

**SHEEP**, *n. sing. and plu.* [Sax. *sceap*, *sceþ*; G. *schaf*; D. *schaap*; Bohemian, *skopec*, a wether.]

1. An animal of the genus *Ovis*, which is among the most useful species that the Creator has bestowed on man, as its wool constitutes a principal material of warm clothing, and its flesh is a great article of food. The sheep is remarkable for its harmless temper and its timidity. The varieties are numerous.

2. In contempt, a silly fellow. *Ainsworth.*

3. Figuratively, God's people are called *sheep*, as being under the government and protection of Christ, the great Shepherd. John x.

**SHEEP-BITE**, *v. t.* [*sheep* and *bite*.] To practice petty thefts. [Not in use.] *Shak.*

**SHEEP-BITER**, *n.* One who practices petty thefts. [Not in use.] *Shak.*

**SHEEP-COT**, *n.* [*sheep* and *cot*.] A small inclosure for sheep; a pen. *Milton.*

**SHEEP-FOLD**, *n.* [*sheep* and *fold*.] A place where sheep are collected or confined. *Prior.*

**SHEEP-HOOK**, *n.* [*sheep* and *hook*.] A hook fastened to a pole, by which shepherds lay hold on the legs of their sheep. *Bacon. Dryden.*

**SHEEPISH**, *a.* Like a sheep; bashful; timorous to excess; over-modest; meanly diffident. *Locke.*

2. Pertaining to sheep.

**SHEEPISHLY**, *adv.* Bashfully; with mean timidity or diffidence.

**SHEEPISHNESS**, *n.* Bashfulness; excessive modesty or diffidence; mean timorousness. *Herbert.*

**SHEEP-MARKET**, *n.* A place where sheep are sold.

**SHEEP-MASTER**, *n.* [*sheep* and *master*.] A feeder of sheep; one that has the care of sheep.

**SHEEP'S-EYE**, *n.* [*sheep* and *eye*.] A modest diffident look, such as lovers cast at their mistresses. *Dryden.*

**SHEEP-SHANK**, *n.* [*sheep* and *shank*.] Among *seamen*, a knot in a rope made to shorten it, as on a runner or tie.

**SHEEP'S-HEAD**, *n.* [*sheep* and *head*.] A fish caught on the shores of Connecticut and of Long Island, so called from the resemblance of its head to that of a sheep. It is esteemed delicious food.

**SHEEP-SHEARER**, *n.* [*sheep* and *shear*.] One that shears or cuts off the wool from sheep. Gen. xxxviii.

**SHEEP-SHEARING**, *n.* The act of shearing sheep.

2. The time of shearing sheep; also, a feast made on that occasion. *South.*

**SHEEP-SKIN**, *n.* The skin of a sheep; or leather prepared from it.

**SHEEP-STEALER**, *n.* [*sheep* and *steal*.] One that steals sheep.

**SHEEP-STEALING**, *n.* The act of stealing sheep.

**SHEEP-WALK**, *n.* [*sheep* and *walk*.] Pasture for sheep; a place where sheep feed. *Milton.*

**SHEER**, *a.* [Sax. *seir*, *seyr*; G. *schier*; Dan. *skier*; Sans. *charu*, *tscharu*; from the root of *shear*, to separate; whence *sheer* is clear,

pure. It might be deduced from the Shemitic שָׁר to be clear; Eth. ረረዖ to be clean or pure. But the Danish and Saxon orthography coincides with that of *shear*.]

1. Pure; clear; separate from any thing foreign; unmingled; as *sheer* ale. But this application is unusual. *Shak.*

We say, *sheer* argument, *sheer* wit, *sheer* falsehood, &c.

2. Clear; thin; as *sheer* muslin.

**SHEER**, *adv.* Clean; quite; at once. *Obs. Milton.*

**SHEER**, *v. t.* To shear. [Not in use.] *Dryden.*

**SHEER**, *v. i.* [See *Shear*, the sense of which is to separate.]

1. In *seamen's* language, to decline or deviate from the line of the proper course, as a ship when not steered with steadiness. *Mar. Dict.*

2. To slip or move aside.

To *sheer off*, to turn or move aside to a distance.

To *sheer up*, to turn and approach to a place or ship.

**SHEER**, *n.* The longitudinal curve or bend of a ship's deck or sides.

2. The position in which a ship is sometimes kept at single anchor, to keep her clear of it.

To *break sheer*, to deviate from that position and risk fouling the anchor.

*Mar. Dict.*

**SHEER-HULK**, *n.* An old ship of war, fitted with sheers or apparatus to fix or take out the masts of other ships. *Mar. Dict.*

**SHEERLY**, *adv.* At once; quite; absolutely. *Obs. Beaum.*

**SHEERS**, *n. plu.* An engine consisting of two or more pieces of timber or poles, fastened together near the top; used for raising heavy weights, particularly for hoisting the lower masts of ships. *Mar. Dict.*

**SHEET**, *n.* [Sax. *secat*, *secta*, *scyta*; L. *scheda*; Gr. *σκηδρ*. The Saxon *secat* signifies a garment, a cloth, towel or napkin; *secta* is rendered a *sheet*, and the Greek and Latin words signify a table or plate for writing on; from the root of Sax. *seccadan*, to separate, L. *seindo*, Gr. *σκηω*.]

1. A broad piece of cloth used as a part of bed-furniture.

2. A broad piece of paper as it comes from the manufacturer. *Sheets* of paper are of different sizes, as royal, demi, foolscap, pot and post-paper.

3. A piece of paper printed, folded and bound, or formed into a book in blank, and making four, eight, sixteen or twenty four pages, &c.

4. Any thing expanded; as a *sheet* of water or of fire; a *sheet* of copper, lead or iron.

5. *Sheets*, *plu.* a book or pamphlet. The following *sheets* contain a full answer to my opponent.

6. A sail.

**SHEET**, *n.* [Fr. *ecoute*; Sp. Port. *escota*; It. *scotte*. This word seems to be connected with *seot* or *shot*; Sp. *escotar*, to cut out clothes, to pay one's *seot* or share of taxes, and in nautical language, to free a ship of water by pumping. The word is probably from that root, or from *shoot*.]

In nautical language, a rope fastened to one or both the lower corners of a sail to ex-

tend and retain it in a particular situation. When a ship sails with a side-wind, the lower corners of the main and fore-sails are fastened with a tack and a *sheet*.

*Mar. Dict.*

**SHEET**, *v. t.* To furnish with sheets. [Little used.]

2. To fold in a sheet. [Little used.] *Shak.*

3. To cover as with a sheet; to cover with something broad and thin.

When snow the pasture *sheets*. *Shak.*

To *sheet home*, is to haul home a sheet, or extend the sail till the clew is close to the sheet-block.

**SHEET-ANCHOR**, *n.* The largest anchor of a ship, which in stress of weather is sometimes the seaman's last refuge to prevent the ship from going ashore. Hence,

2. The chief support; the last refuge for safety.

**SHEET-COPPER**, *n.* Copper in broad thin plates.

**SHEETING**, *n.* Cloth for sheets.

**SHEET-IRON**, *n.* Iron in sheets or broad thin plates.

**SHEET-LEAD**, *n.* Lead in sheets.

**SHEIK**, *n.* In Egypt, a person who has the care of a mosque; a kind of priest. *Encyc.*

**SHEKEL**, *n.* [Heb. שֶׁקֶל to weigh; Ch.

Syr. Ar. Eth. id.; Eth. to append or suspend; Low L. *sielus*; Fr. *sicle*. From this root we have *shilling*. Payments were originally made by weight, as they still are in some countries. See *Pound*.]

An ancient weight and coin among the Jews and other nations of the same stock. Dr. Arbuthnot makes the weight to have been equal to 9 pennyweights,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  grains, Troy weight, and the value 2s.  $3\frac{3}{4}$ d. sterling, or about half a dollar. Others make its value 2s. 6d. sterling. The golden shekel was worth £1. 16. 6. sterling, about \$8, 12. *Encyc.*

**SHELD/AFLE**, *n.* A chaffinch.

**SHELD/APLE**, *n.* *Johnson. Todd.*

This word is also written *shell-apple*.

*Ed. Encyc.*

**SHEL/DRAKE**, *n.* An aquatic fowl of the duck kind, the *Anas tadorna*. It has a greenish black head, and its body is variegated with white. *Encyc.*

**SHEL/DUCK**, *n.* A species of wild duck. *Mortimer.*

**SHELF**, *n. plu.* *shelves*. [Sax. *seylf*, whence *seylfan*, to shelve; Fr. *ecueil*, a sand bank.]

1. A platform of boards or planks, elevated above the floor, and fixed or set on a frame or contiguous to a wall, for holding vessels, utensils, books and the like.

2. A sand bank in the sea, or a rock or ledge of rocks, rendering the water shallow and dangerous to ships.

3. In mining, fast ground; that part of the internal structure of the earth which lies in an even regular form. *Encyc.*

**SHELFY**, *a.* Full of shelves; abounding with sand banks or rocks lying near the surface of the water and rendering navigation dangerous; as a *shelfy* coast. *Dryden.*

2. Hard; firm. [See *Shelf*, No. 3.] [Not in use.] *Carew.*

**SHELL**, *n.* [Sax. *seyl*, *scyll*, *scell*, a shell, and *seale*, a scale; D. *schil*, *schaal*; G.