

DELA'YMENT, *n.* Hindrance. *Gower.*
DELE, *v. t.* [L. imperative of *deleo*.] Blot out; erase.
DELEBLE, *a.* [L. *delebilis*.] That can be blotted out. *More.*
DELEC'TABLE, *a.* [L. *delectabilis*, from *delector*, to delight. See *Delight*.] Delightful; highly pleasing; that gives great joy or pleasure; as a *delectable* garden. *Milton.*
DELEC'TABLENESS, *n.* Delightfulness. *Burriel.*
DELEC'TABLY, *adv.* Delightfully.
DELEGA'TION, *n.* Great pleasure; delight. *More.*
DELEGACY, *n.* A number of persons delegated. *Laud.*
 [We now use *delegation*.]
DELEGATE, *v. t.* [L. *delego*; *de* and *lego*, to send. See *Legate*.]
 1. To send away; appropriately, to send on an embassy; to send with power to transact business, as a representative. The President *delegated* three commissioners to the court of St. Cloud.
 2. To entrust; to commit; to deliver to another's care and exercise; as, to *delegate* authority or power to an envoy, representative or judge.
DELEGATE, *n.* A person appointed and sent by another with powers to transact business as his representative; a deputy; a commissioner; a vicar. In the *United States*, a person elected or appointed to represent a state or a district, in the Congress, or in a Convention for forming or altering a constitution.
 2. In *Great Britain*, a commissioner appointed by the king, under the great seal, to hear and determine appeals from the ecclesiastical court. Hence the *Court of Delegates* is the great court of appeal in all ecclesiastical causes. It is used also for the court of appeals from that of the admiralty. *Blackstone.*
 3. A layman appointed to attend an ecclesiastical council.
DELEGATE, *a.* Deputed; sent to act for, or represent another; as a *delegate* judge. *Taylor.*
DELEGATED, *pp.* Deputed; sent with a trust or commission to act for another; appointed a judge; committed, as authority.
DELEGATING, *ppr.* Deputing; sending with a commission to act for another; appointing; committing; entrusting.
DELEGA'TION, *n.* A sending away; the act of putting in commission, or investing with authority to act for another; the appointment of a delegate. *Burke.*
 The duties of religion cannot be performed by *delegation*. *S. Miller.*
 2. The persons deputed to act for another, or for others. Thus, the representatives of Massachusetts in Congress are called the *delegation*, or *whole delegation*.
 3. In the *civil law*, the assignment of a debt to another, as when a debtor appoints his debtor to answer to the creditor in his place.
DELETE, *v. t.* [L. *deleo*.] To blot out. *Not used.* *Fidler.*
DELETERIOUS, *a.* [L. *deleterius*, from *deleo*, to blot out or destroy, *W. deane*, *dileu*. Qu. Ir. *dallaim*, to blind.]

1. Having the quality of destroying, or extinguishing life; destructive; poisonous; as a *deleterious* plant or quality.
 2. Injurious; pernicious.
DELETERY, *a.* Destructive; poisonous. *Hudibras.*
DELE'TION, *n.* [L. *deletio*, from *deleo*, to blot out.]
 1. The act of blotting out or erasing.
 2. Destruction. [*Little used.*] *Hale.*
DELE'TORY, *n.* That which blots out. *Taylor.*
DELF, *n.* [Sax. *delfan*, to delve, to dig.] A mine; a quarry; a pit dug. [*Rarely used.*] *Ray.*
 2. Earthen ware, covered with enamel or white glazing in imitation of China ware or porcelain made at Delft in Holland; properly, *Delft-ware*.
DELIBATE, *v. t.* [L. *delibeo*; *de* and *libo*, to taste.] To taste; to take a sip. [*Little used.*]
DELIBA'TION, *n.* A taste; an essay. [*Little used.*] *Berkley.*
DELIBERATE, *v. i.* [L. *delibero*; *de* and *libo*, to weigh, *it. librare*. See *Librate*.] To weigh in the mind; to consider and examine the reasons for and against a measure; to estimate the weight or force of arguments, or the probable consequences of a measure, in order to a choice or decision; to pause and consider. A wise prince will *deliberate* before he wages war.
 The woman that *deliberates* is lost. *Addison.*
DELIBERATE, *v. t.* To balance in the mind; to weigh; to consider. *Laud.*
DELIBERATE, *a.* Weighing facts and arguments with a view to a choice or decision; carefully considering the probable consequences of a step; circumspect; slow in determining; *applied to persons*; as a *deliberate* judge or counselor.
 2. Formed with deliberation; well advised or considered; not sudden or rash; as a *deliberate* opinion; a *deliberate* measure, or result.
 3. Slow; as a *deliberate* death or echo. [*Hardly legitimate.*] *Bacon.*
DELIBERATELY, *adv.* With careful consideration, or deliberation; circumspectly; not hastily or rashly; slowly. This purpose was *deliberately* formed. *Dryden.* *Goldsmith.*
DELIBERATENESS, *n.* Calm consideration; circumspection; due attention to the arguments for and against a measure; caution. *K. Charles.*
DELIBERA'TION, [L. *deliberatio*.] The act of deliberating; the act of weighing and examining the reasons for and against a choice or measure; consideration. We say, a measure has been taken with *deliberation*.
 2. Mutual discussion and examination of the reasons for and against a measure; as the *deliberations* of a legislative body or council.
DELIBERATIVE, *a.* Pertaining to deliberation; proceeding or acting by deliberation; or by mutual discussion and examination; as, the legislature is a *deliberative* body.
 2. Having a right or power to deliberate or discuss.

In councils, the bishops have a *deliberative* voice. *Encyc.*
 3. Apt or disposed to consider. *Bp. Barlow.*
DELIBERATIVE, *n.* A discourse in which a question is discussed or weighed and examined. A kind of rhetoric employed in proving a thing and convincing others of its truth, in order to persuade them to adopt it. *Encyc.*
DELIBERATIVELY, *adv.* By deliberation. *Burke.*
DELICACY, *n.* [Fr. *delicatesse*; Sp. *delicadeza*; It. *delicatezza*; but more directly from *delicate*, which see.]
 In a general sense, that which delights or pleases. Hence,
 1. Fineness of texture; smoothness; softness; tenderness; as the *delicacy* of the skin; and nearly in the same sense, applicable to food; as the *delicacy* of flesh, meat or vegetables. Hence,
 2. Daintiness; pleasantness to the taste.
 3. Elegant or feminine beauty; as *delicacy* of form.
 4. Nicety; minute accuracy; as the *delicacy* of coloring in painting.
 5. Neatness in dress; elegance proceeding from a nice selection and adjustment of the several parts of dress. *Spectator.*
 6. Softness of manners; civility or politeness proceeding from a nice observance of propriety, and a desire to please; as *delicacy* of behavior.
 7. Indulgence; gentle treatment; as *delicacy* of education.
 8. Tenderness; scrupulousness; the quality manifested in nice attention to right, and care to avoid wrong, or offense. *Bp. Taylor.*
 9. Acute or nice perception of what is pleasing to the sense of tasting; hence figuratively, a nice perception of beauty and deformity, or the faculty of such nice perception.
Delicacy of taste tends to invigorate the social affections, and moderate those that are selfish. *Kames.*
 10. That which delights the senses, particularly the taste; *applied to eatables*; as, the peach is a great *delicacy*.
 11. Tenderness of constitution; weakness; that quality or state of the animal body which renders it very impressible to injury; as *delicacy* of constitution or frame.
 12. Smallness; fineness; slenderness; tenacity; as the *delicacy* of a thread, or fiber.
 13. Tenderness; nice susceptibility of impression; as *delicacy* of feeling.
DELICATE, *a.* [Fr. *delicat*; Sp. *delicado*; It. *delicado*; L. *delicatus*, connected with *delicio*, delight, *delecto*, to delight; probably a compound of *de*, with the root of *like*. See *Delight* and *Like*.]
 1. Of a fine texture; fine; soft; smooth; clear, or fair; as a *delicate* skin.
 2. Nice; pleasing to the taste; of an agreeable flavor; as *delicate* food; a *delicate* dish.
 3. Nice in perception of what is agreeable; dainty; as a *delicate* taste; and figuratively, nice and discriminating in beauty and deformity.
 1. Nice; accurate; fine; soft to the eye; as a *delicate* color.
 5. Nice in forms; regulated by minute observance of propriety, or by condescension