

1. Substance excreted from living animal bodies; that which is thrown out or discharged in a tumor, boil or abscess; pus; purulent substance collected in an abscess, the effect of suppuration more or less perfect; as digested *matter*; sanious *matter*.
2. Body; substance extended; that which is visible or tangible; as earth, wood, stone, air, vapor, water.
3. In a more general and philosophic sense, the substance of which all bodies are composed; the substratum of sensible qualities, though the parts composing the substratum may not be visible or tangible.

Encyc.

Matter is usually divided by philosophical writers into four kinds or classes; *solid*, *liquid*, *aeriform*, and *imponderable*. *Solid* substances are those whose parts firmly cohere and resist impression, as wood or stone; *liquids* have free motion among their parts, and easily yield to impression, as water and wine. *Aeriform* substances are elastic fluids, called vapors and gases, as air and oxygen gas. The *imponderable* substances are destitute of weight, as light, caloric, electricity, and magnetism.

4. Subject; thing treated; that about which we write or speak; that which employs thought or excites emotion; as, 'this is *matter* of praise, of gratitude, or of astonishment.'

Son of God, Savior of men, thy name  
Shall be the copious *matter* of my song.

Milton.

5. The very thing supposed or intended.  
He grants the deluge to have come so very near the *matter*, that few escaped. *Tillotson*.
6. Affair; business; event; thing; course of things. *Matters* have succeeded well thus far; observe how *matters* stand; thus the *matter* rests at present; thus the *matter* ended.

To help the *matter*, the alchemists call in many vanities from astrology. *Bacon*.

Some young female seems to have carried *matters* so far, that she is ripe for asking advice. *Spectator*.

7. Cause of any event, as of any disturbance, of a disease, or of a difficulty. When a moving machine stops suddenly, we ask, what is the *matter*? When a person is ill, we ask, what is the *matter*? When a tumult or quarrel takes place, we ask, what is the *matter*?

8. Subject of complaint; suit; demand.  
If the *matter* should be tried by duel between two champions— *Bacon*.

Every great *matter* they shall bring to thee, but every small *matter* they shall judge— *Ex. xviii*.

9. Import; consequence; importance; moment.

A prophet some, and some a poet cry,  
No *matter* which, so neither of them lie.

Dryden.

10. Space of time; a portion of distance.  
I have thoughts to tarry a small *matter*.

Congreve.

Away he goes, a *matter* of seven miles—

L'Estrange.

[In these last senses, the use of *matter* is now vulgar.]

Upon the *matter*, considering the whole; taking all things into view. This phrase is now obsolete; but in lieu of it, we sometimes use, upon the whole *matter*.

Waller, with Sir William Balfour, exceeded in horse, but were, upon the whole *matter*, equal in foot. *Clarendon*.

*Matter of record*, that which is recorded, or which may be proved by record.

**MAT'TER**, *v. i.* To be of importance; to import; used with *it*, *this*, *that*, or *what*. *This matters not*; *that matters not*; chiefly used in negative phrases; as, *what matters it?*

*It matters not* how they are called, so we know who they are. *Locke*.

2. To mature; to form pus; to collect, as matter in an abscess.

Each slight sore *mattereth*. [*Little used.*] *Sidney*.

[We now use *mature*.]

**MAT'TER**, *v. t.* To regard. [*Not used.*]

**MAT'TERLESS**, *a.* Void of matter. *B. Jonson*.

**MAT'TERY**, *a.* Purulent; generating pus; as a *mattery* cough. *Harvey*.

**MAT'TOCK**, *n.* [*Sax. mattuc*; *W. matog*.] A tool to grub up weeds or roots; a grubbing hoe. *Bailey*.

**MAT'TRESS**. [*Sec Matress*, a more correct orthography.]

**MAT'URANT**, *n.* [*L. maturo*, from *maturus*, mature, ripe.]

In pharmacy, a medicine or application to a tumor, which promotes suppuration.

Encyc.

**MAT'URATE**, *v. t.* [*L. maturo*, to hasten, from *maturus*, ripe.]

To ripen; to hasten or promote suppuration.

**MAT'URATE**, *v. i.* To become ripe; to suppurate, as a tumor, and form pus.

**MAT'URATION**, *n.* The process of ripening or coming to maturity; ripeness.

Bacon.

2. The process of suppurating; suppuration; the forming of pus in tumors. *Quincy*.

**MAT'URATIVE**, *a.* Ripening; conducing to ripeness.

2. Conducing to suppuration, or the formation of matter in a tumor or abscess.

**MAT'URE**, *a.* [*L. maturus*; *Dan. moed*, *moeden*. In *W. med*, is complete, perfect, mature; and *medi* signifies to reap, *L. meto*. So *ripe*, in English, seems to be connected with *reap*. In *Ch. מָצַח* signifies to come to, to reach, to be mature. See *Mect*.]

1. Ripe; perfected by time or natural growth; as a man of *mature* age. We apply it to a young man who has arrived to the age when he is supposed to be competent to manage his own concerns; to a young woman who is fit to be married; and to elderly men who have much experience.

Their prince is a man of learning and virtue, *mature* in years— *Addison*.

*Mature* the virgin was, of Egypt's race.

Prior.

How shall I meet or how accost the sage,  
Unskilled in speech, nor yet *mature* of age.

Pope.

2. Brought to perfection; used of plants.

The wheat is *mature*.

3. Completed; prepared; ready. The plan or scheme was *mature*.

This lies glowing, and is *mature* for the violent breaking out. *Shak*.

4. Ripe; come to suppuration; as, the tumor is *mature*.

**MAT'URE**, *v. t.* [*L. maturo*.] To ripen; to hasten to a perfect state; to promote ripeness.

Prick an apple with a pin full of holes, not deep, and smear it with sack, to see if the virtual heat of the wine will not *mature* it.

Bacon.

2. To advance towards perfection.

Love indulged my labors past,

*Matures* my present, and shall bound my last. *Pope*.

**MAT'URE**, *v. i.* To advance toward ripeness; to become ripe or perfect. Wine *matures* by age, or by agitation in a long voyage. The judgment *matures* by age and experience.

**MAT'URED**, *pp.* Ripened; advanced to perfection; prepared.

**MAT'URELY**, *adv.* With ripeness; completely.

2. With full deliberation. A prince entering on war, ought *maturely* to consider the state of his finances.

3. Early; soon. [*A Latinism, little used.*] *Bentley*.

**MAT'URING**, *ppr.* Ripening; being in or coming to a complete state.

**MAT'URITY**, *n.* Ripeness; a state of

**MAT'URENESS**, *n.* perfection or completeness; as the *maturity* of age or of judgment; the *maturity* of corn or of grass; the *maturity* of a plan or scheme.

**MAT'UTINAL**, *a.* [*L. matutinus*.] Pertaining to the morning.

Herbert.

**MAT'WEED**, *n.* A plant of the genus *Lygeum*.

**MAUD'LIN**, *a.* [corrupted from *Magdalen*, who is drawn by painters with eyes swelled and red with weeping.]

Drunk; fuddled; approaching to intoxication; stupid.

And the kind *maudlin* crowd melts in her

praise. *Southern*.

**MAUD'LIN**, *n.* A plant of the genus *Achillea*.

**MAU'GER**, *adv.* [*Fr. malgré*, ill will; *mal* and *gré*.]

In spite of; in opposition to; notwithstanding; used only in burlesque.

This, *mauger* all the world, will I keep safe.

Shak.

**MAUKIN**. [*Sec Malkin*.]

**MAUL**, *n.* [*L. malleus*. See *Mall*.] A heavy wooden hammer; written also *mall*.

**MAUL**, *v. t.* To beat and bruise with a heavy stick or cudgel; to wound in a coarse manner.

Meek modern faith to murder, hack and

moul. *Pope*.

**MAUNCH**, *n.* [*Fr. manche*.] A loose sleeve. [*Not used.*] *Herbert*.

**MAUND**, *n.* [*Sax. and D. mand*.] A hand-basket; a word used in Scotland.

**MAUND**, *v. t. and i.* To mutter; to murmur; to grumble;

to beg. *Obs*.

**MAUND'ER**, *n.* A beggar. *Obs*.

**MAUND'ERER**, *n.* A grumbler. *Obs*.

**MAUND'ERING**, *n.* Complaint. *Obs*.

**MAUNDY-THURSDAY**, *n.* [supposed to be from *Sax. mand*, a basket; because on that day, princes used to give alms to the poor from their baskets; or from *dies mandati*, the day of command, on which day our Savior gave his great *mandate*, that we should love one another. *Lye*. *Johnson*.]