

BACK'ED, *pp.* Mounted; having on the back; supported by aid; seconded; moved backward.

BACK'ED, *a.* Having a back; a word used in composition; as *broad-backed*, *hump-backed*.

BACK-FRIEND, *n.* [*back and friend*.] A secret enemy. *South.*

BACKGAMMON, *n.* [*W. bac, small, and gammann, conflict, battle; camp, a game*.] A game played by two persons, upon a table, with box and dice. The table is in two parts, on which are 24 black and white spaces, called points. Each player has 15 men of different colors for the purpose of distinction. *Encyc.*

BACK/GROUND, *n.* [*back and ground*.] Ground in the rear or behind, as opposed to the front.

2. A place of obscurity, or shade; a situation little seen, or noticed.

BACK/HANDED, *a.* [*back and hand*.] With the hand turned backward; as a *backhanded blow*.

BACK/HANDED, *adv.* With the hand directed backward; as, to strike *backhanded*.

BACK/HOUSE, *n.* [*back and house*.] A building behind the main or front building.

BACK/ING, *ppr.* Mounting; moving back, as a horse; seconding.

BACK/PAINTING, *n.* [*back and paint*.] The method of painting mezzotinto prints, pasted on glass of a size to fit the print. *Encyc.*

BACK/PIECE, *n.* [*back and piece*.] The piece of armor which covers the back.

BACK/RETURN, *n.* Repeated return. *Shak.*

BACK/ROOM, *n.* [*back and room*.] A room behind the front room, or in the back part of the house.

BACKS, *n.* Among dealers in leather, the thickest and best tanned hides. *Encyc.*

BACK/SET, *a.* [*back and set*.] Set upon in the rear. *Anderson.*

BACK/SIDE, *n.* [*back and side*.] The back part of any thing; the part behind that which is presented to the face of a spectator. *Ex. iii.*

2. The hind part of an animal.

3. The yard, ground or place behind a house.

BACKSLIDE, *v. i.* [*back and slide*.] To fall off; to apostatize; to turn gradually from the faith and practice of christianity. *Jer. iii. Hos. iv.*

BACKSLID, *n.* An apostate; one who falls from the faith and practice of religion. *Prov. xiv.*

2. One who neglects his vows of obedience and falls into sin.

BACKSLIDING, *n.* The act of apostatizing from faith or practice; a falling in sensibly from religion into sin or idolatry. *Jer. v. 6.*

BACK/STAFF, *n.* [*back and staff*, so called from its being used with the observer's back toward the sun.]

A quadrant; an instrument for taking the sun's altitude at sea; called also, from its inventor, Davis's quadrant. *Encyc.*

BACK/STAIRS, *n.* [*back and stairs*.] Stairs in the back part of a house; private stairs; and *figuratively*, a private or indirect way.

BACK-STAYS, *n.* [*back and stay*.] Long ropes or stays extending from the topmast leads to both sides of a ship, to assist the shrouds in supporting the mast, when strained by a weight of sail, and prevent it from giving way and falling overboard. *Mar. Dict.*

BACK/SWORD, *n.* [*back and sword*.] A sword with one sharp edge. In England, a stick with a basket handle used in rustic amusements. *Arbuthnot.*

BACK/WARD, *{* [*back and ward*. See **BACK/WARDS**, *{* *adv.* *Ward.* With the back in advance; as, to move *backward*.

2. Toward the back; as, to throw the arms *backward*; to move *backwards* and *forwards*.

3. On the back, or with the back downwards; as, to fall *backward*.

4. Toward past times or events; as to look *backward* on the history of man.

5. By way of reflection; reflexively. *Davies.*

6. From a better to a worse state; as, public affairs *go backward*.

7. In time past; as, let us look some ages *backward*.

8. Perversely; from a wrong end.

I never yet saw man but she would spell him *backward*. *Shak.*

9. Towards the beginning; in an order contrary to the natural order; as, to read *backward*.

10. In a scriptural sense, to go or turn *backward*, is to rebel, apostatize, or relapse into sin, or idolatry. *Is. i.*

11. Contrarily; in a contrary manner. *Swift.*

To be driven or turned *backward*, is to be defeated, or disappointed. *Ps. xl.*

To turn *backward*, is to pervert justice and laws. *Is. lix.*

BACKWARD, *a.* Unwilling; averse; reluctant; hesitating.

For wiser brutes are *backward* to be slaves. *Pope.*

2. Slow; sluggish; dilatory.

The mind is *backward* to undergo the fatigue of weighing every argument. *Watts.*

3. Dull; not quick of apprehension; behind in progress; as a *backward learner*.

4. Late; behind in time; coming after something else, or after the usual time; as *backward fruits*; the season is *backward*.

BACKWARD, *n.* The things or state behind or past.

In the dark *backward* or abyss of time. *Shak.*

[*Not proper, nor in use.*]

BACK/WARDLY, *adv.* Unwillingly; reluctantly; aversely; perversely.

BACKWARDNESS, *n.* Unwillingness; reluctance; dilatoriness, or dullness in action.

2. A state of being behind in progress; slowness; tardiness; as the *backwardness* of the spring.

BACK/WORM, *n.* [*back and worm*.] A small worm, in a thin skin, in the reins of a hawk. [*See Filanders.*] *Encyc.*

BA'CON, *n.* *ba'kn.* [*W. bacun; Ir. bogun.* In old charts, *boca. Conel.* In Ger. *bahe*, is a wild sow.]

Hog's flesh, salted or pickled and dried, usually in smoke.

To save one's *bacon*, is to preserve one's self from harm.

BACULI, *n.* [*Fr. bacule*.] In fortification, a kind of portcullis or gate, made like a pit-fall, with a counterpoise, and supported by two great stakes. *Encyc.*

BACULITE, *n.* [*L. baculus*.] A genus of fossil shells, of a straight form, in their cellular structure resembling the ammonites. *Edin. Encyc.*

BACULOM-ETRY, *n.* [*L. baculus, a staff, and Gr. metron, measure*.] The act of measuring distance or altitude by a staff or staves. *Bailey. Johnson.*

BAD, *a.* [*Pers. بد bad, evil, depraved; al-* lied perhaps to Ar. باد *bad*; Heb. Ch. Syr. *Sam. ܒܕܐ to perish or destroy.*]

1. Ill; evil; opposed to good; a word of general use, denoting physical defects and moral faults, in men and things; as a *bad man*, a *bad heart*, a *bad design*, *bad air*, *bad water*, *bad books*.

2. Vicious; corrupt; depraved, in a moral sense; as a *bad life*; a *bad action*.

3. Unwholesome; as *bad provisions*.

4. Unfortunate; unprosperous; as a *bad state of affairs*.

5. Unskillful; as a *bad player*.

6. Small; poor; as a *bad crop*.

7. Infirm; as a *bad state of health*.

8. Feeble, corrupt, or oppressive; as a *bad government*.

9. Hurtful; pernicious; as, fine print is *bad* for the eyes.

10. Unfavorable; as a *bad season*.

11. Poor; stori; as a *bad soil*.

12. Rough or muddy; as a *bad road*.

In short, *bad* expresses whatever is injurious, hurtful, inconvenient, unlawful or immoral; whatever is offensive, painful or unfavorable; or what is defective.

BAD, BADE, the past tense of *bid*. [*See Bid.*]

BADGE, *n.* [I know not the affinities of this word, not having found it in any other language. Probably it belongs to class *Bg.*]

1. A mark, sign, token or thing, by which a person is distinguished, in a particular place or employment, and designating his relation to a person or to a particular occupation; as the *badge of authority*.

2. The mark or token of any thing; as the *badge of bitterness*. *Shak.*

3. An ornament on ships, near the stern, decorated with figures.

BADGE, *v. t.* To mark, or distinguish with a badge. *Shak.*

BADGER, *n.* [*Qu. badge, supra; or Sax. bygan, bygan, to buy; Norm. bugge.*]

In law, a person who is licensed to buy corn in one place and sell it in another, without incurring the penalties of engrossing. *Conel.*

BADG'ER, *n.* A quadruped of the genus *Ursus*, of a clumsy make, with short, thick legs, and long claws on the fore feet. It inhabits the north of Europe and Asia, burrows, is indolent and sleepy, feeds by night on vegetables, and is very fat. Its skin is used for pistol furniture; its flesh makes good bacon, and its hair is used for brushes to soften the shades in painting. *Encyc.*