

2. The language of Switzerland.

**SWITCH**, *n.* [Sw. *svage*.] A small flexible twig or rod.

On the medal, Mauritania leads a horse by a thread with one hand, and in the other holds a switch. Addison.

**SWITCH**, *v. t.* To strike with a small twig or rod; to beat; to lash. Chapman.

**SWITCH**, *v. i.* To walk with a jerk. [Obsolete or local.]

**SWIVEL**, *n.* *swiv'l.* [from Sax. *swifan*, to turn or whirl round; or from the root of *whiffle*, which see. In D. *weifelen* is to palter, to waver, to whiffle.]

1. A ring which turns upon a staple; or a strong link of iron used in mooring ships, and which permits the bridle to be turned round; any ring or staple that turns. Mar. Dict.

2. A small cannon or piece of artillery, carrying a shot of half a pound, fixed on a socket on the top of a ship's side, stern or bow, or in her tops, in such a manner as to be turned in any direction. Mar. Dict.

**SWIVEL**, *v. i.* *swiv'l.* To turn on a staple, pin or pivot.

**SWIVEL-HOOK**, *n.* A hook that turns in the end of an iron block strap, for the ready taking the turns out of a tackle. Cyc.

**SWOB**, *n.* A mop. [See *Swab*.]

**SWOB**, *v. t.* To clean or wipe with a swob. [See *Swab*.]

**SWOBBER**, *n.* One who swabs or cleans with a mop. [See *Swabber*.]

2. *Swobbers*, four privileged cards, only used incidentally in betting at the game of whist. Swift.

**SWOLLEN**, { *pp.* of *swell*; irregular and ob-  
**SWOLN**, { solescent. The regular participle, *swelled*, is to be preferred.

**SWOM**, old pret. of *swim*, is obsolete. We now use *swum* and *swam*.

**SWOON**, *v. i.* [Sax. *aswunan*. Qu. *wane*, *vain*, *vanish*.]

To faint; to sink into a fainting fit, in which there is a suspension of the apparent vital functions and mental powers.

The most in years swoon'd first away for pain. Dryden.

He seemed ready to swoon away in the surprise of joy. Tatter.

**SWOON**, *n.* A fainting fit; lipothymy; syncope. Core.

**SWOONING**, *ppr.* Fainting away.

**SWCONING**, *n.* The act of fainting; syncope. Hall.

**SWOOP**, *v. t.* [This is probably from *sweep*, or the same root.]

1. To fall on at once and seize; to catch while on the wing; as, a hawk swoops a chicken; a kite swoops up a mouse.

2. To seize; to catch up; to take with a sweep. Glanville.

3. To pass with violence. [Not in use.] Drayton.

**SWOOP**, *v. i.* To pass with pomp. Drayton.

**SWOOP**, *n.* A falling on and seizing, as of a rapacious fowl on his prey.

The eagle fell—and carried away a whole litter of eubs at a swoop. L'Estrange.

**SWOP**, *v. t.* To exchange; to barter; to give one commodity for another. [See *Swap*. This is a common word, but not in elegant use.]

**SWÖRD**, *n.* [Sax. *sword*, *swæord*; G. *schwert*; D. *zwaard*; Dan. *sværd*; Sw. *svärd*.]

1. An offensive weapon worn at the side, and used by hand either for thrusting or cutting.

2. Figuratively, destruction by war. I will bring a sword upon you. Lev. xxvi. Is. li.

3. Vengeance or justice. She quits the balance, and resigns the sword. Dryden.

4. Emblem of authority and power. The ruler—beareth not the sword in vain. Rom. xiii.

5. War; dissension. I came not to send peace, but a sword. Matt. x.

6. Emblem of triumph and protection. The Lord—the sword of thy excellence. Deut. xxxiii.

**SWORD-BEARER**, *n.* [sword and bear.]

An officer in the city of London, who carries a sword as an emblem of justice before the lord mayor when he goes abroad.

**SWORD-BELT**, *n.* [sword and belt.] A belt by which a sword is suspended and borne by the side.

**SWORD-BLADE**, *n.* [sword and blade.] The blade or cutting part of a sword.

**SWÖRDED**, *a.* Girded with a sword. Milton.

**SWÖRDER**, *n.* A soldier; a cut-throat. [Not in use.] Shak.

**SWORD-FIGHT**, *n.* [sword and fight.] Fencing; a combat or trial of skill with swords.

**SWORD-FISH**, *n.* [sword and fish.] A genus of fishes called in ichthyology, xiphias; so named from the nose, snout or upper jaw, which is shaped like a sword. Cyc.

**SWORD-GRASS**, *n.* [sword and grass.] A kind of sedge, gladder; the sweet rush, a species of *Acorus*. Ainsworth. Cyc.

**SWORD-KNOT**, *n.* [sword and knot.] A ribbon tied to the hilt of a sword. Pope.

**SWORD-LAW**, *n.* [sword and law.] Violence; government by force. Milton.

**SWORD-MAN**, *n.* [sword and man.] A soldier; a fighting man. Shak.

**SWORD-PLAYER**, *n.* [sword and player.] A fencer; a gladiator; one who exhibits his skill in the use of the sword. Hakewill.

**SWORD-SHAPED**, *a.* [sword and shape.] Ensiform; shaped like a sword; as a sword-shaped leaf. Martyn.

**SWORE**, pret. of *swear*.

**SWORN**, *pp.* of *swear*. The officers of government are sworn to a faithful discharge of their duty.

Sworn friends, is a phrase equivalent to determined, close or firm friends. I am sworn brother, sweet. Shak.

To grin necessity. Sworn enemies, are determined or irreconcilable enemies.

**SWOUND**, *v. i.* To swoon. [Not in use.] Shak.

**SWUM**, pret. and *pp.* of *swim*.

**SWUNG**, pret. and *pp.* of *swing*.

**SYB**, { *a.* [Sax.] Related by blood. Obs.

**SIB**, { *a.* [Sax.] Related by blood. Obs.

**SYBARITIC**, { *a.* [from *Sybaris*, inhabitants of Sybaris, in Italy, who were proverbially voluptuous.]

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Luxurious; wanton.

**SYCAMINE**. [See *Sycamore*.]

**SYCAMORE**, *n.* [Gr. *συκαμωρος*, *συκαμωρος*, from *συκος*, a fig, and *μορος*.]

A species of fig-tree. The name is also given to the *Acer majus*, [*A. pseudo-platanus*], a species of maple. Cyc. Lee.

This name is also given to the plane tree or button-wood, of the genus *Platanus*. Pursh.

**SYCAMORE-MOTH**, *n.* A large and beautiful moth or night butterfly; so called because its caterpillar feeds on the leaves of the sycamore. Cyc.

**SYCITE**, *n.* [Gr. *συκος*, fig.] Fig-stone; a name which some authors give to nodules of flint or pebbles which resemble a fig. Cyc.

**SYCOPHANCY**, *n.* [infra.] Originally, information of the clandestine exportation of figs; hence, mean talebearing; obsequious flattery; servility.

**SYCOPHANT**, *n.* [Gr. *συκοφαντης*; *συκος*, a fig, and *φανω*, to discover.]

Originally, an informer against those who stole figs, or exported them contrary to law, &c. Hence in time it came to signify a talebearer or informer, in general; hence, a parasite; a mean flatterer; especially a flatterer of princes and great men; hence, a deceiver; an impostor.

Its most general use is in the sense of an obsequious flatterer or parasite. Encyc. Potter's Antiq.

**SYCOPHANT**, { *v. t.* To play the sycophant; to flatter meanly and officiously; to inform or tell tales for gaining favor.

**SYCOPHANTIC**, *a.* Talebearing; more generally, obsequiously flattering; parasitic; courting favor by mean adulation.

2. *Sycophantic plants*, or *parasites*, are such as adhere to other plants, and depend on them for support.

**SYCOPHANTRY**, *n.* Mean and officious talebearing or adulation. Barrow.

**SYDNE'AN**, { *a.* Denoting a species of

**SYDNE'IAN**, { *a.* white earth brought from Sidney cove in South Wales. Kirwan.

**SYENITE**. [See *Sienite*.]

**SYKE**, *n.* A small brook or rill in low ground. [Local.]

**SYLLABIC**, { *a.* [from *syllable*.] Pertaining to a syllable or syllables; as *syllabic accent*.

2. Consisting of a syllable or syllables; as a *syllabic augment*.

**SYLLABICALLY**, *adv.* In a syllabic manner.

**SYLLABICATION**, *n.* The act of forming syllables; the act or method of dividing words into syllables. Ash.

**SYLLABLE**, *n.* [L. *syllaba*; Gr. *συλλαβη*, from *συλλαβω*, to comprehend; *συ* and *λαβω*, to take.]

1. A letter, or a combination of letters, uttered together, or at a single effort or impulse of the voice. A vowel may form a syllable by itself, as *a*, the definitive, or in *amen*; *e* in *even*; *o* in *over*, and the like.

A syllable may also be formed of a vowel and one consonant, as in *go*, *do*, *in*, *at*; or a syllable may be formed by a vowel with two articulations, one preceding, the other following it, as in *can*, *but*, *tun*; or a