

A female hero; a woman of a brave spirit. [*Heroa* is not in use.] *Dryden*.

**HEROISM**, *n.* [*Fr. heroïsme*.] The qualities of a hero; bravery; courage; intrepidity; particularly in war. *Broom*.

**HERON**, *n.* [*Fr.*] A large fowl of the genus *Ardea*, a great devourer of fish.

**HERONRY**, *n.* A place where herons breed. *Derham*.

**HEROSHIP**, *n.* The character of a hero. *Cowper*.

**HERPES**, *n.* [*Gr. ἕρπης*, from *ἔρπω*, to creep.]

Tetters; an eruption on the skin; erysipelas; ringworm, &c. This disease takes various names according to its form or the part affected. *Coez. Encyc.*

A term applied to several cutaneous eruptions, from their tendency to spread or creep from one part of the skin to another. *Cyc.*

An eruption of vesicles in small distinct clusters, accompanied with itching or tingling; including the shingles, ringworm, &c. *Good.*

**HERPETIC**, *a.* Pertaining to the herpes or cutaneous eruptions; resembling the herpes, or partaking of its nature; as *herpetic eruptions*. *Darwin*.

**HERPETOLOGIC**, *a.* Pertaining to herpetology.

**HERPETOLOGIST**, *n.* A person versed in herpetology, or the natural history of reptiles.

**HERPETOLOGY**, *n.* [*Gr. ἑρπῆς*, a reptile, and *λογία*, discourse.]

A description of reptiles; the natural history of reptiles, including oviparous quadrupeds, as the crocodile, frog and tortoise, and serpents. The history of the latter is called *ophiology*.

**HERRING**, *n.* [*Sax. haring*; *Fr. hareng*; *Arm. harinque*; *G. hering*; *D. haring*; *It. aringa*; *Sp. arenque*; *Port. id.*]

A fish of the genus *Clupea*. Herrings, when they migrate, move in vast shoals, and it is said that the name is formed from the Teutonic *here*, *her*, an army or multitude. They come from high northern latitudes in the spring, and visit the shores of Europe and America, where they are taken and salted in great quantities.

**HERRING-FISHERY**, *n.* The fishing for herrings, which constitutes an important branch of business with the English, Dutch and Americans.

**HERS**, *pron. hærz, from. fem. possessive*; as, this house is *hers*, that is, this is the house of *her*. But perhaps it would be more correct to consider *hers* as a substitute for the noun and adjective, in the nominative case. Of the two houses, *hers* is the best, that is, *her house* is the best.

**HERSCHEL**, *n. her'shel*. A planet discovered by Dr. Herschel, in 1781.

**HERSE**, *n. hers*. [*Fr. herse*, a harrow, a portcullis, probably from cross-work; radically the game word as *harrow*, which see.]

1. In fortification, a lattice or portcullis in the form of a harrow, set with iron spikes. It is hung by a rope fastened to a moulinet, and when a gate is broken, it is let down to obstruct the passage. It is called also a *sarrasin* or *caltarac*, and when it consists of straight stakes without cross-pieces, it is called *argues*.

*Herse* is also a harrow, used for a chevaux de frise, and laid in the way or in breaches, with the points up, to obstruct or incommode the march of an enemy.

**HERSE**, *n.* [*Fr. herse*, a harrow, a portcullis, probably from cross-work; radically the game word as *harrow*, which see.]

2. A carriage for bearing corpses to the grave. It is a frame only, or a box, as in England, borne on wheels.

3. A temporary monument set over a grave. [*Unusual and not legitimate.*] *Weezer*.

4. A funeral eulogy. [*Not used.*] *W. Browne*.

**HERSE**, *v. t. hers*. To put on or in a herse. *Shak. Chapman*.

2. To carry to the grave.

**HERSELF**, *pron. [her and self]*. This denotes a female, the subject of discourse before mentioned, and is either in the nominative or objective case. In the nominative it usually follows *she*, and is added for the sake of emphasis, or emphatical distinction; as, *she herself* will bear the blame.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself. *Ex. ii.*

2. Having the command of herself; mistress of her rational powers, judgment or temper. The woman was deranged, but she is now herself again. She has come to herself.

3. In her true character; as, the woman acts like herself.

**HERSELF**, *a. hers'like*. Funereal; suitable to funerals. *Bacon*.

**HERSILLON**, *n.* [*from herse*.] In the military art, a plank or beam, whose sides are set with spikes or nails, to incommode and retard the march of an enemy. *Encyc.*

**HERY**, *v. t.* [*Sax. herian*.] To regard as holy. *Spenser*.

**HESITANCY**, *n.* [*See Hesitate*.] A doubting; literally, a stopping of the mind; a pausing to consider; dubiousness; suspense.

The reason of my hesitancy about the air is—*Boyle*.

**HESITANT**, *a.* Hesitating; pausing; wanting volubility of speech.

**HESITATE**, *v. i. s as z*. [*L. hesito*; *Fr. hésiter*; from *hesi*, pret. of *L. hære*, to hang.]

1. To stop or pause respecting decision or action; to be doubtful as to fact, principle or determination; to be in suspense or uncertainty; as, he hesitated whether to accept the offer or not. We often hesitate what judgment to form.

It is never transitive, unless by poetic license.

Just hint a fault, and hesitate dislike. *Pope*.

2. To stammer; to stop in speaking.

**HESITATING**, *ppr*. Doubting; pausing; stammering.

**HESITATINGLY**, *adv.* With hesitation or doubt.

**HESITATION**, *n.* A pausing or delay in forming an opinion or commencing action; doubt; suspension of opinion or decision, from uncertainty what is proper to be decided. When evidence is clear, we may decide without hesitation.

2. A stopping in speech; intermission between words; stammering. *Swift*.

**HEST**, *n.* [*Sax. hese*; *G. heissen*, a command; *heissen*, to call. to bid; *D. heelen*. See *Hent*.]

Command; precept; injunction; order. [*Now obsolete, but it is retained in the compound, heest.*]

**HESPERIAN**, *a.* [*L. hesperius*, western, from *hesperus*, *vesper*, the evening star. *Venus*, *Gr. ἑσπερος*.] Western; situated at the west.

**HESPERIAN**, *n.* An inhabitant of a western country. *J. Barlow*.

**HETERARCHY**, *n.* [*Gr. ἑτερος*, another, and *αρχή*, rule.] The government of an alien. *Bp. Hall*.

**HETEROCLITE**, *n.* [*Gr. ἑτεροκλίτων*; *ἑτερος*, another, or different, and *κλίσις*, from *κλίνω*, to incline, to lean.]

1. In grammar, a word which is irregular or anomalous either in declension or conjugation, or which deviates from the ordinary forms of inflection in words of a like kind. It is particularly applied to nouns irregular in declension.

2. Any thing or person deviating from common forms. *Johnson*.

**HETEROCLITE**, *a.* Irregular; a-

**HETEROCLITIC**, *a.* nomious; de-

**HETEROCLITICAL**, *a.* viating from ordinary forms or rules. *Brown*.

**HETEROCLITOUS**, *a.* Heteroclitie. [*Not in use.*]

**HETERODOX**, *a.* [*Gr. ἑτερος*, another, different, and *δόξα*, opinion.]

1. In theology, heretical; contrary to the faith and doctrines of the true church; or more precisely, contrary to the real doctrines of the Scriptures; as a *heterodox* opinion; opposed to *orthodox*.

2. Repugnant to the doctrines or tenets of any established church.

3. Holding opinions repugnant to the doctrines of the Scriptures, as a *heterodox* divine; or holding opinions contrary to those of an established church.

**HETERODOXY**, *n.* Heresy; an opinion or doctrine contrary to the doctrines of the Scriptures, or contrary to those of an established church.

**HETEROGENE**, *a. Obs.* [See the next word.]

**HETEROGENEAL**, *a.* [*Gr. ἑτερος*, other, and *γενος*, kind.]

Of a different kind or nature; unlike or dissimilar in kind; opposed to *homogeneous*.

The light whose rays are all alike refrangible. I call simple, homogeneous and similar; and that whose rays are some more refrangible than others, I call compound, *heterogeneous* and dissimilar. *Newton*.

**Heterogeneous nouns**, are such as are of different genders in the singular and plural numbers; as *hic locus*, of the masculine gender in the singular, and *hi loci* and *hec loca*, both masculine and neuter in the plural. *Hoc calum*, neuter in the singular; *hi celi*, masculine in the plural.

**Heterogeneous quantities**, are those which are of such different kind and consideration, that one of them, taken any number of times, never equals or exceeds the other.

**Heterogeneous surds**, are such as have different radical signs. *Encyc.*

**HETEROGENEITY**, *n.* Opposition of nature; contrariety or dissimilitude of qualities. [*Ill formed.*]