

To come to light, to be detected; to be discovered or found.

LIGHT, *a. lite*. Bright; clear; not dark or obscure; as, the morning is *light*; the apartment is *light*.

2. In *colors*, white or whitish; as a *light* color; a *light* brown; a *light* complexion.

LIGHT, *a. lite*. [Sax. *liht*, *leoht*; D. *ligt*; G. *leicht*; Fr. *leger*; It. *leggiere*; Port. *ligeiro*; Sp. *ligero*; Russ. *legket*; Sans. *leka*. The Sw. *lätt*, Dan. *let*, may be contractions of the same word. The Slavonic also has *lehek* and *legok*. Qu. L. *alacer*. This word accords with *light*, the fluid, in orthography, and may be from the same radix.]

1. Having little weight; not tending to the center of gravity with force; not heavy. A fether is *light*, compared with lead or silver; but a thing is *light* only comparatively. That which is *light* to a man, may be heavy to a child. A *light* burden for a camel, may be insupportable to a horse.

2. Not burdensome; easy to be lifted, borne or carried by physical strength; as a *light* burden, weight or load.

3. Not oppressive; easy to be suffered or endured; as a *light* affliction. 2 Cor. iv.

4. Easy to be performed; not difficult; not requiring great strength or exertion. The task is *light*; the work is *light*.

5. Easy to be digested; not oppressive to the stomach; as *light* food. It may signify also, containing little nutriment.

6. Not heavily armed, or armed with light weapons; as *light* troops; a troop of *light* horse.

7. Active; swift; nimble.

Asahel was as *light* of foot as a wild roe. 2 Sam. ii.

8. Not encumbered; unembarrassed; clear of impediments.

Unmarried men are best masters, but not best subjects; for they are *light* to run away. Bacon.

9. Not laden; not deeply laden; not sufficiently ballasted. The ship returned *light*.

10. Slight; trifling; not important; as a *light* error. Boyle.

11. Not dense; not gross; as *light* vapors; *light* fumes. Dryden.

12. Small; inconsiderable; not copious or vehement; as a *light* rain; a *light* snow.

13. Not strong; not violent; moderate; as a *light* wind.

14. Easy to admit influence; inconsiderate; easily influenced by trifling considerations; unsteady; unsettled; volatile; as a *light*, vain person; a *light* mind.

There is no greater argument of a *light* and inconsiderate person, than profanely to scoff at religion. Tillotson.

15. Gay; airy; indulging levity; wanting dignity or solidity; trifling.

Seneca cannot be too heavy, nor Plautus too *light*. Shak.

We may neither be *light* in prayer, nor wrathful in debate. J. M. Mason.

16. Wanton; unchaste; as a woman of *light* carriage.

A *light* wife doth make a heavy husband. Shak.

17. Not of legal weight; clipped; diminished; as *light* coin.

To set *light* by, to undervalue; to slight; to treat as of no importance; to despise.

To make *light* of, to treat as of little consequence; to slight; to disregard.

LIGHT, *v. t. lite*. To kindle; to inflame; to set fire to; as, to *light* a candle or lamp; sometimes with *up*; as, to *light up* an extinguishable flame. We often hear *lit* used for *lighted*, as, he *lit* a candle; but this is inelegant.

2. To give light to.

Ah hopeless, lasting flames! like those that burn

To *light* the dead— Pope.

3. To illuminate; to fill or spread over with light; as, to *light* a room; to *light* the streets of a city.

4. To lighten; to ease of a burden. [Not in use. See *Lighten*.] Spenser.

LIGHT, *v. i. lite*. [Sax. *lihtan*, *alihtan*, *gelihtan*, to *light* or kindle, to *lighten* or alleviate, and to *alight*; *hlihtan*, to *alight*; D. *lichten*, to shine; *ligten*, to heave or lift; G. *lichten*, to weigh, to lighten.]

1. To fall on; to come to by chance; to happen to find; with *on*.

A weaker man may sometimes *light on* notions which had escaped a wiser. Watts.

2. To fall on; to strike.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun *light on* them, nor any heat. Rev. vii.

3. To descend, as from a horse or carriage; with *down*, *off*, or *from*.

He *lighted down* from his chariot. 2 Kings v. She *lighted off* the camel. Gen. xxiv.

4. To settle; to rest; to stoop from flight. The bee *lights on* this flower and that.

LIGHT-ARMED, *a*. Armed with light weapons.

LIGHT-BEARER, *n*. A torch-bearer.

B. Jonson.

LIGHT-BRAIN, *n*. An empty headed person. Martin.

LIGHTED, *pp. li'ted*. Kindled; set on fire; caused to burn. [*Lit*, for *lighted*, is inelegant.]

LIGHTEN, *v. i. li'tn*. [from *light*, the fluid; Sax. *lihtan*.]

1. To flash; to burst forth or dart, as lightning; to shine with an instantaneous illumination.

This dreadful night

That thunders, *lightens*, opens graves, and roars As doth the lion. Shak.

2. To shine like lightning. Shak.

3. To fall; to light. Obs.

LIGHTEN, *v. t. li'tn*. To dissipate darkness; to fill with light; to spread over with light; to illuminate; to enlighten; as, to *lighten* an apartment with lamps or gas; to *lighten* the streets.

A key of fire ran all along the shore.

And *lightened* all the river with a blaze. Dryden.

2. To illuminate with knowledge; in a moral sense.

A light to *lighten* the Gentiles. Luke ii.

3. To free from trouble and fill with joy.

They looked to him and were *lightened*. Ps. xxxiv.

LIGHTEN, *v. t. li'tn*. [from *light*, not heavy; Sax. *lihtan*.]

1. To make lighter; to reduce in weight; to make less heavy; as, to *lighten* a ship by unloading; to *lighten* a load or burden.

2. To alleviate; to make less burdensome or afflictive; as, to *lighten* the cares of life; to *lighten* the burden of grief.

3. To cheer; to exhilarate.

He *lightens* my humor with his merry jest. Shak.

LIGHTER, *n. li'ter*. One that lights; as a *lighter* of lamps.

2. A large open flat-bottomed boat, used in loading and unloading ships.

LIGHTERMAN, *n. li'terman*. A man who manages a *lighter*; a boatman.

LIGHTFINGERED, *a. li'tefingered*. Dextrous in taking and conveying away; thievish; addicted to petty thefts.

LIGHTFOOT, *a. li'tefoot*, } Nimble

LIGHTFOOTED, *a. li'tefooted*, } in running or dancing; active. [Little used.] Spenser.

LIGHTHEADED, *a.* [See *Head*.] Thoughtless; heedless; weak; volatile; unsteady. Clarendon.

2. Disordered in the head; dizzy; delirious.

LIGHTHEADEDNESS, *n*. Disorder of the head; dizziness; deliriousness.

LIGHTHEARTED, *a*. Free from grief or anxiety; gay; cheerful; merry.

LIGHT-HORSE, *n*. Light armed cavalry.

LIGHT-HOUSE, *n*. A pharos; a tower or building erected on a rock or point of land, or on an isle in the sea, with a light or number of lamps on the top, intended to direct seamen in navigating ships at night.

LIGHTLEGGED, *a*. Nimble; swift of foot. Sidney.

LIGHTLESS, *a. li'teless*. Destitute of light; dark.

LIGHTLY, *adv. li'tely*. With little weight; as, to tread *lightly*; to press *lightly*.

2. Without deep impression.

The soft ideas of the cheerful note,

Lightly received, were easily forgot. Prior.

3. Easily; readily; without difficulty; of course.

4. Without reason, or for reasons of little weight.

Flatter not the rich, neither do thou willingly or *lightly* appear before great personages. Taylor.

5. Without dejection; cheerfully.

Bid that welcome

Which comes to punish us, and we punish it, Seeming to bear it *lightly*. Shak.

6. Not chastely; wantonly. Swift.

7. Nimble; with agility; not heavily or tardily.

He led me *lightly* o'er the stream.

8. Gayly; airily; with levity; without heed or care.

LIGHTMINDED, *a*. Unsettled; unsteady; volatile; not considerate.

He that is hasty to give credit, is *light-minded*. Eccus.

LIGHTNESS, *n. li'teness*. Want of weight; levity; the contrary to *heaviness*; as the *lightness* of air, compared with water.

2. Inconstancy; unsteadiness; the quality of mind which disposes it to be influenced by trifling considerations.

—Such is the *lightness* of you common men. Shak.

3. Levity; wantonness; lewdness; unchastity. Shak. Sidney.

4. Agility; nimbleness.

LIGHTNING, *n. li'tening*. [that is, *lightening*, the participle present of *lighten*.]

1. A sudden discharge of electricity from a cloud to the earth, or from the earth to a cloud, or from one cloud to another, that