

FLASH, v. t. To strike up a body of water from the surface. *Carew.*

He rudely *flushed* the waves. *Spenser.*
[In this sense I believe this word is not used in America.]

2. To strike or to throw like a burst of light; as, to *flash* conviction on the mind.

FLASHER, n. A man of more appearance of wit than reality. *Diet.*

2. A rower. [Not in use.]

FLASHILY, adv. With empty show; with a sudden glare; without solidity of wit or thought.

FLASHING, pp. Bursting forth as a flood of light, or of flame and light, or as wit, mirth or joy.

FLASHY, a. Showy, but empty; dazzling for a moment, but not solid; as *flashy* wit.

2. Showy; gay; as a *flashy* dress.

3. Insipid; vapid; without taste or spirit; as food or drink.

4. Wasby; flashy. [See *Plash*.]

FLASKY, n. [*G. flasche*; *Sw. flaska*; *Dan. flask*; *D. fles, flesch*; *Sax. flaza*; *Sp. Port. frasco*; *It. flasco*; *W. flasg*, a basket.]

1. A kind of bottle; as a *flask* of wine or oil.

2. A vessel for powder. *Bailey.*

3. A bed in a gun-carriage. *Pope. Ray.*

FLASKET, n. A vessel in which viands are served up. *Spenser.*

FLAT, a. [*D. plat*; *G. platt*; *Dan. flad*; *Sw. flat*; *Fr. plat*; *Arm. blad*, or *pladt*; *It. piatto*; from extending or laying. Allied probably to *W. llez, lled*, *hlyd*; *L. latus*, broad; *Gr. πλατος*; *Eng. blade*.]

1. Having an even surface, without risings or indentures, hills or valleys; as *flat* land.

2. Horizontal; level; without inclination; as a *flat* roof; or with a moderate inclination or slope; for we often apply the word to the roof of a house that is not steep though inclined.

3. Prostrate; lying the whole length on the ground. He fell *flat* on the ground.

4. Not elevated or erect; fallen.

Cease t'admire, and beauty's plumes
Fall *flat*. *Milton.*

5. Level with the ground; totally fallen. What ruins kingdoms, and lays cities *flat*. *Milton.*

6. In *painting*, wanting relief or prominence of the figures.

7. Tasteless; stale; vapid; insipid; dead; as *fruit flat* to the taste. *Philips.*

8. Dull; unanimated; frigid; without point or spirit; applied to discourses and compositions. The sermon was very *flat*.

9. Depressed; spiritless; dejected.

I feel—my hopes all *flat*. *Milton.*

10. Unpleasing; not affording gratification. How *flat* and insipid are all the pleasures of this life!

11. Peremptory; absolute; positive; downright. He gave the petitioner a *flat* denial.

Is thus repulsed, our final hope
Is *flat* despair. *Milton.*

12. Not sharp or shrill; not acute; as a *flat* sound. *Bacon.*

13. Low, as the prices of goods; or dull, as sales.

FLAT, n. A level or extended plain. In America, it is applied particularly to low ground or meadow that is level, but it de-

notes any land of even surface and of some extent.

2. A level ground lying at a small depth under the surface of water; a shoal; a shallow; a strand; a sand bank under water.

3. The broad side of a blade. *Dryden.*

4. Depression of thought or language. *Dryden.*

5. A surface without relief or prominences. *Bentley.*

6. In *music*, a mark of depression in sound. A *flat* denotes a fall or depression of half a tone.

7. A boat, broad and flat-bottomed. A *flat-bottomed* boat is constructed for conveying passengers or troops, horses, carriages and baggage.

FLAT, v. t. [*Fr. flatter, applatir*.] To level; to depress; to lay smooth or even; to make broad and smooth; to flatten. *Bacon.*

2. To make vapid or tasteless. *Bacon.*

3. To make dull or unanimated. *Temple.*

FLAT, v. i. To grow flat; to fall to an even surface. *King Charles.*

2. To become insipid, or dull and unanimated. *King Charles.*

FLAT-BOTTOMED, a. Having a flat bottom, as a boat, or a moat in fortification.

FLAT-TIVE, a. [*L. flatus*, from *flo*, to blow.] Producing wind; flatulent. [Not in use.] *Brewer.*

FLAT LONG, adv. With the flat side downward; not edgewise. *Shak.*

FLAT-LY, adv. Horizontally; without inclination.

2. Evenly; without elevations and depressions.

3. Without spirit; dully; frigidly.

4. Peremptorily; positively; downright. He *flatly* refused his aid. *Sir.*

FLATNESS, n. Evenness of surface; levelness; equality of surface.

2. Want of relief or prominence; as the *flatness* of a figure in sculpture. *Addison.*

3. Deadness; vapidness; insipidity; as the *flatness* of cider or beer. *Mortimer.*

4. Dejection of fortune; low state. The *flatness* of my misery. *Shak.*

5. Dejection of mind; a low state of the spirits; depression; want of life. *Collier.*

6. Dullness; want of point; insipidity; frigidity.

Some of Homer's translators have swelled into fustian, and others sunk into *flatness*. *Pope.*

7. Gravity of sound, as opposed to sharpness, acuteness or shrillness.

Flatness of sound—joined with a harshness. *Bacon.*

FLAT-NOSED, a. Having a flat nose. *Barton.*

FLATTED, pp. Made flat; rendered even on the surface; also, rendered vapid or insipid.

FLATTEN, v. t. *flat'n.* [*Fr. flatter*, from *flat*.]

1. To make flat; to reduce to an equal or even surface; to level.

2. To beat down to the ground; to lay flat. *Mortimer.*

3. To make vapid or insipid; to render stale.

4. To depress; to deject, as the spirits; to dispirit.

5. In *music*, to reduce, as sound; to render less acute or sharp.

FLATTEN, v. i. *flat'n.* To grow or become even on the surface.

2. To become dead, stale, vapid or tasteless.

3. To become dull or spiritless.

FLATTENING, pp. Making flat.

FLATTER, n. The person or thing by which any thing is flattered.

FLATTER, v. t. [*Fr. flatter*; *D. vleijen*; *Teut. fladern*; *Ice. fladarn*; *Dan. flatterer*. In *Ir. bladaire* is a flatterer; *bleid*, a woe-ding; *blath* is plain, smooth; and *blath* is praise. *Flatter* may be from the root of *flat*, that is, to make smooth, to appease, to soothe; but the *Ir. blath* would seem to be connected with *L. plaudo*. Perhaps *flat* and *plaudo* are from one root, the radical sense of which must be to extend, strain, stretch.]

1. To soothe by praise; to gratify self-love by praise or obsequiousness; to please a person by applause or favorable notice, by respectful attention, or by any thing that exalts him in his own estimation, or confirms his good opinion of himself. We *flatter* a woman when we praise her children.

A man that *flattereth* his neighbor, spreadeth a net for his feet. *Prov. xxix.*

2. To please; to gratify; as, to *flatter* one's vanity or pride.

3. To praise falsely; to encourage by favorable notice; as, to *flatter* vices or crimes.

4. To encourage by favorable representations or indications; as, to *flatter* hopes. We are *flattered* with the prospect of peace.

5. To raise false hopes by representations not well founded; as, to *flatter* one with a prospect of success; to *flatter* a patient with the expectation of recovery when his case is desperate.

6. To please; to soothe.

A concert of voices—makes a harmony that *flatters* the ears. *Dryden.*

7. To wheedle; to coax; to attempt to win by blandishments, praise or enticements. How many young and credulous persons are *flattered* out of their innocence and their property, by seducing arts!

FLATTERED, pp. Soothed by praise; pleased by commendation; gratified with hopes, false or well founded; wheedled.

FLATTERER, n. One who flatters; a fawner; a wheedler; one who praises another, with a view to please him, to gain his favor, or to accomplish some purpose.

When I tell him he hates *flatterers*,
He says he does; being then most flattered. *Shak.*

The most abject *flatterers* degenerate into the greatest tyrants. *Addison.*

FLATTERING, pp. Gratifying with praise; pleasing by applause; wheedling; coaxing.

2. a. Pleasing to pride or vanity; gratifying to self-love; as a *flattering* eulogy. The minister gives a *flattering* account of his reception at court.

3. Pleasing; favorable; encouraging hope. We have a *flattering* prospect of an abundant harvest. The symptoms of the disease are *flattering*.

4. Practicing adulation; uttering false praise; as a *flattering* tongue.