

Among *seamen*, a ring formed of a strand of rope laid in three times round; used to fasten the upper edge of a sail to its stay.
Mar. Dict.

GROOM, *n.* [Pers. *خورما* *garma*, a keeper of horses. *Qu.* Flemish or old *D. groom*, a boy.]

1. A boy or young man; a waiter; a servant.
2. A man or boy who has the charge of horses; one who takes care of horses or the stable.
3. In *England*, an officer of the king's household; as the *groom* of the chamber; *groom* of the stole or wardrobe.

4. *Groom* for *groom*, in *bridgroom*, is a palpable mistake.

GROOVE, *n.* *groove*. [*Ice. groof*; *Sw. grop*; but it is merely a variation of *grave*. See *Grave* and *Grip*.]

1. A furrow, channel, or long hollow cut by a tool. Among *joiners*, a channel in the edge of a molding, style or rail.
2. Among *miners*, a shaft or pit sunk into the earth.

GROOVE, *v. t.* [*Sw. gröpa*.] To cut a channel with an edged tool; to furrow.

GROOVER, *n.* A miner. [*Local*.]

GROOVING, *ppr.* Cutting in channels.

GROPE, *v. t.* [*Sax. gropian, grapien*; *G. grabbeln, greifen*; *D. grappen, grabbeln*; *Dan. griber*, to gripe; to grope; *Sw. grubla*, *Dan. grubler*, to search. The sense is to feel or to catch with the hand.]

1. To feel along; to search or attempt to find in the dark, or as a blind person, by feeling.

We grope for the wall like the blind. *Is.*

The dying believer leaves the weeping children of mortality to grope a little longer among the miseries and sensualities of a worldly life.
Buckminster.

2. To seek blindly in intellectual darkness, without a certain guide or means of knowledge.

GROPE, *v. t.* To search by feeling in the dark. We groped our way at midnight.

But Strephon, cautious, never meant
The bottom of the pan to grope. *Swift.*

GROPER, *n.* One who gropes; one who feels his way in the dark, or searches by feeling.

GROPING, *ppr.* Feeling for something in darkness; searching by feeling.

GROSS, *a.* [*Fr. gros*; *It. Port. grosso*; *Sp. grueso, grosoro*; *L. crassus*; a dialectical variation of *great*.]

1. Thick; bulky; particularly applied to animals; fat; corpulent; as a *gross* man; a *gross* body.
2. Coarse; rude; rough; not delicate; as *gross* sculpture. *Watson.*
3. Coarse, in a figurative sense; rough; mean; particularly, vulgar; obscene; indelicate; as *gross* language; *gross* jests.
4. Thick; large; opposed to *fine*; as wood or stone of a *gross* grain.
5. Impure; unrefined; as *gross* sensuality.
6. Great; palpable; as a *gross* mistake; *gross* injustice.
7. Coarse; large; not delicate; as *gross* features.
8. Thick; dense; not attenuated; not refi-

ned or pure; as a *gross* medium of sight; *gross* air; *gross* elements. *Bacon. Pope.*

9. Unseemly; enormous; shameful; great; as *gross* corruptions; *gross* vices.
10. Stupid; dull.

Tell her of things that no *gross* ear can hear.
Milton.

11. Whole; entire; as the *gross* sum, or *gross* amount, as opposed to a sum consisting of separate or specified parts.

GROSS, *n.* The main body; the chief part; the bulk; the mass; as the *gross* of the people. [We now use *bulk*.] *Addison.*

2. The number of twelve dozen; twelve times twelve; as a *gross* of bottles. It never has the plural form. We say, *five gross* or *ten gross*.

In the *gross*, in *gross*, in the bulk, or the whole undivided; all parts taken together. By the *gross*, in a like sense.

Gross weight, is the weight of merchandize or goods, with the dust and dross, the bag, cask, chest, &c., in which they are contained, for which an allowance is to be made of tare and tret. This being deducted, the remainder or real weight is denominated *net* or *net* weight. *Gross* weight has lately been abolished in Connecticut by statute, May, 1827.

In English law, a *villain* in *gross*, was one who did not belong to the land, but immediately to the person of the lord, and was transferrable by deed, like chattels, from one owner to another. *Blackstone.*

Adworn in *gross*, an adwornship separated from the property of a manor, and annexed to the person of its owner.

Common in *gross*, is common annexed to a man's person, and not appurtenant to land. *Blackstone.*

GROSSBEAK, *n.* A fowl of the genus *Loxia*, of several species. The bill is convex above and very thick at the base, from which circumstance it takes its name.

GROSS-HEADED, *a.* Having a thick skull; stupid. *Milton.*

GROSSLY, *adv.* In bulky or large parts; coarsely. This matter is *grossly* pulverized.

2. Greatly; palpably; enormously; as, this affair has been *grossly* misrepresented.
3. Greatly; shamefully; as *grossly* criminal.

4. Coarsely; without refinement or delicacy; as language *grossly* vulgar.

5. Without art or skill.

GROSSNESS, *n.* Thickness; bulkiness; corpulence; fatness; applied to animal bodies.

2. Thickness; spissitude; density; as the *grossness* of vapors.

3. Coarseness; rudeness; want of refinement or delicacy; vulgarity; as the *grossness* of language; the *grossness* of wit.

Ahor the swinish *grossness* that delights to wound the ear of delicacy. *Deight.*

4. Greatness; enormity; as the *grossness* of vice.

GROSSULAR, *a.* Pertaining to or resembling a gooseberry; as *grossular* garnet.

GROSSULAR, *n.* A rare mineral of the garnet kind, so named from its green color. [*supra*.]

GROT, *n.* [*Fr. grotte*; *It. grotta*; *Sp. GROTTO*; *n.* and *Port. gruta*; *G.* and *Dan. grotte*; *D. grot*; *Sax. grul. Grotta* is not used.]

1. A large cave or den; a subterranean cavern, and primarily, a natural cave or rent in the earth, or such as is formed by a current of water, or an earthquake.

Pope. Prior. Dryden.

2. A cave for coolness and refreshment.

GROTESQUE, *a.* [*Fr. grotesque*; *Sp. GROTESCO*; *a.* *Port. grutesco*; *It.*

grottesca; from *grotto*.] Wildly formed; whimsical; extravagant; of irregular forms and proportions; ludicrous; antic; resembling the figures found in the subterranean apartments in the ancient ruins at Rome; applied to pieces of sculpture and painting, and to natural scenery; as *grotesque* painting; *grotesque* design. *Dryden.*

GROTESQUE, *n.* Whimsical figures or *GROTESK*, *n.* scenery.

GROTESQUELY, *a.* In a fantastical *GROTESKLY*, *a.* manner.

GROUND, *n.* [*Sax. G. Dan. Sw. grund*; *D. grond*; *Russ. grunt*. This word may be the *Ir. grián*, ground, bottom of a river or lake, from *grean*, *W. graean*, gravel. See *Grain*. It seems primarily to denote the gravelly bottom of a river or lake, or of the sea, which shows the appropriate sense of the verb to *ground*, as used by seamen.]

1. The surface of land or upper part of the earth, without reference to the materials which compose it. We apply *ground* to soil, sand or gravel indifferently, but never apply it to the whole mass of the earth or globe, nor to any portion of it when removed. We never say a shovel full or a load of *ground*. We say under *ground*, but not under *earth*; and we speak of the globe as divided into *land* and *water*, not into *ground* and *water*. Yet *ground*, *earth* and *land* are often used synonymously. We say, the produce or fruits of the *ground*, of the *earth*, or of *land*. The water overflows the *low ground*, or the *low land*.

There was not a man to till the *ground*. *Gen. ii.*

The *ground* shall give its increase. *Zech.*

viii. The fire ran along on the *ground*. *Ex. ix.*

2. Region; territory; as *Egyptian ground*; *British ground*; heavenly *ground*. *Milton.*

3. Land; estate; possession. Thy next design is on thy neighbor's *grounds*. *Dryden.*

4. The surface of the earth, or a floor or pavement.

Dagon had fallen on his face to the *ground*. *1 Sam. v.*

5. Foundation; that which supports any thing. This argument stands on defensible *ground*. Hence,

6. Fundamental cause; primary reason or original principle. He stated the *grounds* of his complaint.

Making happiness the *ground* of his unhappiness. *Sidney.*

7. First principles; as the *grounds* of religion. *Milton.*

8. In *painting*, the surface on which a figure or object is represented; that surface or substance which retains the original color,