

CASUISTRY, *n.* The science or doctrine of cases of conscience; the science of resolving cases of doubtful propriety, or of determining the lawfulness or unlawfulness of what a man may do, by rules and principles drawn from the scriptures, from the laws of society, or from equity and natural reason. *Pope.*

Causa federis. [*L.*] The case stipulated by treaty; that which comes within the terms of compact. *Law of Nations.*

CAT, *n.* [*l. cat*; *Fr. chat*; *D. kat*; *Dan. kat*; *Sw. katt*; *G. kater*, or *katz*; *L. catus*; *Vulgar Greek, xoris*, or *yoris*; *It. gatto*; *Port. and Sp. gato*; *Lap. id.*; *Pol. kot*; *Russ. kosh*; *Turkish keti*; *W. cath*; *Corn. kath*; *Arm. goz* or *kaz*; *Basque catua*.]

In *Ar. l.* *kitta*, is a male cat. Class *Gd.*

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1. A name applied to certain species of carnivorous quadrupeds, of the genus *Felis*. The domestic cat needs no description. It is a deceitful animal, and when enraged, extremely spiteful. It is kept in houses, chiefly for the purpose of catching rats and mice. The wild cat is much larger than the domestic cat. It is a strong, ferocious animal, living in the forest, and very destructive to poultry and lambs.

The wild cat of Europe is of the same species with the domestic cat; the catamount, of N. America, is much larger and a distinct species. *Ed. Encyc.*

2. A ship formed on the Norwegian model, having a narrow stern, projecting quarters, and a deep waist. It is strong built, from four to six hundred tons burthen, and employed in the coal trade.

3. A strong tackle or combination of pulleys, to hook and draw an anchor perpendicularly up to the cat-head of a ship.

4. A double tripod having six feet. *Cat of nine tails*, an instrument of punishment, consisting of nine pieces of line or cord fastened to a piece of thick rope, and having three knots at intervals, used to flog offenders on board of ships.

CATAMOUNT, *n.* Cat of the mountain, the wild cat.

CAT-BLOCK, *n.* A two or three fold block with an iron strop and large hook, used to draw up an anchor to the cat-head.

Mar. Dict.
CAT'S-EYE, *n.* Sun-stone, a subspecies of quartz, called in Latin *oculus cati* or *onyxopulus*, from its white zones or rings like onyx, and its variable colors like opal. It is very hard and semitransparent, and from certain points exhibits a yellowish radiation, or chatoyant appearance, somewhat resembling a cat's eye. *Encyc. Cleaveland.*

CAT-EYED, *a.* Having eyes like a cat.

Dryden.
CAT-FISH, *n.* A species of the Squales, or shark. The cat-fish of the N. American rivers is a species of *Cottus*, or bull-head.

CAT'S-FOOT, *n.* A plant of the genus *Glechoma*, ground ivy, or gill.

CAT-GUT, *n.* The intestines of sheep or lambs, dried and twisted together, used as strings for violins and other instruments, and for other purposes. Great quantities are imported from Lyons and Italy.

CAT-HARPINGS, *n.* Ropes serving to

brace in the shrouds of the lower masts behind their respective yards, to tighten the shrouds and give more room to draw in the yards, when the ship is close hauled.

Mar. Dict.
CAT-HEAD, *n.* A strong beam projecting horizontally over a ship's bows, carrying two or three sheaves, about which a rope called the *cat-fall* passes, and communicates with the cat-block. *Mar. Dict.*

CAT'S-HEAD, *n.* A kind of apple.

CAT-HOOK, *n.* A strong hook fitted to the cat-block. *Mar. Dict.*

CAT-MINT, *n.* A plant of the genus *Nepeta*, so called because cats eat it.

CAT'S-PAW, *n.* Among seamen, a light air perceived in a calm, by a rippling of the surface of the water; also, a particular turn in the bight of a rope, made to hook a tackle on. *Mar. Dict.*

2. A dupe; the instrument which another uses.

CAT-SALT, *n.* A sort of salt beautifully granulated, formed out of the bitter or leach-brine, used for making hard soap.

CAT-SILVER, *n.* A fossil, a species of mica.

CAT-TAIL, *n.* [*cat* and *tail*.] A species of reed, of the genus *Typha*, the downy substance of which is used for stuffing mattresses, &c. *Bailey.*

2. A substance growing on nut-trees, pines, &c. *Bailey.*
CATABAPTIST, *n.* [*Gr. xara* and *baptizō*.] One who opposes baptism. *Featley.*

CATACAUSTIC, *a.* [*Gr. κατακαυστικός*, a burning.] Catacaustic curves, in geometry, are that species of caustic curves, which are formed by reflection. *Bailey. Encyc.*

CATACHRE/SIS, *n.* [*Gr. καταχρησμός*, abuse, from *xara*, against, and *χρησμός*, to use.] An abuse of a trope or of words; a figure in rhetoric, when one word is abusively put for another, or when a word is too far wrested from its true signification; as, a voice beautiful to the ear.

Smith. Bailey. Johnson.
A catachresis is a trope which borrows the name of one thing to express another, or a harsh trope; as when Milton, speaking of Raphael's descent from heaven, says, he "sails between worlds and worlds." Here the novelty of the word *sails* enlivens the image. So in scripture we read of the "blood of the grape." *Deut. xxxii.*

CATACHRES/TIC, *a.* Belonging to **CATACHRESTICAL**, *a.* a catachresis; forced; far-fetched; wrested from its natural sense. *Johnson. Brown.*

CATACHRESTICALLY, *adv.* In a forced manner. *Everlyn.*

CATACLYSM, *n.* [*Gr. κατακλυσμός*, a deluge, from *κατακλύνω*, to inundate.]

A deluge, or overflowing of water; particularly, the flood in Noah's days. [*Little used.*] *Hall.*

CATACOMB, *n.* [probably from *Gr. xara*, and *καμβός*, a hollow or recess.]

A cave, grotto or subterraneous place for the burial of the dead. It is said to have been originally applied to the chapel of St. Sebastian in Rome, where the ancient Roman Calendar says, the body of St. Peter was deposited. It is now applied to a vast number of subterraneous sepulchres, about

three miles from Rome, in the Appian way; supposed to be the cells and caves in which the primitive christians concealed themselves, and in which were deposited the bodies of the primitive martyrs. These are visited by devout people, and relics are taken from them, baptized by the Pope and dispersed through Catholic countries. Each catacomb is three feet broad and eight or ten high; along the side walls are sepulchral niches, closed with thick tiles or pieces of marble. Catacombs are found also at Naples and in other places. *Encyc.*

CATACOUS/TICS, *n.* [*Gr. κατακουστικός*, to hear.]

That part of acoustics or the doctrine of sounds, which treats of reflected sounds. But the distinction is deemed of little use.

Encyc.
CATADIOPTRIC, *a.* [*Gr. xara*, and *καταδιόπτρις*, to see through.] Reflecting light.

CAT'ADUPE, *n.* [*Gr. xara*, and *δυνάμις*, to sound.]

A cataract or waterfall. [*Not in use.*] *Brewer.*

CATAGMAT'IC, *a.* [*Gr. καταγματικός*, a fragment.]

That has the quality of consolidating broken parts; promoting the union of fractured bones. *Wiseman. Core.*

CAT'AGRAFH, *n.* [*Gr. xara*, and *γραφω*, to describe.]

The first draught of a picture; also, a profile. *Chambers.*

CATALEC'TIC, *a.* [*Gr. xara*, and *καταλείω*.] Pertaining to metrical composition, or to measure. *Tyrwhitt.*

Catalectic verses, are such as want either feet or syllables. *Cyc.*

CATALEP'SIS, *n.* [*Gr. καταληψίς*, a seizing.] **CATALEP'SY**, *n.* ing, from *καταλαμβάνω*, to take, seize, or invade.]

A sudden suppression of motion and sensation, a kind of apoplexy, in which the patient is speechless, senseless, and fixed in one posture, with his eyes open, without seeing or understanding. The word is applied also to a retention of the breath or of the humors, and to the interception of the blood by bandages. *Encyc. Core.*

CATALEP'TIC, *a.* Pertaining to catalepsy. **CATALOGIZE**, *v. t.* To insert in a catalogue. [*Not used.*] *Coles.*

CATALOGUE, *n.* *kat'alog*. [*Gr. καταλόγος*; *xara* and *λογος*, according to words.]

A list or enumeration of the names of men or things disposed in a certain order, often in alphabetical order; as a catalogue of the students of a college, or of books, or of the stars.

CATALOGUE, *v. t.* [*as above.*] To make a list of. *Herbert.*

CATAL'PA, *n.* A large tree of Carolina and the South, which in blossom has a beautiful appearance. It belongs to the genus *Bignonia*, or trumpet flower. *Drayton. Encyc.*

CATALYSIS, *n.* [*Gr. καταλύσις*.] Dissolution. [*Little used.*] *Taylor.*

CATAMENIAL, *a.* [*Gr. καταμηνίος*; *xara* and *μήν*, a month.]

Pertaining to the catamenia, or menstrual discharge.