

PLAS'TIC, *a.* [Gr. πλαστικός, from πλασσω, to form.]

Having the power to give form or fashion to a mass of matter; as the *plastic* hand of the Creator; the *plastic* virtue of nature.

Prior. Woodward.

PLASTICITY, *n.* The quality of giving form or shape to matter.

PLASTRON, *n.* [See *Plaster*.] A piece of leather stuffed; used by fencers to defend the body against pushes.

Dryden.

PLAT, *v. t.* [from *plait*, or *plat*, flat.] To weave; to form by texture. Matt. xxvii.

Ray. Spectator.

PLAT, } Work done by platting or
PLATTING, } interweaving.

PLAT, *n.* [Dan. D. *plat*, flat; Fr. *id.*; G. *platt*; W. *plad*, *plds*; Gr. *πλᾶνς*, broad, L. *latus*; or from the root of *place*, G. *platz*. See *Plot*, the same word differently written. But probably these are all of one family. The sense is *laid*, *spread*.]

A small piece of ground, usually a portion of flat even ground; as a flowery *plat*; a *plat* of willows.

Milton. Spectator.

PLAT, *a.* Plain; flat. [Not used.]

Chaucer.

PLAT, *adv.* Plainly; flatly; downright. [Not used.]

Chaucer.

2. Smoothly; evenly. [Not used.]

Draut.

PLATANE, *n.* [L. *platanus*.] The plane-tree, which see.

Milton.

PLAT'BAND, *n.* A border of flowers in a garden, along a wall or the side of a parterre.

2. In *architecture*, a flat square molding whose height much exceeds its projection, such as the faces of an architrave.

3. The lintel of a door or window.

4. A list or fillet between the flutings of a column.

Cyc.

PLATE, *n.* [D. *plaat*, G. *platte*, plate; Sw. *platt*; Dan. D. *plat*, G. *platt*, flat; It. *piatto*, flat, and *pastra*; Sp. *plata*; Fr. *id.*; W. *plad*, a plate; probably allied to Gr. *πλᾶνς*, L. *latus*, with the radical sense of *laid*, *spread*.]

1. A piece of metal, flat or extended in breadth.

Bacon. South.

2. Armor of plate, composed of broad pieces, and thus distinguished from *mail*.

Spenser.

3. A piece of wrought silver, as a dish or other shallow vessel; hence, vessels of silver; wrought silver in general. *Plate*, by the laws of some states, is subject to a tax by the ounce.

4. A small shallow vessel, made of silver or other metal, or of earth glazed and baked, from which provisions are eaten at table. A wooden plate is called a *trencher*.

5. The prize given for the best horse in a race.

6. In *architecture*, the piece of timber which supports the ends of the rafters. [See *Platform*.]

PLATE, *v. t.* To cover or overlay with plate or with metal; used particularly of silver; as *plated* vessels.

2. To arm with plate or metal for defense; as, to *plate* sin with gold.

Shak.

Why *plated* in habiliments of war? *Shak.*

3. To adorn with plate; as a *plated* harness.

4. To beat into thin flat pieces or lamens.

Dryden. Newton.

PLATED, *pp.* Covered or adorned with plate; armed with plate; beaten into plates.

PLATTEN, *n.* [from its flatness.] Among printers, the flat part of a press by which the impression is made.

PLATEY, *a.* Like a plate; flat. *Gregory.*

PLAT'FORM, *n.* [*plat*, flat, and *form*.] The sketch of any thing horizontally delineated; the ichnography.

Sandys.

2. A place laid out after any model.

Pope.

3. In the military art, an elevation of earth or a floor of wood or stone, on which cannons are mounted to fire on an enemy.

Encyc.

4. In *architecture*, a row of beams or a piece of timber which supports the timber-work of a roof, and lying on the top of the wall.

Encyc.

This in New England is called the *plate*.

5. A kind of terrace or broad smooth open walk on the top of a building, as in the oriental houses.

Encyc.

6. In ships, the orlop. [See *Orlop*.]

7. Any number of planks or other materials forming a floor for any purpose.

Mar. Dict.

8. A plan; a scheme; ground-work.

Bacon.

9. In some of the New England states, an ecclesiastical constitution, or a plan for the government of churches; as the Cambridge or Saybrook *platform*.

PLATIC aspect, in astrology, a ray cast from one planet to another, not exactly, but within the orbit of its own light.

Bailey.

PLATINA, *n.* [Sp. *platina*, from *plata*, PLATINUM, } *n.* [Sp. *plata*, from *plata*, silver.]

A metal discovered in the mines of Choco in Peru, nearly of the color of silver, but less bright, and the heaviest of the metals. Its specific gravity is to that of water as 23 to 1. It is harder than iron, undergoes no alteration in air, resists the action of acids and alkalis, is very ductile and capable of being rolled into thin plates.

Encyc.

PLATING, *ppr.* Overlaying with plate or with a metal; beating into thin lamens.

PLATING, *n.* The art or operation of covering any thing with plate or with a metal, particularly of overlaying a baser metal with a thin plate of silver. The coating of silver is soldered to the metal with tin or a mixture of three parts of silver with one of brass.

PLATINIFEROUS, *a.* [*platina* and *fero*, to produce.]

Producing platina; as *platiniferous* sand.

Dict. Nat. Hist.

PLATONIC, *a.* Pertaining to Plato the philosopher, or to his philosophy, his school or his opinions.

Platonic love, is a pure spiritual affection subsisting between the sexes, unmixed with carnal desires, and regarding the mind only and its excellencies; a species of love for which Plato was a warm advocate.

Platonic year, the great year, or a period of time determined by the revolution of the equinoxes, or the space of time in which the stars and constellations return to their former places in respect to the equinoxes. This revolution, which is calculated by the

precession of the equinoxes, is accomplished in about 25,000 years.

Encyc.

PLATONICALLY, *adv.* After the manner of Plato.

Watton.

PLATONISM, *n.* The philosophy of Plato, consisting of three branches, *theology*, *physics* and *mathematics*. Under *theology* is included moral philosophy. The foundation of Plato's theology is the opinion that there are two eternal, primary, independent and incorruptible principles or causes of all things, which are *God*, the maker of all things, and *matter*, from which all things are made. It was a fundamental maxim with him that from nothing, nothing can proceed. While therefore he held *God* to be the maker of the universe, he held *matter*, the substance of which the universe was made, to be eternal.

Enfield.

PLATONIST, } *n.* One that adheres to
PLATONIZER, } the philosophy of Plato; a follower of Plato.

Hammond.

PLATONIZE, *v. i.* To adopt the opinions or philosophy of Plato.

Milner.

PLATONIZE, *v. t.* To explain on the principles of the Platonic school, or to accommodate to those principles.

Enfield.

PLATONIZED, *ppr.* Accommodated to the philosophy of Plato.

Enfield.

PLATONIZING, *ppr.* Adopting the principles of Plato; accommodating to the principles of the Platonic school.

Enfield.

PLATOON, *n.* [Fr. *peloton*, a ball of thread, a knot of men, from *pelote*, a ball; Sp. *peloton*. See *Ball*.]

A small square body of soldiers or musketeers, drawn out of a battalion of foot when they form a hollow square, to strengthen the angles; or a small body acting together, but separate from the main body; as, to fire by *platoons*.

PLATTER, *n.* [from *plate*.] A large shallow dish for holding the provisions of a table.

Dryden.

2. One that plats or forms by weaving. [See *Plat*.]

PLATTER-FACED, *a.* Having a broad face.

PLATTING, *ppr.* Weaving; forming by texture.

PLATYPUS, *n.* A quadruped of New Holland, whose jaws are elongated into the shape of a duck's bill. The body is covered with thick hair and the feet are webbed.

This animal has been arranged with the *Mammalia*, but it is now presumed to be oviparous; at least its breasts have not hitherto been observed.

Ed. Encyc. Cuvier.

PLAUDIT, *n.* [L. *plaudo*, to praise, said to be taken from *plaudite*, a demand of applause by players when they left the stage.]

Applause; praise bestowed.

Denham.

PLAUSIBILITY, *n.* *s* as *z*. [See *Plausible*.]

Speciousness; superficial appearance of right.

Swift.

PLAUSIBLE, *a.* *s* as *z*. [L. *plausibilis*, from *plaudo*, to clap hands in token of approbation; W. *bloez*, an outcry; *bloeziae*, to shout; *bloezst*, applause, acclamation; Fr. *blâth*, *blâoth*; from the root of Gr. *κλαω*, L. *laus*, *laudo*, Eng. *loud*.]