

Such a tenure is called *base*, or low, and the tenant, a *base* tenant. So writers on the laws of England use the terms, a *base* fee, a *base* court. *Encyc.*

BASE, *n.* [Gr. *basis*; *L. basis*; *It. basa*, *base*; *Sp. basa*; *Fr. base*; that which is set, the foundation or bottom.]

1. The bottom of any thing, considered as its support or the part of a thing on which it stands or rests; as the *base* of a column, the pedestal of a statue, the foundation of a house, &c.

In *architecture*, the *base* of a pillar properly is that part which is between the top of a pedestal and the bottom of the shaft; but when there is no pedestal, it is the part between the bottom of the column and the plinth. Usually it consists of certain spires or circles. The pedestal also has its *base*. *Encyc.*

2. In *fortification*, the exterior side of the polygon, or that imaginary line which is drawn from the flanked angle of a bastion to the angle opposite to it.

3. In *gunnery*, the least sort of ordnance, the diameter of whose bore is 1-4 inch. *Encyc.*

4. The part of any ornament which hangs down, as housings. *Sidney.*

5. The broad part of any thing, as the bottom of a cone.

6. In *old authors*, stockings; armor for the legs. *Hudibras.*

7. The place from which racers or tilers start; the bottom of the field; the career or starting post. *Dryden.*

8. The lowest or gravest part in music; improperly written *bass*.

9. A rustic play, called also *bays*, or *prison bars*. *Shak.*

10. In *geometry*, the lowest side of the perimeter of a figure. Any side of a triangle may be called its *base*, but this term most properly belongs to the side which is parallel to the horizon. In rectangular triangles, the *base*, properly, is the side opposite to the right angle. The *base* of a solid figure is that on which it stands. The *base* of a conic section is a right line in the hyperbola or parabola, arising from the common intersection of the secant plane and the base of the cone. *Encyc.*

11. In *chemistry*, any body which is dissolved by another body, which it receives and fixes. Thus any alkaline, earthy or metallic substance, combining with an acid, forms a compound or neutral salt, of which it is the *base*. Such salts are called salts with alkaline, earthy or metallic *bases*. *Encyc.*

12. *Thorough base*, in music, is the part performed with base viols or theorbus, while the voices sing and other instruments perform their parts, or during the intervals when the other parts stop. It is distinguished by figures over the notes.

Counter base is a second or double base, when there are several in the same concert. *Encyc.*

BASE, *v. t.* To embase; to reduce the value by the admixture of meaner metals. [*Lit. used.*] *Bacon.*

3. To found; to lay the base or foundation. To *base* and build the commonwealth of man. *Columbiad.*

BASE-BORN, *a.* [*base* and *born*.] *Born* out of wedlock. *Gay.*

2. Born of low parentage.

3. Vile; mean. *Milton.*

BASE-COURT, *n.* [*Fr. basse-cour.* See *Court*.]

The back yard, opposed to the chief court in front of a house; the farm yard. *Shak.*

BASED, *pp.* Reduced in value; founded.

BASELESS, *a.* Without a base; having no foundation, or support. *Shak.*

The *baseless* fabric of a vision. *Shak.*

The fame how poor that swells our *baseless* pride. *Trumbull.*

BASELY, *adv.* In a base manner; meanly; dishonorably. *Dryden.*

2. Illegitimately; in bastardy. *Knollys.*

BASEMENT, *n.* In *architecture*, the ground floor, on which the order or columns which decorate the principal story, are placed. *Encyc.*

BASE-MINDED, *a.* Of a low spirit or mind; mean. *Camden.*

BASE-MINDEDNESS, *n.* Meanness of spirit. *Sandys.*

BASENESS, *n.* Meanness; vileness; worthlessness. *Dryden.*

2. Vileness of metal; the quality of being of little comparative value. *Swift.*

3. Bastardy; illegitimacy of birth. *Shak.*

4. Deepness of sound. *Bacon.*

BASENET, *n.* A helmet. *Spenser.*

BASE-STRING, *n.* The lowest note. *Shak.*

BASE-VIOL, *n.* [See *Viol*.] A musical instrument, used for playing the base or gravest part.

BASH, *v. i.* [*Heb. בָּשָׂה*, *bosh*, to be cast down, or confounded. *Qu. D. verbaazen*, to confound. See *Abash*.]

To be ashamed; to be confounded with shame. *Spenser.*

BASHAW, *n.* [*Ar. باشا*, *bashia*; *Pers. pasha*; *Sp. basa*; *It. bascin*; *Turk. bash*, the head. *Qu. D. baas*, master, and the *bassus* of the *Alcamm* and *Longobards*, in the middle ages. This word is often written most absurdly *pasha*, both by the English and Americans. It should be written and pronounced *pashaw*.]

1. A title of honor in the Turkish dominions; appropriately, the title of the prime vizier, but given to viceroys or governors of provinces, and to generals and other men of distinction. The Turkish bashaws exercise an oppressive authority in their provinces. Hence,

2. A proud, tyrannical, overbearing man.

BASHFUL, *a.* [See *Bash* and *Abash*.]

1. Properly, having a downcast look; hence very modest. *Shak.*

2. Modest to excess; sheepish. *Shak.*

3. Exciting shame.

BASHFULLY, *adv.* Very modestly; in a timorous manner.

BASHFULNESS, *n.* Excessive or extreme modesty; a quality of mind often visible in external appearance, as in blushing, a downcast look, confusion, &c.

2. Vicious or rustic shame. *Sidney.*

BASHLESS, *a.* Shameless; unblushing. *Spenser.*

BASIL, *n.* *s* as *z*. The slope or angle of a

tool or instrument, as of a chisel or plane; usually of 12 degrees, but for hard wood, 18 degrees. *Encyc.*

BASIL, *v. t.* To grind or form the edge of a tool to an angle. *Moxon.*

BASIL, *n.* *s* as *z*. [*Fr. basilic*; *It. basilico*.]

1. A plant of the genus *Ocymum*, of which there are many species, all natives of warm climates. They are fragrant aromatic plants, and one species, the sweet basil, is much used in cookery, especially in France.

BASIL, *n.* [Orient. *basil* to strip.]

The skin of a sheep tanned; written also *basan*.

BASIL-WEED, *n.* Wild basil, a plant of the genus *Cinopodium*. *Muhlenburg.*

BASILAR, *a.* *s* as *z*. [See *Basilit*.]

BASILARY, *a.* Chief; an anatomical term applied to several bones, and to an artery of the brain. *Care.*

Basilian monks, monks of the order of St. Basil, who founded the order in Pontus. The order still exists, but has less power and celebrity than formerly. *Encyc.*

BASILIC, *n.* *s* as *z*. [*Gr. βασιλική*; *L. basilica*; *Gr. βασιλεύς*, a king.]

Anciently, a public hall or court of judicature, where princes and magistrates sat to administer justice. It was a large hall, with aisles, porticoes, tribunals, and tribunals. The bankers also had a part allotted for their residence. These edifices, at first, were the palaces of princes, afterwards courts of justice, and finally converted into churches. Hence *basilic* now signifies a church, chapel, cathedral or royal palace. *Encyc.* *Sp. and D. Diet.*

BASILIC, *n.* [See *Basil*.] The middle vein of the arm, or the interior branch of the axillary vein, so called by way of eminence. *Encyc.* *Quincy.*

BASILIC, *a.* Belonging to the middle **BASILICAL**, *a.* vein of the arm.

2. Noting a particular nut, the walnut, *basilica* nut.

BASILICON, *n.* *s* as *z*. [*Gr. βασιλικόν*, royal.]

An ointment. This name is given to several compositions in ancient medical writers. At present it is confined to three official ointments, distinguished into black, yellow and green basilicon. *Encyc.*

BASILISK, *n.* *s* as *z*. [*Gr. βασιλίσκος*; *L. basiliscus*.]

1. A fabulous serpent, called a cockatrice, and said to be produced from a cock's egg brooded by a serpent. The ancients alleged that its hissing would drive away all other serpents, and that its breath and even its look was fatal. Some writers suppose that a real serpent exists under this name.

2. In *military affairs*, a large piece of ordnance, so called from its supposed resemblance to the serpent of that name, or from its size. This cannon carried a ball of 300 pounds weight, but is not now used. Modern writers give this name to cannon of a smaller size, which the Dutch make 15 feet long, and the French 10, carrying a 48 pound ball. *Encyc.*

BASIN, *n.* *basin*. [*Fr. bassin*; *It. bacin*; *Port. Arm. bacin*; *It. bacino*, or *bacile*; *Port.*