, *n.* The manners and dress of a dandy.

DAN, *n.* A native of Denmark.

DAN-GELO, *n.* [*Dane* and *gelt*, *geld*, money.]

In England, an annual tax formerly laid on the English nation, for maintaining forces to oppose the Danes, or to furnish tribute to procure peace. It was at first one shilling, and afterwards two, for every hide of land, except such as belonged to the church. Encyc.

DAN-NEWORT, *n.* A plant of the genus *Sambucus*; a species of elder, called dwarf-elder or wall-wort.

DANGER, *n.* [Fr. Arm. Scot. *danger*; Norm. *dangerous*, dubious. This word in Scottish, according to Jamieson, signifies peril, power, or dominion, doubt, hesitation. In Chaucer, it signifies peril, and coyness, springiness or custody. In old

English laws, it denotes a payment in money by forest tenants, to their lord, for permission to plow and sow in the time of pannage or mast-feeding. The primary sense is not obvious. Spenser has the following couplet.

Valiant he should be as fire,

Showing danger more than fire.]

Peril; risk; hazard; exposure to injury, loss, pain or other evil.

Our craft is in danger to be set at naught.

Acts xiii.

It is easy to boast of despising death, when there is no danger.

DANGER, *v. t.* To put in hazard; to expose to loss or injury. Shak. But rarely used. [See *Endanger*, which is generally used.]

DANGERLESS, *a.* Free from danger; without risk. [Little used.] Sidney.

DANGEROUS, *a.* Perilous; hazardous; exposing to loss; unsafe; full of risk; as a dangerous voyage; a dangerous experiment.

2. Creating danger; causing risk of evil; as a dangerous man; a dangerous conspiracy.

DANGEROUSLY, *adv.* With danger; with risk of evil; with exposure to injury or ruin; hazardingly; perilously; as, to be dangerously sick; dangerously situated.

DANGEROUSNESS, *n.* Danger; hazard; peril; a state of being exposed to evil; as the dangerousness of condition, or disease.

DAN GLE, *v. i.* [Dan. *dangler*, to swing to and fro. Qu. *dandle* or Ch. Syr. *gn*.]

1. To hang loose, flowing, shaking or waving; to hang and swing.

He dangles on a glibset dangle. Hudibras.

2. To hang on any one; to be a humble, officious follower; with after or about; as, to dangle about a woman; to dangle after a minister for favors.

DANGLER, *n.* One who dangles or hangs about.

DANGLING, *ppr.* Hanging loosely; busily or officiously adhering to.

DANISH, *a.* Belonging to the Danes or Denmark.

DANISH, *n.* The language of the Danes.

DANK, *a.* [Qu. G. *tanken*, to dip.] Damp; moist; humid; wet.

DANK, *n.* Moisture; humidity.

Milton. Shak.

DANKISH, *a.* Somewhat damp.

DANKISHNESS, *n.* Dampness; humidity.

DAURITE, *n.* A mineral, called rubellite, resembling shorl, but differing from it in chemical characters. Its color is red of various shades. Cleveland.

DAP, *v. t.* [Goth. *dauppan*, to dip.] To drop or let fall into the water; a word used by anglers. Walton.

DAPHNATE, *n.* A compound of the bitter principle of the *Daphne Alpina* with a base.

DAPHNIN, *n.* The bitter principle of the *Daphne Alpina*, discovered by Vaquelin.

It is obtained in small crystals, hard, transparent, of a grayish color and a bitter taste.

DAPIFER, *n.* [L. *dapes*, feast, and *fero*, to bear.]

One who brings meat to the table. Formerly, the title or office of the grand-master of a king's household. It still subsists in Germany. Encyc.

DAPPER, *a.* [D. *dapper*, brave, valiant;