

a horse runs or travels with *speed*; a fowl flies with *speed*. We speak of the *speed* of a fish in the water, but we do not speak of the *speed* of a river, or of wind, or of a falling body. I think however I have seen the word applied to the lapse of time and the motion of lightning, but in poetry only.

2. Haste: dispatch; as, to perform a journey with *speed*; to execute an order with *speed*.

3. Rapid pace; as a horse of *speed*. We say also, high *speed*, full *speed*.

4. Success; prosperity in an undertaking; favorable issue; that is, advance to the desired end.

O Lord God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good *speed* this day. Gen. xxiv.

This use is retained in the proverb, "to make more haste than good *speed*," and in the Scriptural phrase, "to bid one good *speed*," [not *God speed*, as erroneously written.]

SPEEDILY, *adv.* Quickly; with haste; in a short time.

Send *speedily* to Bertram. Dryden.

SPEEDINESS, *n.* The quality of being speedy; quickness; celerity; haste; dispatch.

SPEEDWELL, *n.* A plant of the genus *Veronica*.

SPEEDY, *a.* Quick; swift; nimble; hasty; rapid in motion; as a *speedy* flight; on *speedy* foot. Shak.

2. Quick in performance; not dilatory or slow; as a *speedy* dispatch of business.

SPEET, *v. t.* [D. *speten*; from the root of *spit*.] To stab. [Not in use.]

SPEIGHT, *n.* A woodpecker. [Not in use or local.]

SPELK, *n.* [Sax. *spele*.] A splinter; a small stick or rod used in thatching. [Local.] Grose.

SPELL, *n.* [Sax. *spel* or *spell*, a story, narration, fable, speech, saying, fame, report, sudden rumor, a magic charm or song. Hence *gospel*, Sax. *god-spell*. In G. *spiel* is play, sport; *spielen*, to play. D. *speelen*, Sw. *spele*, Dan. *spille*. But this is a different application of the same action. The verb primarily signifies to throw or drive, and is probably formed on the root of L. *pello*, Gr. *παλλω*. See *Peal* and *Ap-peat*, and Class B. No. 1. Eth. In some of the applications of *spell*, we observe the sense of turn. We observe the same in throw, warp, cant, &c.]

1. A story; a tale. Obs. Chaucer.

2. A charm consisting of some words of occult power.

Start not; her actions shall be holy;
You hear my *spell* is lawful. Shak.

Begin, begin; the mystic *spell* prepare. Milton.

3. A turn of work; relief; turn of duty. Take a *spell* at the pump. Seamen.

Their toil is so extreme, that they cannot endure it above four hours in a day, but are succeeded by *spells*. Carew.

4. In *New England*, a short time; a little time. [Not elegant.]

5. A turn of gratuitous labor, sometimes accompanied with presents. People give their neighbors a *spell*. N. England.

SPELL, *v. t.* pret. and pp. *spelled* or *spelt*. [Sax. *spelian*, *spelligan*, to tell, to narrate,

to discourse, which gives our sense of *spell* in reading letters; *spelian*, *speligan*, to take another's turn in labor; D. *spellen*, to spell, as words; Fr. *epeler*.]

1. To tell or name the letters of a word, with a proper division of syllables, for the purpose of learning the pronunciation. In this manner children learn to read by first *spelling* the words.

2. To write or print with the proper letters; to form words by correct orthography.

The word *satire* ought to be *spelled* with *i*, and not with *y*. Dryden.

3. To take another's place or turn temporarily in any labor or service. [This is a popular use of the word in *New England*.]

4. To charm; as *spelled* with words of power. Dryden.

5. To read; to discover by characters or marks; with *out*; as, to *spell out* the sense of an author. Milton.

We are not left to *spell out* a God in the works of creation. South.

6. To tell; to relate; to teach. [Not in use.] Warton.

SPELL, *v. i.* To form words with the proper letters, either in reading or writing. He knows not how to *spell*. Our orthography is so irregular that most persons never learn to *spell*.

2. To read. Milton.

SPELLED, } pret. and pp. of *spell*.

SPELT, }

SPELLER, *n.* One that spells; one skilled in spelling.

SPELLING, *ppr.* Naming the letters of a word, or writing them; forming words with their proper letters.

2. Taking another's turn.

SPELLING, *n.* The act of naming the letters of a word, or the act of writing or printing words with their proper letters.

2. Orthography; the manner of forming words with letters. Bad *spelling* is disreputable to a gentleman.

SPELLING-BOOK, *n.* A book for teaching children to spell and read.

SPELT, *n.* [Sax. D. *spelte*; G. *speltz*; It. *spelta*, *spelta*.]

A species of grain of the genus *Triticum*; called also German wheat. Encyc.

SPELT, *v. t.* [G. *spalten*; Dan. *spilde*.] To split. [Not in use.] Mortimer.

SPELTER, *n.* [G. D. *spiauter*.] Common zinc, which contains a portion of lead, copper, iron, a little arsenic, manganese and plumbago. Webster's Manual.

SPENCE, *n.* *spens*. [Old Fr. *dispense*.] A buttery; a larder; a place where provisions are kept. Obs. Chaucer.

SPENCER, *n.* One who has the care of the *spence* or buttery. Obs.

2. A kind of short coat.

SPEND, *v. t.* pret. and pp. *spent*. [Sax. *spendan*; Sw. *spendera*; Dan. *spanderer*; It. *spendere*; L. *expendo*, from the participle of which is Fr. *depenser*; from the root of L. *pando*, *pendro*, the primary sense of which is to strain, to open or spread; allied to *span*, *pave*, &c. and probably to Gr. *σπένδω*, to pour out.]

1. To lay out; to dispose of; to part with; as, to *spend* money for clothing.

Why do ye *spend* money for that which is not bread? 1s. lv.

2. To consume; to waste; to squander; as to *spend* an estate in gaming or other vices.

3. To consume; to exhaust. The provisions were *spent*, and the troops were in want.

4. To bestow for any purpose; often with *on* or *upon*. It is folly to *spend* words in debate on trifles.

5. To effuse. [Little used.] Shak.

6. To pass, as time; to suffer to pass away. They *spend* their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave. Job xiii.

7. To lay out; to exert or to waste; as, to *spend* one's strength.

8. To exhaust of force; to waste; to wear away; as, a ball had *spent* its force. The violence of the waves was *spent*.

Heaps of *spent* arrows fall and strew the ground. Dryden.

9. To exhaust of strength; to harass; to fatigue.

Their bodies *spent* with long labor and thirst—Knolles.

SPEND, *v. i.* To make expense; to make disposition of money. He *spends* like a prudent man.

2. To be lost or wasted; to vanish; to be dissipated.

The sound *spendeth* and is dissipated in the open air. Bacon.

3. To prove in the use.

—Butter *spent* as if it came from the richer soil. Temple.

4. To be consumed. Candles *spend* fast in a current of air. Our provisions *spend* rapidly.

5. To be employed to any use.

The vines they use for wine are so often cut, that their sap *spendeth* into the grapes. [Unsuat.] Bacon.

SPENDER, *n.* One that spends; also, a prodigal; a lavish. Taylor. Bacon.

SPENDING, *ppr.* Laying out; consuming; wasting; exhausting.

SPENDING, *n.* The act of laying out, expending, consuming or wasting.

Whitlock.

SPENDTHRIFT, *n.* [*spend* and *thrift*.] One who spends money profusely or improvidently; a prodigal; one who lavishes his estate. Dryden. Swift.

SPERABLE, *a.* [L. *sperabilis*, from *spero*, to hope.] That may be hoped. [Not in use.] Bacon.

SPERM, *n.* [Fr. *sperme*; L. *sperma*; Gr. *σπέρμα*.]

1. Animal seed; that by which the species is propagated. Bacon. Ray.

2. The head matter of a certain species of whale, called *cachalot*. It is called by the French *blanc de baleine*, the *whit* of whales. It is found also in other parts of the body; but it is improperly named, not being a spermatie substance. Of this matter are made candles of a beautiful white color.

3. Spawn of fishes or frogs.

SPERMACE/TI, *n.* [L. *sperma*, sperm, and *cetus*, a whale. It is pronounced as it is written.] The same as *sperm*.

SPERMATIE, *a.* Consisting of seed; seminal. More.

2. Pertaining to the semen, or conveying it; as *spermatie* vessels. Ray. Core.

SPERMATIZE, *v. i.* To yield seed. [Not in use.] Brown.