

RIDICULER, *n.* One that ridicules.

Chesterfield.

RIDICULING, *ppr.* Laughing at in contempt; exposing to contempt and derision.

RIDICULOUS, *a.* [L. *ridiculus*; It. *ridicoloso*.]

That may justly excite laughter with contempt; as a *ridiculous* dress; *ridiculous* behavior. A fop and a dandy are *ridiculous* in their dress.

RIDICULOUSLY, *adv.* In a manner worthy of contemptuous merriment; as a man *ridiculously* vain.

RIDICULOUSNESS, *n.* The quality of being ridiculous; as the *ridiculousness* of worshipping idols.

RIDING, *ppr.* [from *ride*.] Passing or traveling on a beast or in a vehicle; floating.

2. *a.* Employed to travel on any occasion. No suffragan bishop shall have more than one *riding* apparitor.

Ayliffe.

RIDING, *n.* A road cut in a wood or through a ground, for the diversion of riding therein.

Sidney. Encyc.

2. [corrupted from *trithing*, third.] One of the three intermediate jurisdictions between a three and a hundred, into which the county of York, in England, is divided, anciently under the government of a reeve.

Blackstone.

RIDING-CLERK, *n.* In England, one of the six clerks in chancery.

Ash.

RIDING-COAT, *n.* A coat for riding on a journey.

Swift.

RIDING-HABIT, *n.* A garment worn by females when they ride or travel.

Guardian.

RIDING-HOOD, *n.* A hood used by females when they ride; a kind of cloke with a hood.

RIDING-SCHOOL, *n.* A school or place where the art of riding is taught. It may in some places be called a *riding-house*.

RIDOTTO, *n.* [It. from L. *reductus*.] A public assembly.

2. A musical entertainment consisting of singing and dancing, in the latter of which the whole company join.

Busby.

RIE. [See *Ryc*.]

RIFE, *a.* [Sax. *ryfe*. Qu. Heb. רפה to multiply.]

Prevailing; prevalent. It is used of epidemic diseases.

The plague was then *rife* in Hungary.

Knoles.

RIFELY, *adv.* Prevalently; frequently.

It was *rifely* reported that the Turks were coming in a great fleet.

Knoles.

RIFENESS, *n.* Frequency; prevalence.

Arbuthnot.

RIFF/RAFF, *n.* [Fr. *rifler*; G. *raffen*, to sweep; Dan. *rips*, *raps*.] Sweepings; refuse.

Hall.

RIFLE, *v. t.* [Fr. *rifler*, to rifle, to sweep away; allied probably to *friper* and *griveter*; G. *raffen*, to sweep; *riffeln*, to hatchel. This is one of the family of *rip*, *rive*, *reap*, *ruffle*, L. *rapio*, W. *rhicibiau*, D. *rypen*, to grate, Eng. *rub*, &c.]

1. To seize and bear away by force; to snatch away.

Till time shall *rifle* ev'ry youthful grace.

Pope.

2. To strip; to rob; to pillage; to plunder. You have *rifled* my master.

L'Estrange.

RIFLE, *n.* [Dan. *rifle* or *riffle*, the rifle of a gun; *riffelbøsse*, a rifle gun; G. *reifein*, to chamber, to rifle. This word belongs to the family of *rip*, *rive*, L. *rapio*, &c. supra. The word means primarily a channel or groove.]

A gun about the usual length and size of a musket, the inside of whose barrel is *rifled*, that is, grooved, or formed with spiral channels.

RIFLE, *v. t.* To groove; to channel.

RIFLED, *pp.* Seized and carried away by violence; pillaged; channeled.

RIFLEMAN, *n.* A man armed with a rifle.

RIFLER, *n.* A robber; one that seizes and bears away by violence.

RIFLING, *ppr.* Plundering; seizing and carrying away by violence; grooving.

RIFT, *n.* [from *rive*.] A cleft; a fissure; an opening made by riving or splitting.

Milton. Dryden.

RIFT, *v. t.* To cleave; to rive; to split; as, to *rift* an oak or a rock.

Milton. Pope.

RIFT, *v. i.* To burst open; to split.

Timber—not apt to *rift* with ordnance.

Bacon.

2. To belch; to break wind. [Local.]

RIFTED, *pp.* Split; rent; cleft.

RIFTING, *ppr.* Splitting; cleaving; bursting.

RIG, *n.* [Sax.] A ridge, which see.

RIG, *v. t.* [Sax. *urigan*, to put on, to cover, whence Sax. *hrægle*, a garment, contracted into *raif*, in *night-raif*.]

1. To dress; to put on; when applied to persons, not elegant, but rather a ludicrous word, to express the putting on of a gay, flaunting or unusual dress.

Jack was *rigged* out in his gold and silver lace, with a feather in his cap.

L'Estrange.

2. To furnish with apparatus or gear; to fit with tackling.

3. To *rig* a ship, in seamen's language, is to fit the shrouds, stays, braces, &c. to their respective masts and yards.

Mar. Dict.

RIG, *n.* [See the Verb.] Dress; also, blustering.

2. A romp; a wanton; a strumpet.

To *run the rig*, to play a wanton trick.

To *run the rig upon*, to practice a sportive trick on.

RIG, *v. i.* To play the wanton.

RIGADOON, *n.* [Fr. *rigodon*.] A gay brisk dance performed by one couple, and said to have been borrowed from Provence in France.

Encyc.

RIGATION, *n.* [L. *rigatio*, from *rigo*, Gr. ριζω. See *Rain*.]

The act of watering; but *irrigation* is generally used.

RIGGED, *pp.* Dressed; furnished with shrouds, stays, &c. as a ship.

RIGGER, *n.* One that rigs or dresses; one whose occupation is to fit the rigging of a ship.

RIGGING, *ppr.* Dressing; fitting with shrouds, braces, &c.

RIGGING, *n.* Dress; tackle; particularly, the ropes which support the masts, extend and contract the sails, &c. of a ship. This is of two kinds, *standing rigging*, as the shrouds and stays, and *running rigging*, such as braces, sheets, halliards, clewlines, &c.

Mar. Dict.

RIG/GISH, *a.* Wanton; lewd. [Not in use.]

Shak.

RIG/GLE, *v. i.* To move one way and the other. [See *Wriggle*.]

RIGHT, *a.* *rite*. [Sax. *riht*, *reht*; D. *regt*; G. *rech*; Dan. *rigtig*; Sw. *riktig*; It. *retto*; Sp. *recto*; L. *rectus*, from the root of *rego*, properly to strain or stretch, whence *straight*; Sax. *recan*. See Class Rg. No. 18. 46. 47.]

Properly, strained; stretched to straightness; hence,

1. Straight. A *right* line in geometry is the shortest line that can be drawn or imagined between two points. A *right* line may be horizontal, perpendicular, or inclined to the plane of the horizon.

2. In *morals* and *religion*, just; equitable; accordant to the standard of truth and justice or the will of God. That alone is *right* in the sight of God, which is consonant to his will or law; this being the only perfect standard of truth and justice. In social and political affairs, that is *right* which is consonant to the laws and customs of a country, provided these laws and customs are not repugnant to the laws of God. A man's intentions may be *right*, though his actions may be wrong in consequence of a defect in judgment.

3. Fit; suitable; proper; becoming. In things indifferent, or which are regulated by no positive law, that is *right* which is best suited to the character, occasion or purpose, or which is fitted to produce some good effect. It is *right* for a rich man to dress himself and his family in expensive clothing, which it would not be *right* for a poor man to purchase. It is *right* for every man to choose his own time for eating or exercise.

Right is a relative term; what may be *right* for one end, may be *wrong* for another.

4. Lawful; as the *right* heir of an estate.

5. True; not erroneous or wrong; according to fact.

If there be no prospect beyond the grave, the inference is certainly *right*, "let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die."

Locke.

6. Correct; passing a true judgment; not mistaken or wrong.

You are *right*, justice, and you weigh this well.

Shak.

7. Not left; most convenient or dextrous; as the *right* hand, which is generally most strong or most convenient in use.

8. Most favorable or convenient.

The lady has been disappointed on the *right* side.

Spectator.

9. Properly placed, disposed or adjusted; orderly; well regulated.

10. Well performed, as an art or act.

11. Most direct; as the *right* way from London to Oxford.

12. Being on the same side as the right hand; as the *right* side.

13. Being on the right hand of a person whose face is towards the mouth of a river; as the *right* bank of the Hudson.

RIGHT, *adv.* In a right or straight line; directly.

Let thine eyes look *right* on.

Prov. iv.

2. According to the law or will of God, or to the standard of truth and justice; as, to judge *right*.