

1. A defamatory writing, *L. libellus famosus*. Hence, the epithet being omitted, *libel* expresses the same thing. Any book, pamphlet, writing or picture, containing representations, maliciously made or published, tending to bring a person into contempt, or expose him to public hatred and derision. The communication of such defamatory writing to a single person, is considered in law a publication. It is immaterial with respect to the essence of a libel, whether the matter of it is true or false, since the provocation and not the falsity is the thing to be punished *criminally*. But in a *civil* action, a libel must appear to be false, as well as scandalous. *Blackstone*.

In a more extensive sense, any blasphemous, treasonable or immoral writing or picture made public, is a libel, and punishable by law.

2. In the *civil law*, and in *courts of admiralty*, a declaration or charge in writing exhibited in court, particularly against a ship or goods, for violating the laws of trade or of revenue.

LIBEL, v. t. To defame or expose to public hatred and contempt by a writing or picture; to lampoon.

Some wicked wits have *libeled* all the fair.

Pope.

2. To exhibit a charge against any thing in court, particularly against a ship or goods, for a violation of the laws of trade or revenue.

LIBEL, v. i. To spread defamation, written or printed; with *against*. He *libels against* the peers of the realm. [*Not now in use*.]

LIBELANT, n. One who libels; one who brings a libel or institutes a suit in an admiralty court.

The counsel for the *libelant*, contended they had a right to read the instructions—

Cranch, Rep.

LIBELED, pp. Defamed by a writing or picture made public.

2. Charged or declared against in an admiralty court.

LIBELER, n. One who libels or defames by writing or pictures; a lampooner.

It is ignorance of ourselves which makes us the *libelers* of others.

Buckminster.

LIBELING, ppr. Defaming by a published writing or picture.

2. Exhibiting charges against in court.

LIBELOUS, a. Defamatory; containing that which exposes a person to public hatred, contempt and ridicule; as a *libelous* pamphlet or picture.

LIBERAL, a. [*Fr.* from *L. liberalis*, from *liber*, free. See *Libel*.]

1. Of a free heart; free to give or bestow; not close or contracted; munificent; bountiful; generous; giving largely; as a *liberal* donor; the *liberal* founders of a college or hospital. It expresses less than *profuse* or *extravagant*.

2. Generous; ample; large; as a *liberal* donation; a *liberal* allowance.

3. Not selfish, narrow or contracted; catholic; enlarged; embracing other interests than one's own; as *liberal* sentiments or views; a *liberal* mind; *liberal* policy.

4. General; extensive; embracing literature and the sciences generally; as a *liberal* education. This phrase is often but

not necessarily synonymous with *collegiate*; as a *collegiate* education.

5. Free; open; candid; as a *liberal* communication of thoughts.

6. Large; profuse; as a *liberal* discharge of matter by secretions or excretions.

7. Free; not literal or strict; as a *liberal* construction of law.

8. Not mean; not low in birth or mind.

9. Licentious; free to excess. *Shak.*

Liberal arts, as distinguished from *mechanical arts*, are such as depend more on the exertion of the mind than on the labor of the hands, and regard amusement, curiosity or intellectual improvement, rather than the necessity of subsistence, or manual skill. Such are grammar, rhetoric, painting, sculpture, architecture, music, &c.

Liberal has of before the thing bestowed, and to before the person or object on which any thing is bestowed; as, to be *liberal* of praise or censure; *liberal* to the poor.

LIBERALITY, n. [*L. liberalitas*; *Fr. libéralité*. See *Liberal*.]

1. Munificence; bounty.

That *liberality* is but cast away,

Which makes us borrow what we cannot pay.

Denham.

2. A particular act of generosity; a donation; a gratuity. In this sense, it has the plural number. A prudent man is not impoverished by his *liberalities*.

3. Largeness of mind; catholicism; that comprehensiveness of mind which includes other interests beside its own, and duly estimates in its decisions the value or importance of each. It is evidence of a noble mind to judge of men and things with *liberality*.

Many treat the gospel with indifference under the name of *liberality*.

J. M. Mason.

4. Candor; impartiality.

LIBERALIZE, v. t. To render liberal or catholic; to enlarge; to free from narrow views or prejudices; as, to *liberalize* the mind.

Burke. Walsh.

LIBERALIZED, pp. Freed from narrow views and prejudices; made liberal.

LIBERALIZING, ppr. Rendering liberal; divesting of narrow views and prejudices.

LIBERALLY, adv. Bountifully; freely; largely; with munificence.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men *liberally*, and upbraideth not. James i.

2. With generous and impartial regard to other interests than our own; with enlarged views; without selfishness or meanness; as, to think or judge *liberally* of men and their actions.

3. Freely; not strictly; not literally.

LIBERATE, v. t. [*L. libero*, from *liber*, free; *Fr. libérer*; *It. liberare*.]

1. To free; to release from restraint or bondage; to set at liberty; as, to *liberate* one from duress or imprisonment; to *liberate* the mind from the shackles of prejudice.

2. To manumit; as, to *liberate* a slave.

LIBERATED, pp. Freed; released from confinement, restraint or slavery; manumitted.

LIBERATING, ppr. Delivering from restraint or slavery.

LIBERATION, n. [*L. liberatio*.] The act of delivering from restraint, confinement or slavery.

LIBERATOR, n. One who liberates or delivers.

LIBERTARIAN, a. [*L. liber*, free; *libertas*, liberty.]

Pertaining to liberty, or to the doctrine of free will, as opposed to the doctrine of necessity.

Remove from their mind *libertarian* prejudice. *Encyc.*

LIBERTINAGE, n. Libertinism, which is most used.

LIBERTINE, n. [*L. libertinus*, from *liber*, free.]

1. Among the Romans, a freedman; a person manumitted or set free from legal servitude.

2. One unconfined; one free from restraint.

Shak.

3. A man who lives without restraint of the animal passion; one who indulges his lust without restraint; one who leads a dissolute, licentious life; a rake; a debauchee.

LIBERTINE, a. Licentious; dissolute; not under the restraint of law or religion; as *libertine* principles; a *libertine* life.

LIBERTINISM, n. State of a freedman. [*Little used*.]

Hammond.

2. Licentiousness of opinion and practice; an unrestrained indulgence of lust; debauchery; lewdness.

Atterbury.

LIBERTY, n. [*L. libertas*, from *liber*, free; *Fr. liberté*; *It. libertà*; *Sp. libertad*. Class *Lb. No. 24. 27. 30. 31.*]

1. Freedom from restraint, in a general sense, and applicable to the body, or to the will or mind. The body is at *liberty*, when not confined; the will or mind is at *liberty*, when not checked or controlled. A man enjoys *liberty*, when no physical force operates to restrain his actions or volitions.

2. *Natural liberty*, consists in the power of acting as one thinks fit, without any restraint or control, except from the laws of nature. It is a state of exemption from the control of others, and from positive laws and the institutions of social life. This liberty is abridged by the establishment of government.

3. *Civil liberty*, is the liberty of men in a state of society, or natural liberty, so far only abridged and restrained, as is necessary and expedient for the safety and interest of the society, state or nation. A restraint of natural liberty, not necessary or expedient for the public, is tyranny or oppression. Civil liberty is an exemption from the arbitrary will of others, which exemption is secured by established laws, which restrain every man from injuring or controlling another. Hence the restraints of law are essential to *civil liberty*.

The *liberty* of one depends not so much on the removal of all restraint from him, as on the due restraint upon the *liberty* of others.

Ames.

In this sentence, the latter word *liberty* denotes *natural liberty*.

4. *Political liberty*, is sometimes used as synonymous with *civil liberty*. But it more properly designates the *liberty* of a nation, the freedom of a nation or state from all unjust abridgment of its rights and independence by another nation. Hence we