

have been entertained respecting its origin; but it is well ascertained, that it is indurated fecal matter, discharged by the spermatic whale, a species of *physeter*. It has been found in that species of whale, but usually is found floating on the surface of the ocean, in regions frequented by whales; sometimes in masses of from 60 to 225 lbs. weight. In this substance are found the beaks of the cuttle fish, on which that whale is known to feed. It is highly valued as a material in perfumery.

*Encyc.*  
**AM BIDENTER**, *n.* [*L. ambo*, both, and *dexter*, the right hand.]

1. A person who uses both hands with equal facility.
2. A double dealer; one equally ready to act on either side in party disputes. [*This sense is used in ludicrous language.*]
3. *Encyc.* A juror who takes money of both parties, for giving his verdict; an embezzler.

**AMBIDENTERITY**, *n.* The faculty.  
**AMBIDEX TROUSNESS**, *n.* Of using both hands with equal facility; double dealing; the taking of money from both parties for a verdict.

**AMBIDEX TROUS**, *a.* Having the faculty of using both hands with equal ease; practicing or siding with both parties.

**AMBIENT**, *a.* [*L. ambiens*, from *ambio*, to go round, from *amb*, about, and *eo*, to go.] Surrounding; encompassing on all sides; investing; applied to fluids or diffusible substances; as, the ambient air. *Milton.*

**AMBIGUENAL**, *a.* [*L. ambo*, both, and *genu*, a knee.]

An ambigonal hyperbola is one of the triple hyperbolas of the second order, having one of its infinite legs falling within an angle formed by the asymptotes, and the other without. *Encyc.*

**AMBIGUITY**, *n.* [*L. ambiguitas*, from *ambigo*.]

Doubtfulness or uncertainty of signification, from a word's being susceptible of different meanings; double meaning. *King.*

Words should be used which admit of no ambiguity.

**AMBIGUOUS**, *a.* [*L. ambiguus*.]

Having two or more meanings; doubtful; being of uncertain signification; susceptible of different interpretations; hence, obscure. It is applied to words and expressions; not to a dubious state of mind, though it may be to a person using words of doubtful signification.

The ancient oracles were ambiguous, as were their answers.

**AMBIGUOUSLY**, *adv.* In an ambiguous manner; with doubtful meaning.

**AMBIGUOUSNESS**, *n.* The quality of being ambiguous; uncertainty of meaning; ambiguity; and hence, obscurity.

**AMBIGY**, *n.* [*ambo*, both, and *logos*, speech.]

Talk or language of doubtful meaning.

**AMBIGUOUSLY**, *a.* [*ambo*, both, and *loquor*, to speak.]

Using ambiguous expressions.

**AMBIT**, *n.* [*L. ambitus*, a circuit, from *ambio*, to go about. See *Ambient*.]

The line that encompasses a thing; in geometry, the perimeter of a figure, or the surface of a body. The periphery or circumference of a circular body.

*Johnson. Encyc.*

**AMBITION**, *n.* [*L. ambitio*, from *ambio*, to go about, or to seek by making interest, of *amb*, about, and *eo*, to go. See *Ambages*.] This word had its origin in the practice of Roman candidates for office, who went about the city to solicit votes.]

A desire of preferment, or of honor; a desire of excellence or superiority. It is used in a good sense; as, emulation may spring from a laudable ambition. It denotes also an inordinate desire of power, or emulgence, often accompanied with illegal means to obtain the object. It is sometimes followed by *of*; as, a man has an ambition of wit. Milton has used the word in the Latin sense of *going about*, or attempting; but this sense is hardly legitimate.

**AMBITIOUS**, *v. t.* [*Fr. ambitionner*.] Ambitiously to seek after. [*Little used.*]

**AMBITIOUS**, *a.* Desirous of power, honor, office, superiority or excellence; aspiring; eager for fame; followed by *of* before a noun; as, ambitious of glory.

2. Showy; adapted to command notice or praise; as, ambitious ornaments.

3. *Figuratively*, eager to swell or rise higher; as, the ambitious ocean. *Shak.*

**AMBITIOUSLY**, *adv.* In an ambitious manner; with an eager desire after preferment, or superiority.

**AMBITIOUSNESS**, *n.* The quality of being ambitious; ambition. Being nearly synonymous with *ambition*, it is not often used.

**AMBLE**, *v. i.* [*Fr. ambler*, from *L. ambulo*, to walk; *Qu. amb*, about, and the root of *Fr. aller*.]

1. To move with a certain peculiar pace, as a horse, first lifting his two legs on one side, and then changing to the other.

2. To move easy, without hard shocks. *Edin. Encyc.*

Him time ambles withal. *Shak.*

3. In a *ludicrous* sense, to move with submission, or by direction, or to move affectedly. *Johnson.*

**AMBLE**, *n.* A peculiar pace of a horse.

**AMBLER**, *n.* A horse which ambles; a pacer.

**AMBLIGON**, or **AMBLYGON**, *n.* [*Gr. αμβλῖς*, obtuse, and γωνία, an angle.]

An obtuse angled triangle; a triangle with one angle more than ninety degrees. *Bailey. Encyc.*

**AMBLIGONAL**, *a.* Containing an obtuse angle. *Ash.*

**AMBLIGONITE**, *n.* [*Gr. αμβλῖς*, obtuse, and γωνίος, having an obtuse angle.]

A greenish colored mineral, of different pale shades, marked on the surface with reddish and yellowish brown spots. It occurs massive or crystallized in oblique four-sided prisms, in granite, with topaz and tourmaline, in Saxony. *Ure.*

**AMBLING**, *ppr.* or *a.* Lifting the two legs on the same side at first going off, and then changing.

**AMBLINGLY**, *adv.* With an ambling gait.

**AMBLYOPY**, *n.* [*Gr. αμβλῖς*, dull, and ὄψις, eye.]

Incipient amaurosis; dulness or obscurity of sight, without any apparent defect of the organs; sight so depraved that objects can be seen only in a certain light, distance, or position. *Encyc. Cox.*

**AMBO**, *n.* [*Gr. αμβώ*, a pulpit; *L. ambo*, a boss.]

A reading desk, or pulpit. *Whelec.*

**AMBREA DA**, *n.* [*from ambr.*] A kind of factitious amber, which the Europeans sell to the Africans. *Encyc.*

**AMBROSIA**, *n.* *ambrosia*, [*Gr. a neg.* and *βρωσις*, mortal, because it was supposed to confer immortality on them that fed on it.]

1. In *heaven antiquity*, the imaginary food of the gods. Hence,

2. Whatever is very pleasing to the taste or smell. The name has also been given to certain alexipharmic compositions.

**AMBROSIAL**, *a.* *ambrosial*. Partaking of the nature or qualities of ambrosia; fragrant; delighting the taste or smell; as, ambrosial dews. Ben Jonson uses *ambrosiac* in a like sense, and Bailey has *ambrosian*, but these seem not to be warranted by usage.

**AMBROSIAN**, *a.* Pertaining to St. Ambrose. The *Ambrosian* office, or ritual, is a formula of worship in the church of Milan, instituted by St. Ambrose, in the fourth century. *Encyc.*

**AMBROSIN**, *n.* In the middle ages, a coin struck by the dukes of Milan, on which St. Ambrose was represented on horseback, with a whip in his right hand. *Encyc.*

**AMBRY**, *n.* [contracted from *Fr. almoguerie*, almshouse, from old *Fr. almoigne*, alms.]

1. An almshouse; a place where alms are deposited for distribution to the poor. In ancient abbeys and priories there was an office of this name, in which the almoner lived.

2. A place in which are deposited the utensils for house keeping; also a cupboard; a place for cold vituals.

**AMBS-ACE**, *n.* [*L. ambo*, both, and *acc.*]

A double ace, as when two dice turn up the ace. *Johnson.*

**AMBULANT**, *a.* [*L. ambulans*, from *ambulo*.]

Walking; moving from place to place. *Encyc.*

*Ambulant brokers*, in Amsterdam, are exchange-brokers, or agents, who are not sworn, and whose testimony is not received in courts of justice. *Encyc.*

**AMBULATION**, *n.* [*L. ambulatio*.] A walking about; the act of walking.

**AMBULATOR**, *n.* In *entomology*, a species of *Lamia*, whose thorax is armed on each side with two spines; a *Cerambyx* of *Lime*. *Cyc.*

**AMBULATORY**, *a.* That has the power or faculty of walking; as, an animal is ambulatory.

2. Pertaining to a walk; as, an ambulatory view.

3. Moving from place to place; not stationary; as, an ambulatory court, which exercises its jurisdiction in different places. *Johnson.*

**AMBULATORY**, *n.* A species of ichneumon.