

ical orthography of *token*, for *zeichen* is the D. *teeken*, Dan. *tegn*, Sw. *tecken*, coinciding perhaps with Gr. *τεκεν*.]

1. A token; something by which another thing is shown or represented; any visible thing, any motion, appearance or event which indicates the existence or approach of something else. Thus we speak of *signs* of fair weather or of a storm, and of external marks which are *signs* of a good constitution.
2. A motion, action, nod or gesture indicating a wish or command.
They made *signs* to his father, how he would have him called. Luke i.
3. A wonder; a miracle; a prodigy; a remarkable transaction, event or phenomenon.
Through mighty *signs* and wonders. Rom. xv. Luke xxi.
4. Some visible transaction, event or appearance intended as proof or evidence of something else; hence, proof; evidence by sight.
Show me a *sign* that thou talkest with me. Judges vi.
5. Something hung or set near a house or over a door, to give notice of the tenant's occupation, or what is made or sold within; as a trader's *sign*; a tailor's *sign*; the *sign* of the eagle.
6. A memorial or monument; something to preserve the memory of a thing.
What time the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men, and they became a *sign*. Num. xxvi.
7. Visible mark or representation; as an outward *sign* of an inward and spiritual grace.
8. A mark of distinction.
9. Typical representation.

The holy symbols or *signs* are not barely significative. Breckenwood.

10. In *astronomy*, the twelfth part of the ecliptic. The *signs* are reckoned from the point of intersection of the ecliptic and equator at the vernal equinox, and are named respectively, Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricornus, Aquarius, Pisces. These names are borrowed from the constellations of the zodiac of the same denomination, which were respectively comprehended within the foregoing equal divisions of the ecliptic, at the time when those divisions were first made; but on account of the precession of the equinoxes, the positions of these constellations in the heavens no longer correspond with the divisions of the ecliptic of the same name, but are considerably in advance of them. Thus the constellation Aries, is now in that part of the ecliptic called Taurus.
11. In *algebra*, a character indicating the relation of quantities, or an operation performed by them; as the sign $+$ plus prefixed to a quantity, indicates that the quantity is to be added; the sign $-$ minus, denotes that the quantity to which it is prefixed is to be subtracted. The former is prefixed to quantities called *affirmative* or *positive*; the latter to quantities called *negative*.
12. The subscription of one's name; signature; as a *sign* manual.

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13. Among *physicians*, an appearance or symptom in the human body, which indicates its condition as to health or disease.
14. In *music*, any character, as a flat, sharp, dot, &c.

SIGN, v. t. sine. To mark with characters or one's name. To *sign* a paper, note, deed, &c. is to write one's name at the foot, or underneath the declaration, promise, covenant, grant, &c., by which the person makes it his own act. To *sign* one's name, is to write or subscribe it on the paper. Signing does not now include sealing.

2. To signify; to represent typically. [Not in use.] Taylor.
3. To mark.

SIGN, v. i. To be a sign or omen. [Not in use.] Shak.

SIGNAL, n. [Fr. *signal*; Sp. *señal*; from L. *signum*.]

A sign that gives or is intended to give notice; or the notice given. Signals are used to communicate notice, information, orders and the like, to persons at a distance, and by any persons and for any purpose. A signal may be a motion of the hand, the raising of a flag, the firing of a gun, or any thing which, being understood by persons at a distance, may communicate notice.

Signals are particularly useful in the navigation of fleets and in naval engagements. There are *day-signals*, which are usually made by the sails, by flags and pendants, or guns; *night-signals*, which are lanterns disposed in certain figures, or false fires, rockets, or the firing of guns; *fog-signals*, which are made by sounds, as firing of guns, beating of drums, ringing of bells, &c. There are signals of evolution, addressed to a whole fleet, to a division or to a squadron; signals of movements to particular ships; and signals of service, general or particular. Signals used in an army are mostly made by a particular beat of the drum, or by the bugle.

Mar. Dict. Encyc.

SIGNAL, a. Eminent; remarkable; memorable; distinguished from what is ordinary; as a *signal* exploit; a *signal* service; a *signal* act of benevolence. It is generally but not always used in a good sense.

SIGNALITY, n. Quality of being signal or remarkable. [Not in use.] Brown.

SIGNALIZE, v. t. [from *signal*.] To make remarkable or eminent; to render distinguished from what is common. The soldier who *signalizes* himself in battle, merits his country's gratitude. Men may *signalize* themselves, their valor or their talents.

SIGNALIZED, pp. Made eminent.

SIGNALIZING, ppr. Making remarkable.

SIGNALLY, adv. Eminently; remarkably; memorably; in a distinguished manner.

SIGNATION, n. Sign given; act of betokening. [Not in use.]

SIGNATORY, a. Relating to a seal; used in sealing. Dict

SIGNATURE, n. [Fr. from L. *signo*, to sign.]

1. A sign, stamp or mark impressed.

The brain being well furnished with various traces, *signatures* and images— Watts.

The natural and idoleble *signature* of God, stamped on the human soul. Bentley.

2. In *old medical writers*, an external mark or character on a plant, which was supposed to indicate its suitability to cure particular diseases, or diseases of particular parts. Thus plants with yellow flowers were supposed to be adapted to the cure of the jaundice, &c.

Some plants bear a very evident *signature* of their nature and use. More.

3. A mark for proof, or proof from marks.
4. *Sign* manual; the name of a person written or subscribed by himself.
5. Among *printers*, a letter or figure at the bottom of the first page of a sheet or half sheet, by which the sheets are distinguished and their order designated, as a direction to the binder. Every successive sheet has a different letter or figure, and if the sheets are more numerous than the letters of the alphabet, then a small letter is added to the capital one; thus Aa, Bb. In large volumes, the signatures are sometimes composed of letters and figures; thus 5A, 5B. But some printers now use figures only for signatures.
6. In *physiognomy*, an external mark or feature by which some persons pretend to discover the nature and qualities of a thing, particularly the temper and genius of persons.

SIGNATURE, v. t. To mark; to distinguish. [Not in use.] Cheyne.

SIGNATURIST, n. One who holds to the doctrine of signatures impressed upon objects, indicative of character or qualities. [Little used.] Brown.

SIGNER, n. One that signs or subscribes his name; as a memorial with a hundred *signers*.

SIGNET, n. A seal; particularly in Great Britain, the seal used by the king in sealing his private letters, and grants that pass by bill under his majesty's hand.

SIGNIFICANCE, } [from L. *significans*.]

SIGNIFICANCY, } ^u. See *Signify*.]

1. Meaning; import; that which is intended to be expressed; as the *significance* of a nod, or of a motion of the hand, or of a word or expression. Stillingfleet.
2. Force; energy; power of impressing the mind; as a duty enjoined with particular *significance*. Albury.
3. Importance; moment; weight; consequence.

Many a circumstance of less *significancy* has been construed into an overt act of high treason. Addison.

SIGNIFICANT, a. [L. *significans*.] Expressive of something beyond the external mark.

2. Bearing a meaning; expressing or containing signification or sense; as a *significant* word or sound; a *significant* look.
3. Betokening something; standing as a sign of something.

It was well said of Plotinus, that the stars were *significant*, but not efficient.

Raleigh.

4. Expressive or representative of some fact or event. The passover among the Jews was *significant* of the escape of the Israelites from the destruction which fell