

UN'DERSHOT, *a.* Moved by water passing under the wheel; opposed to *overshot*; as an *undershot* mill or mill-wheel.

UN'DERSHRUB, *n.* A low shrub, permanent and woody at the base, but the yearly branches decaying. *Barton. Martyn.*

UN'DERSOIL, *n.* Soil beneath the surface; subsoil. *Asint. Res.*

UN'DERSONG, *n.* Chorus; burden of a song.

Menelaus shall sustain his *undersong*.

Dryden.

UNDERSTAND, *v. t.* pret. and pp. *understood*. [*under* and *stand*. The sense is to support or hold in the mind.]

1. To have just and adequate ideas of; to comprehend; to know; as, to *understand* a problem in Euclid; to *understand* a proposition or a declaration.

2. To have the same ideas as the person who speaks, or the ideas which a person intends to communicate. I *understood* the preacher; the court perfectly *understand* the advocate or his argument.

3. To receive or have the ideas expressed or intended to be conveyed in a writing or book; to know the meaning. It is important that we should *understand* the sacred oracles.

4. To know the meaning of signs, or of any thing intended to convey ideas; as, to *understand* a nod, a wink, or a motion.

5. To suppose to mean.

The most learned interpreters *understood* the words of sin, and not of Abel. *Locke.*

6. To know by experience. *Milton.*

7. To know by instinct.

—Amorous intent, well *understood*. *Milton.*

8. To interpret, at least mentally. *Stillingfleet.*

9. To know another's meaning. *Milton.*

10. To hold in opinion with conviction. *Milton.*

11. To mean without expressing.

War then, war, Open or *understood*, must be resolv'd. *Milton.*

12. To know what is not expressed. *Milton.*

I bring them to receive From thee their names, and pay thee fealty With low subjection; *understand* the same Of fish. *Milton.*

13. To learn; to be informed. I *understand* that congress have passed the bill.

UNDERSTAND, *v. i.* To have the use of the intellectual faculties; to be an intelligent and conscious being.

All my soul be Imparadis'd in you, in whom alone I *understand*, and grow, and see. *Donne.*

2. To be informed by another; to learn.

I *understood* of the evil that Eliashib did. Neh. xiii.

UNDERSTANDABLE, *a.* That can be understood. [*Not much used*.]

Chillingworth.

UNDERSTANDER, *n.* One who understands or knows by experience. [*Little used*.]

Beaumont.

UNDERSTANDING, *ppr.* Comprehending; apprehending the ideas or sense of another, or of a writing; learning or being informed.

2. *a.* Knowing; skillful. He is an *understanding* man,

UNDERSTANDING, *n.* The faculty of the human mind by which it apprehends the real state of things presented to it, or by which it receives or comprehends the ideas which others express and intend to communicate. The understanding is called also the *intellectual faculty*. It is the faculty by means of which we obtain a great part of our knowledge. Luke xxiv. Eph. i.

By *understanding* I mean that faculty whereby we are enabled to apprehend the objects of knowledge, generals or particulars, absent or present, and to judge of their truth or falsehood, good or evil. *Hutcheson.*

There is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth him *understanding*. Job xxxii.

2. Knowledge; exact comprehension.

Right *understanding* consists in the perception of the visible or probable agreement or disagreement of ideas. *Locke.*

3. Intelligence between two or more persons; agreement of minds; union of sentiments. There is a good *understanding* between the minister and his people.

UNDERSTANDINGLY, *adv.* Intelligibly; with full knowledge or comprehension of a question or subject; as, to vote upon a question *understandingly*; to act or judge *understandingly*.

The gospel may be neglected, but it cannot be *understandingly* disbelieved. *J. Hawes.*

UNDERSTOOD, *pret.* and *pp.* of *understand*.

UNDERSTRAPPER, *n.* A petty fellow; an inferior agent. *Swift.*

UNDERSTRATUM, *n.* Subsoil; the bed or layer of earth on which the mold or soil rests. *Cy.*

UNDERSTROKE, *v. t.* To underline. *Swift.*

UNDERTAKABLE, *a.* That may be undertaken. [*Not in use*.] *Chillingworth.*

UNDERTAKE, *v. t.* pret. *undertook*; pp. *undertaken*. [*under* and *take*.]

1. To engage in; to enter upon; to take in hand; to begin to perform. When I *undertook* this work, I had a very inadequate knowledge of the extent of my labors.

2. To covenant or contract to perform or execute. A man *undertakes* to erect a house, or to make a mile of canal, when he enters into stipulations for that purpose.

3. To attempt; as when a man *undertakes* what he cannot perform.

4. To assume a character. [*Not in use*.] *Shak.*

5. To engage with; to attack.

Your lordship should not *undertake* every companion you offend. [*Not in use*.] *Shak.*

6. To have the charge of.

—Who *undertakes* you to your end. *Shak.* [*Not in use*.]

UNDERTAKE, *v. i.* To take upon or assume any business or province.

O Lord, I am oppressed; *undertake* for me. Is. xxxviii.

2. To venture; to hazard. They dare not *undertake*.

3. To promise; to be bound.

I dare *undertake* they will not lose their labor. *Woodward.*

To *undertake* for, to be bound; to become surety for.

UNDERTAKEN, *pp.* of *undertake*. The work was *undertaken* at his own expense.

UNDERTAKER, *n.* One who undertakes; one who engages in any project or business. *Clarendon.*

2. One who stipulates or covenants to perform any work for another. *Swift.*

3. One who manages funerals. *Young.*

UNDERTAKING, *ppr.* Engaging in; taking in hand; beginning to perform; stipulating to execute.

UNDERTAKING, *n.* Any business, work or project which a person engages in, or attempts to perform; an enterprise. The canal, or the making of the canal, from the Hudson to Lake Erie, a distance of almost four hundred miles, was the greatest *undertaking* of the kind in modern times. The attempt to find a navigable passage to the Pacific round North America, is a hazardous *undertaking*, and probably useless to navigation.

UNDERTENANT, *n.* The tenant of a tenant; one who holds lands or tenements of a tenant.

UNDERTIME, *n.* Under-tide; the time after dinner, or in the evening. [*Not in use*.] *Spenser.*

UNDERTOOK, *pret.* of *undertake*.

UNDERTREASURER, *n.* *undertreaz'urer*. A subordinate treasurer.

UNDervaluation, *n.* The act of valuing below the real worth; rate not equal to the worth.

UNDervalUE, *v. t.* To value, rate or estimate below the real worth.

2. To esteem lightly; to treat as of little worth.

In comparison of the discharge of my duties, I *undervalued* all designs of authority. *Atterbury.*

3. To despise; to hold in mean estimation.

I write not this with the least intention to *undervalue* the other parts of poetry. *Dryden.*

UNDervalUE, *n.* Low rate or price; a price less than the real worth. *Hamilton.*

UNDervalUED, *pp.* Estimated at less than the real worth; slighted; despised.

UNDervalUER, *n.* One who esteems lightly. *Walton.*

UNDervalUING, *ppr.* Estimating at less than the real worth; slighting; despising.

UNDERWENT, *pret.* of *undergo*. He *underwent* severe trials.

UNDERWOOD, *n.* Small trees that grow among large trees. *Mortimer.*

UNDERWORK, *n.* Subordinate work; petty affairs. *Addison.*

UNDERWÖRK, *v. t.* To destroy by clandestine measures. *Shak.*

2. To work or labor upon less than is sufficient or proper. *Dryden.*

3. To work at a less price than others in the like employment; as, one mason may *underwork* another; a shoemaker cannot *underwork* a joiner.

UNDERWÖRKING, *ppr.* Destroying clandestinely; working at a less price than others in the like employment.