

4. Board, or boarding; as, to pay a certain sum for *diet*, washing and lodging.

DIET, n. [D. *ryksdag*; G. *reichstag*; Sw. *riksdag*; Dan. *rigsdag*; empire's day, imperial diet. These words prove that *diet* is from *dies*, day. So in Scots law, *diet* of appearance.]

An assembly of the states or circles of the empire of Germany and of Poland; a convention of princes, electors, ecclesiastical dignitaries, and representatives of free cities, to deliberate on the affairs of the empire. There are also diets of states and cantons. *Encyc.*

DIET, v. t. To feed; to board; to furnish provisions for; as, the master *diets* his apprentice.

2. To take food by rules prescribed; as, an invalid should carefully *diet* himself.

3. To feed; to furnish aliment; as, to *diet* revenge. *Shak.*

DIET, v. i. To eat according to rules prescribed.

2. To eat; to feed; as, the students *diet* in commons.

DIETARY, a. Pertaining to diet or the rules of diet.

DIET-DRINK, n. Medicated liquors; drink prepared with medicinal ingredients.

DIETED, pp. Fed; boarded; fed by prescribed rules.

DIETER, n. One who diets; one who prescribes rules for eating; one who prepares food by rules.

DIETETIC, } a. [Gr. διατητικος.] Per-
DIETETICAL, } taining to diet, or to the rules for regulating the kind and quantity of food to be eaten.

DIETINE, n. A subordinate or local diet; a cantonal convention.

DIETING, pp. Taking food; prescribing rules for eating; taking food according to prescribed rules.

DIFFARRATION, n. [L. *dis* and *farreatio*.] The parting of a cake; a ceremony among the Romans, at the divorce of man and wife. *Encyc.*

DIFFER, v. i. [L. *différo*, *dis* and *fero*, to bear or move apart; It. *difféire*; Fr. *différer*. See *Bear*.]

1. Literally, to be separate. Hence, to be unlike, dissimilar, distinct or various, in nature, condition, form or qualities; followed by *from*. Men *differ* from brutes; a statue *differ*s from a picture; wisdom *differ*s from folly.

One star *differ*eth from another star in glory. 1 Cor. xv.

2. To disagree; not to accord; to be of a contrary opinion. We are all free to *differ* in opinion, and sometimes our sentiments *differ* less than we at first suppose.

3. To contend; to be at variance; to strive, or debate in words; to dispute; to quarrel.

We'll never *differ* with a crowded pit.

Rovee

DIFFER, v. t. To cause to be different or various. A different dialect and pronunciation *differ*s persons of divers countries.

Derham

[This transitive use of the verb is not common, nor to be commended.]

DIFFERENCE, n. The state of being unlike or distinct; distinction; disagreement; want of sameness; variation; dissimilar-

ity. *Difference* may be total or partial, and exist in the nature and essence of things, in the form, the qualities or degrees. There is a *difference* in nature between animals and plants; a *difference* in form between the genera and species of animals; a *difference* of quality in paper; and a *difference* in degrees of heat, or of light.

2. The quality which distinguishes one thing from another.

3. Dispute; debate; contention; quarrel; controversy.

What was the *difference*? It was a contention in public. *Shak.*

4. The point in dispute; ground of controversy. *Shak.*

5. A logical distinction.

6. Evidences or marks of sovereignty.

The marks and *differences* of sovereignty. *Davies.*

7. Distinction.

There is no *difference* between the Jew and the Greek. *Rom. x.*

8. In *mathematics*, the remainder of a sum or quantity, after a lesser sum or quantity is subtracted.

9. In *logic*, an essential attribute, belonging to some species, and not found in the genus; being the idea that defines the species. *Encyc.*

10. In *heraldry*, a certain figure added to a coat of arms, serving to distinguish one family from another, or to show how distant a younger branch is from the elder or principal branch.

DIFFERENCE, v. t. To cause a difference or distinction. A regular administration of justice according to fixed laws *differences* a civilized from a savage state.

DIFFERENT, a. Distinct; separate; not the same; as, we belong to *different* churches or nations.

2. Various or contrary; of various or contrary natures, forms or qualities; unlike; dissimilar; as *different* kinds of food or drink; *different* states of health; *different* shapes; *different* degrees of excellence.

DIFFERENTIAL, a. An epithet applied to an infinitely small quantity, so small as to be less than any assignable quantity. This is called a *differential* quantity. The *differential* method is applied to the doctrine of infinitesimals, or infinitely small quantities, called the arithmetic of fluxions. It consists in descending from whole quantities to their infinitely small differences, and comparing them. Hence it is called the *differential calculus*, or analysis of infinitesimals. *Encyc. Harris.*

DIFFERENTLY, adv. In a different manner; variously. Men are *differently* affected with the same eloquence.

DIFFERING, pp. Being unlike or distinct; disagreeing; contending.

DIFFICILE, a. [L. *difficilis*.] Difficult; hard; scrupulous. [Not used.] *Bacon.*

DIFFICILENESS, n. Difficulty to be persuaded. [Not used.] *Bacon.*

DIFFICULT, a. [L. *difficilis*; *dis* and *facilis*, easy to be made or done, from *facio*, to make or do; Sp. *difficiloso*; It. *difficiloso*.]

1. Hard to be made, done or performed; not easy; attended with labor and pains; as,

our task is *difficult*. It is *difficult* to persuade men to abandon vice. It is *difficult* to ascend a steep hill, or travel a bad road.

2. Hard to be pleased; not easily wrought upon; not readily yielding; not compliant; unaccommodating; rigid; austere; not easily managed or persuaded; as, a *difficult* man; a person of a *difficult* temper.

3. Hard to be ascended as a hill, traveled as a road, or crossed as a river, &c. We say, a *difficult* ascent; a *difficult* road; a *difficult* river to cross; &c.

DIFFICULTY, n. [Fr. *difficulté*; It. *difficoltà*; Sp. *difficultad*; L. *difficultas*.]

1. Hardness to be done or accomplished: the state of any thing which renders its performance laborious or perplexing; opposed to *easiness* or *facility*; as, the *difficulty* of a task or enterprise; a work of labor and *difficulty*.

2. That which is hard to be performed or surmounted. We often mistake *difficulties* for impossibilities. To overcome *difficulties* is an evidence of a great mind.

3. Perplexity; embarrassment of affairs; trouble; whatever renders progress or execution of designs laborious. We lie under many *difficulties*, by reason of bad markets, or a low state of trade.

4. Objection; obstacle to belief; that which cannot be easily understood, explained or believed. Men often raise *difficulties* concerning miracles and mysteries in religion, which candid research will remove.

5. In a popular sense, bodily complaints; indisposition.

DIFFIDE, v. i. [L. *diffido*; *dis* and *fido*, to trust.]

To distrust; to have no confidence in. [Little used.] *Dryden.*

DIFFIDENCE, n. [It. *diffidenza*; Sp. *diffidencia*; from L. *diffidens*, *diffido*; *dis* and *fido*, to trust. See *Faith*.]

1. Distrust; want of confidence; any doubt of the power, ability or disposition of others. It is said there was a general *diffidence* of the strength and resources of the nation, and of the sincerity of the king.

2. More generally, distrust of one's self; want of confidence in our own power, competency, correctness or wisdom; a doubt respecting some personal qualification. We speak or write with *diffidence*, when we doubt our ability to speak or write correctly or to the satisfaction of others. The effect of *diffidence* is some degree of reserve, modesty, timidity or bashfulness. Hence,

3. Modest reserve; a moderate degree of timidity or bashfulness; as, he addressed the audience or the prince with *diffidence*.

DIFFIDENT, a. Distrustful; wanting confidence; doubting of another's power, disposition, sincerity or intention.

Be not *diffident* of wisdom. *Milton.*
Be *diffident* in dealing with strangers. *Anon.*

2. Distrustful of one's self; not confident; doubtful of one's own power or competency.

Distress makes the humble heart *diffident*. *Clorissa.*

3. Reserved; modest; timid; as, a *diffident* youth.

DIFFIDENTLY, adv. With distrust; in a distrustful manner; modestly.