

**THE**, *an adjective, or definitive adjective.* [Sax. *the*; D. *de*. Qu. Ch. 87.]

1. This adjective is used as a definitive, that is, before nouns which are specific or understood; or it is used to limit their signification to a specific thing or things, or to describe them; as the laws of the twelve tables. *The* independent tribunals of justice in our country, are *the* security of private rights, and *the* best bulwark against arbitrary power. *The* sun is the source of light and heat.

This he calls the preaching of the cross.

*Sineon.*

2. *The* is also used rhetorically before a noun in the singular number, to denote a species by way of distinction; a single thing representing the whole. *The* fig tree putteth forth her green figs; *the* almond tree shall flourish; *the* grasshopper shall be a burden.

3. In *poetry*, *the* sometimes loses the final vowel before another vowel.

*Th'* adorning thee with so much art,  
Is but a barb'rous skill.

*Cowley*

4. *The* is used before adjectives in the comparative and superlative degree. *The* longer we continue in sin, *the* more difficult it is to reform. *The* most strenuous exertions will be used to emancipate Greece. *The* most we can do is to submit; *the* best we can do; *the* worst that can happen.

**THE'ARCHY**, *n.* [Gr. *θεος*, God, and *αρχη*, rule.]

Government by God; more commonly called *theocracy*.

*Ch. Relig. Appeal.*

**THE'ATER**, *n.* [Fr. *theatre*; L. *theatrum*;  
**THE'ATRE**, *n.* Gr. *θεατρον*, from *θεαομαι*, to see.]

1. Among *the ancients*, an edifice in which spectacles or shows were exhibited for the amusement of spectators.
2. In *modern times*, a house for the exhibition of dramatic performances, as tragedies, comedies and farces; a play-house; comprehending the stage, the pit, the boxes, galleries and orchestra.
3. Among *the Italians*, an assemblage of buildings, which by a happy disposition and elevation, represents an agreeable scene to the eye.
4. A place rising by steps or gradations like the seats of a theater.

Shade above shade, a woody theater

Of stateliest view—

*Milton.*

5. A place of action or exhibition; as *the theater* of the world.
6. A building for the exhibition of *scholastic* exercises, as at Oxford, or for other exhibitions.

*Anatomical theater*, a hall with several rows of seats, disposed in the manner of an amphitheater, and a table turning on a pivot in the middle, for anatomical demonstrations.

*Cyc.*

**THE'ATINS**, *n.* An order of regular priests in Naples, who have no property, nor do they beg, but wait for what providence sends them. They have their name from the chief of the order.

**THE'ATRAL**, *a.* Belonging to a theater.

[Not in use.]

**THE'ATRIC**, *n.* Pertaining to a theater or to scenic representations; resembling the manner of

dramatic performers; as *theatrical* dress; *theatrical* performances; *theatrical* gestures.

**THEAT'RICALLY**, *adv.* In the manner of actors on the stage; in a manner suiting the stage.

**THEAVE**, *n.* An ewe of the first year.

**THAVE**, *n.* [Local.]

**THEE**, *pron. obj. case of thou.* [contracted from Sax. *thee*; Cimb. *thig*; Francic, *thee*; Goth. *thuk*. See *Thou*.]

**THEE**, *v. i.* [Goth. *thikan*; Sax. *thcan*.] To thrive; to prosper. *Obs.*

*Chaucer.*

**THEFT**, *n.* [Sax. *thyfthe*. See *Thief*.] The act of stealing. In *law*, the private, unlawful, felonious taking of another person's goods or movables, with an intent to steal them. To constitute *theft*, the taking must be in private or without the owner's knowledge, and it must be unlawful or felonious, that is, it must be with a design to deprive the owner of his property privately and against his will. Theft differs from *robbery*, as the latter is a violent taking from the person, and of course not private.

2. The thing stolen. Ex. xxii.

**THEFT-BOTE**, *n.* [*theft* and Sax. *bote*, compensation.]

In *law*, the receiving of a man's goods again from a thief; or a compensation for them, by way of composition, and to prevent the prosecution of the thief. This in England subjects a person to a heavy fine, as by this means the punishment of the criminal is prevented.

**THEIR**, *a. pronom.* [Sax. *hiora*; Ice. *theirra*.]

1. *Their* has the sense of a pronominal adjective, denoting of *them*, or the possession of two or more; as *their* voices; *their* garments; *their* houses; *their* land; *their* country.

2. *Theirs* is used as a substitute for the adjective and the noun to which it refers, and in this case, it may be the nominative to a verb. "Our land is the most extensive, but *theirs* is the best cultivated." Here *theirs* stands as the representative of *their land*, and is the nominative to *is*.

Nothing but the name of zeal appears

'Twixt our best actions and the worst of *theirs*.

*Denham.*

In this use, *theirs* is not in the possessive case, for then there would be a double possessive.

**THE'ISM**, *n.* [from Gr. *θεος*, God.] The belief or acknowledgment of the existence of a God, as opposed to *atheism*. *Theism* differs from *deism*, for although *deism* implies a belief in the existence of a God, yet it signifies in modern usage a denial of revelation, which *theism* does not.

**THE'IST**, *n.* One who believes in the existence of a God.

**THEIST'IC**, *a.* Pertaining to theism, **THEIST'ICAL**, *a.* or to a theist; according to the doctrine of theists.

**THEM**, *pron.* the objective case of *they*, and of both genders. [In our mother tongue, *them* is an adjective, answering to *the*, in the dative and ablative cases of both numbers. The common people continue to use it in the plural number as an adjective, for they say, bring *them* horses, or *them* horses are to be led to water.]

Go ye to *them* that sell, and buy for yourselves. Matt. xxv.

Then shall the king say to *them* on his right hand, come, ye blessed of my Father— Matt. xxv.

**THEME**, *n.* [L. *thema*; Gr. *θεμα*, from *τιθημι*, to set or place.]

1. A subject or topic on which a person writes or speaks. The preacher takes a text for the *theme* of his discourse.

When a soldier was the *theme*, my name

Was not far off.

*Shak.*

2. A short dissertation composed by a student.

*Milton.*

3. In *grammar*, a radical verb, or the verb in its primary absolute sense, not modified by inflections; as the infinitive mode in English. But a large portion of the words called *themes* in Greek, are not the radical words, but are themselves derivative forms of the verb. The fact is the same in other languages.

4. In *music*, a series of notes selected as the text or subject of a new composition.

**THEMSELVES**, a compound of *them* and *selves*, and added to *they* by way of emphasis or pointed distinction. Thus we say, *they themselves* have done the mischief; they cannot blame others. In this case, *themselves* is in the nominative case, and may be considered as an emphatical pronoun.

In some cases, *themselves* is used without *they*, and stands as the only nominative to the following verb. *Themselves* have done the mischief.

This word is used also in the objective case after a verb or preposition. Things in *themselves* innocent, may under certain circumstances cease to be so.

They open to *themselves* at length the way.

*Milton.*

**THEN**, *adv.* [Goth. Sax. *thanne*; G. *dann*; D. *dan*. See *Thence*.]

1. At that time, referring to a time specified, either past or future.

And the Canaanite was *then* in the land. Gen. xii.

That is, when Abram migrated and came into Canaan.

Now I know in part, but *then* shall I know even as I am known. 1 Cor. xii.

2. Afterward; soon afterward or immediately.

First be reconciled to thy brother, and *then* come and offer thy gift. Matt. v.

3. In that case; in consequence. Gal. iii. Job iii.

If all this be so, *then* man has a natural freedom.

*Locke.*

4. Therefore; for this reason.

Now *then* be all thy weighty cares away.

*Dryden.*

5. At another time; as *now* and *then*, at one time and another.

*Milton.*

6. That time.

Till *then* who knew

The force of those dire arms?

*Milton.*

**THENCE**, *adv.* *thens*. [Sax. *thanan*, *thanon*; G. *dannen*; from *than*, *dann*, then, supra. *Then* signifies properly place, or set time, from *setting*, and *thence* is derived from it. So the Germans say, *von dannen*, from *thence*.]

1. From that place.

When you depart *thence*, shake off the dust of your feet. Mark vi.