

**SPICULATE**, *v. t.* [*L. spicula*, to sharpen, from *spiculum*, a dart, from *spica*, or its root. See *Spike*.] To sharpen to a point. *Mason.*

**SPICY**, *a.* [from *spice*.] Producing spice; abounding with spices; as the *spicy* shore of Arabia. *Milton.*

2. Having the qualities of spice; fragrant; aromatic; as *spicy* plants. Led by new stars and borne by *spicy* gales. *Pope.*

**SPIDER**, *n.* [I know not from what source this word is derived.]

The common name of the insects of the genus *Aranea*, remarkable for spinning webs for taking their prey and forming a convenient habitation, and for the deposit of their food.

The *spider's* touch, how exquisitely fine! *Pope.*

**SPIDER-CATCHER**, *n.* A bird so called. *Shak.*

**SPIDERWÖRT**, *n.* A plant of the genus *Anthericum*.

**SPIG'NEL**. [See *Spicknel*.]

**SPIG'OT**, *n.* [*W. yspigawd*, from *yspig*, Eng. *spike*; from *pig*, Eng. *pike*; Dan. *spiger*, a nail. See *Spike* and *Pike*.]

A pin or peg used to stop a faucet, or to stop a small hole in a cask of liquor. *Swift.*

**SPIKE**, *n.* [*W. yspig*, supra; *D. spyk*, *spijker*; *G. speiche*; Dan. *spiger*, Sw. *spik*, a nail; *L. spica*, an ear of corn. It signifies a shoot or point. Class Bg. See *Pike*.]

1. A large nail; always in America applied to a nail or pin of metal. A similar thing made of wood is sometimes used for a sharp point of wood.

2. An ear of corn or grain. It is applied to the heads of wheat, rye and barley; and is particularly applicable to the ears of maize.

3. A shoot. *Addison.*

4. [*L. spica*.] In *botany*, a species of inflorescence, in which sessile flowers are alternate on a common simple peduncle, as in wheat and rye, lavender, &c. *Martyn.*

**SPIKE**, *n.* A smaller species of lavender. *Hill.*

**SPIKE**, *v. t.* To fasten with spikes or long and large nails; as, to *spike* down the planks of a floor or bridge.

2. To set with spikes.

A youth leaping over the *spiked* pales—was caught by the spikes. [*Unusual*.] *Wiseman.*

3. To stop the vent with spikes; as, to *spike* cannon.

**SPIK'ED**, *pp.* Furnished with spikes, as corn; fastened with spikes; stopped with spikes.

**SPIKE-LAVENDER**, *n.* The *Lavandula spica*. *Ed. Encyc.*

**SPIKELET**, *n.* In *botany*, a small spike of a large one; or a subdivision of a spike. *Barton.*

**SPIKENARD**, *n.* *spik'nard*. [*L. spica nardi*.]

1. A plant of the genus *Nardus*.

2. The oil or balsam procured from the spikenard.

**SPIK'ING**, *pp.* Fastening with spikes; stopping with large nails.

**SPI'KY**, *a.* Having a sharp point. *Dyer.*

**SPILE**, *n.* [*D. spil*, a pivot, a spindle; *G. spille*; *Ir. spile*; *W. ebill*; from the root of *L. pilus, pitum*, &c.]

1. A small peg or wooden pin, used to stop a hole.

2. A stake driven into the ground to protect a bank, &c.

**SPELL**, *n.* [a different orthography of *spile*, supra.]

1. A small peg or pin for stopping a cask; as a vent hole stopped with a *spell*. *Mortimer.*

2. A little bar or pin of iron. *Carew.*

3. A little sum of money. [*Not in use*.] *Ayliffe.*

**SPILL**, *v. t.* pret. *spilled* or *spilt*; *pp. id.* [*Sax. spillan*; *D. G. spillen*; *Sw. spilla*; Dan. *spilder*.]

1. To suffer to fall or run out of a vessel; to lose or suffer to be scattered; applied only to fluids and to substances whose particles are small and loose. Thus we *spill* water from a pail; we *spill* spirit or oil from a bottle; we *spill* quicksilver or powders from a vessel or a paper; we *spill* sand or flour.

2. To suffer to be shed; as, a man *spills* his own blood.

3. To cause to flow out or lose; to shed; as, a man *spills* another's blood. [This is applied to cases of murder or other homicide, but not to venesection. In the latter case we say, to *let* or *take* blood.]

And to revenge his blood so justly *spilt*—

*Dryden.*

4. To mischief; to destroy; as, to *spill* the mind or soul; to *spill* glory; to *spill* forms, &c. [*This application is obsolete and now improper*.]

5. To throw away. *Tickel.*

6. In *seamen's language*, to discharge the wind out of the cavity or belly of a sail. *Mar. Dict.*

**SPILL**, *v. i.* To waste; to be prodigal. [*Not in use*.]

2. To be shed; to be suffered to fall, be lost or wasted.

He was so topfull of himself, that he let it *spill* on all the company. *Watts.*

**SPILL'ED**, *pp.* Suffered to fall, as liquids; shed.

**SPILL'ER**, *n.* One that spills or sheds.

2. A kind of fishing line. *Carew.*

**SPILL'ING**, *pp.* Suffering to fall or run out, as liquids; shedding.

*Spilling-lines*, in a ship, are ropes for furling more conveniently the square sails. *Mar. Dict.*

**SPILT**, *pret.* and *pp.* of *spill*.

**SPILT'N**, *n.* [from *spill*.] Any thing spilt. [*Not in use*.] *Shak.*

**SPIN**, *v. t.* pret. and *pp.* *spun*. *Spin* is not used. [*Sax. Goth. spinnan*; *D. G. spinnen*; Dan. *spinder*; *Sw. spinna*. If the sense is to draw out or extend, this coincides in origin with *span*.]

1. To draw out and twist into threads, either by the hand or machinery; as, to *spin* wool, cotton or flax; to *spin* goats' hair.

All the yarn which Penelope *spun* in Ulysses' absence did but fill Ithaca with moths. *Shak.*

2. To draw out tediously; to form by a slow process or by degrees; with *out*; as, to *spin out* large volumes on a subject.

3. To extend to a great length; as, to *spin out* a subject.

4. To draw out; to protract; to spend by delays; as, to *spin out* the day in idleness.

By one delay after another, they *spin out* their whole lives. *L'Estrange.*

5. To whirl with a thread; to turn or cause to whirl; as, to *spin* a top.

6. To draw out from the stomach in a filament; as, a spider *spins* a web.

To *spin hay*, in military language, is to twist it into ropes for convenient carriage on an expedition.

**SPIN**, *v. i.* To practice spinning; to work at drawing and twisting threads; as, the woman knows how to *spin*.

They neither know to *spin*, nor care to toil. *Prior.*

2. To perform the act of drawing and twisting threads; as, a machine or jenny *spins* with great exactness.

3. To move round rapidly; to whirl; as a top or a spindle.

4. To stream or issue in a thread or small current; as, blood *spins* from a vein. *Drayton.*

**SPIN'ACH**, } [*L. spinacia*; *It. spinace*; *Sp. espinaca*; *Fr. epinards*;

*D. spinagic*; *G. spinat*; *Pers. spanach*.] A plant of the genus *Spinacia*.

**SPIN'AL**, *a.* [See *Spine*.] Pertaining to the spine or back bone of an animal; as the *spinal* marrow; *spinal* muscles; *spinal* arteries. *Arbuthnot. Encyc.*

**SPIN'DLE**, *n.* [from *spin*; *Sax. Dan. spindle*.]

1. The pin used in spinning wheels for twisting the thread, and on which the thread when twisted, is wound. *Bacon.*

2. A slender pointed rod or pin on which any thing turns; as the *spindle* of a vane.

3. The fusce of a watch.

4. A long slender stalk. *Mortimer.*

5. The lower end of a capstan, shed with iron; the pivot. *Mar. Dict.*

**SPIN'DLE**, *v. i.* To shoot or grow in a long slender stalk or body. *Bacon. Mortimer.*

**SPIN'DLE-LEGS**, } A tall slender

**SPIN'DLE-SHANKS**, } person; in contempt.

**SPIN'DLE-SHANKED**, *a.* Having long slender legs.

**SPIN'DLE-SHAPED**, *a.* Having the shape of a spindle; fusiform. *Martyn.*

**SPIN'DLE-TREE**, *n.* A plant, prick-wood, of the genus *Eucalyptus*.

**SPI'NE**, *n.* [*L. It. spina*; *Fr. epine*; *Sp. espinazo*; *W. yspin*, from *pin*.]

1. The back bone of an animal. *Core.*

2. The shin of the leg. *Core.*

3. A thorn; a sharp process from the woody part of a plant. It differs from a prick, which proceeds from the bark. A spine sometimes terminates a branch or a leaf, and sometimes is axillary, growing at the angle formed by the branch or leaf with the stem. The wild apple and pear are armed with thorns; the rose, bramble, gooseberry, &c. are armed with prickles. *Martyn.*

**SPI'NEL**, } [*It. spinella*.] The spinelle

**SPI'NELLE**, } *n.* ruby, says Haüy, is the true ruby, a gem of a red color, blended with