

clouds or fog; to make bright; as, to *clear* the sky; sometimes followed by *up*.

Dryden. Milton.

8. To free from obscurity, perplexity or ambiguity; as, to *clear* a question or theory; to *clear up* a case or point.

Prior.

9. To purge from the imputation of guilt; to justify or vindicate.

How shall we *clear* ourselves? *Gen. xiv.*

That will by no means *clear* the guilty. *Ex. xxxiv.*

10. In a legal sense, to acquit on trial, by verdict; as, the prisoner has been tried and *cleared*.

11. To make gain or profit, beyond all expenses and charges; as, to *clear* ten per cent. by a sale of goods, or by a voyage.

12. To remove wood from land; to cut down trees, remove or burn them, and prepare land for tillage or pasture; as, to *clear* land for wheat.

To *clear* a ship at the custom house, is to exhibit the documents required by law, give bonds or perform other acts requisite, and procure a permission to sail, and such papers as the law requires.

To *clear* the land, in seamen's language, is to gain such a distance from shore, as to have open sea room, and be out of danger from the land.

To *clear* the hold, is to empty or unload a ship.

To *clear* a ship for action, or to *clear* for action, is to remove all incumbrances from the decks, and prepare for an engagement.

CLEAR, *v. i.* To become free from clouds or fog; to become fair; often followed by *up*, *off*, or *away*; as, the sky *clears*; the weather *clears up*; it *clears away*; it *clears off*.

2. To be disengaged from incumbrances, distress or entanglements; to become free or disengaged.

He that *clears* at once will relapse. *Bacon.*

CLEARAGE, *n.* The removing of any thing. [*Little used.*]

CLEARANCE, *n.* A certificate that a ship, or vessel has been *cleared* at the custom house; permission to sail.

CLEARER, *pp.* Purified; freed from foreign matter, or from incumbrance; made manifest; made luminous; *cleansed*; liberated; acquitted.

CLEARER, *n.* That which *clears*, purifies, or enlightens; that which brightens.

Addison.

CLEARING, *pp.* Purifying; removing foul matter, incumbrances, or obstructions; making evident, or luminous; *cleansing*; liberating; *disengaging*; *acquitting*; making gain beyond all costs and charges.

CLEARING, *n.* A defense; justification; vindication. 2 Cor. vii.

2. A place or tract of land cleared of wood for cultivation; a common use of the word in America.

3. The act of making clear.

CLEARLY, *adv.* Plainly; evidently; fully; as, the fact is *clearly* proved.

2. Without obstruction; luminously; as, to shine *clearly*.

3. With clear discernment; as, to understand *clearly*.

4. Without entanglement, or confusion.

Bacon.

5. Plainly; honestly; candidly.

Deal *clearly* and impartially with yourselves.

Tillotson.

6. Without reserve, evasion or subterfuge.

Davies.

CLEARNESS, *n.* Freedom from foul or extraneous matter; purity; as the *clearness* of water, or other liquor.

2. Freedom from obstruction or incumbrance; as the *clearness* of the ground.

3. Freedom from fogs or clouds; openness; as the *clearness* of the sky. It generally expresses less than brightness or splendor. *Ex. xxiv.*

4. Distinctness; perspicuity; luminousness; as the *clearness* of reason, of views, of arguments, of explanations.

5. Plainness, or plain dealing; sincerity; honesty; fairness; candor.

Bacon.

6. Freedom from imputation of ill.

Shak.

7. Freedom from spots, or any thing that disfigures; as the *clearness* of the skin.

CLEAR-SHINING, *a.* [clear and shine.] Shining with brightness, or unobstructed splendor.

Shak.

CLEAR-SIGHTED, *a.* [clear and sight.] Seeing with clearness; having acuteness of sight; discerning; perspicacious; as *clear-sighted* reason; a *clear-sighted* judge.

CLEAR-SIGHTEDNESS, *n.* Acute discernment.

Bp. Barlow.

CLEAR-STARCH, *v. t.* [clear and starch.] To stiffen and wash starch, and by clapping with the hands; as, to *clear-starch* muslin.

CLEAR-STARCHER, *n.* One who *clear-starches*.

CLEAR-STARCHING, *pp.* Stiffening and clearing with starch.

2. *n.* The act of stiffening and clearing with starch.

CLEAT, *n.* [Qu. the root of *L. claudo*, Gr. *κλειδο*, the fastener.]

A piece of wood used in a ship to fasten ropes upon. It is formed with one arm or two, or with a hollow to receive a rope, and is made fast to some part of a vessel. Cleats are belying-cleats, deck-cleats, or thumb-cleats.

Mar. Dict.

CLEAVAGE, *n.* The act of cleaving or splitting.

2. In *mineralogy*, the manner of cleaving, or of mechanical division. It is used in relation to the fracture of minerals which have natural joints and possess a regular structure.

Phillips.

CLEAVE, *v. i.* pret. *clave* or *cleaved*. [Sax. *cleafan*, to split and to adhere; *D. kleeven*; *G. klieben* or *kleben*; *Dan. klaber*, *kleber*; *Sw. klibba*; *Russ. lipnu*. The old preterit *clave* is obsolete.]

1. To stick; to adhere; to hold to. My bones *cleave* to my skin. *Ps. ci.*

Let my tongue *cleave* to the roof of my mouth. *Ps. cxxxvii.*

Cleave to that which is good. *Rom. xii.*

2. To unite aptly; to fit; to sit well on.

Shak.

3. To unite or be united closely in interest or affection; to adhere with strong attachment.

A man shall leave father and mother, and *cleave* to his wife. *Gen. ii. Math. xix.*

Cleave to Jehovah your God. *Josh. xxiii.*

CLEAVE, *v. t.* pret. *cleft*; pp. *cleft* or *cleaved*. The old pret. *clave* is obsolete; *clave* is obsolete. The old participle, *cloven*, is obsolete, or rather used as an adjective. [Sax. *cleafan*, or *clifan*; *D. klooven*; *G. klieben*; *Sw. klyfca*; *Dan. klover*; *Russ. lopayu*; *Gr. κλω*. This word seems to be connected with the *L. liber*, free, and bark, bough, *libero*, to free, *Fr. livrer*, whence *deliver*.]

1. To part or divide by force; to split or rive; to open or sever the cohering parts of a body, by cutting or by the application of force; as, to *cleave* wood; to *cleave* a rock; to *cleave* the flood. *Ps. lxxiv.*

Milton. Dryden.

2. To part or open naturally.

Every beast at *cleaveth* the cleft into two claws. *Deut. xiv.*

CLEAVE, *v. i.* To part; to open; to crack; to separate, as parts of cohering bodies; as, the ground *cleaves* by frost.

The mount of Olives shall *cleave* in the midst thereof. *Zech. xiv.*

CLEAVED, *pp.* Split; rived; divided.

CLEAVELANDITE, *n.* [from *Professor Cleaveland*.] A mineral, generally of a white or grayish white color, sometimes blue or bluish or reddish; called also *siliceous felspar*, or albite.

Phillips.

CLEAVER, *n.* One who cleaves; that which cleaves; a butcher's instrument for cutting animal bodies into joints or pieces.

Arbuthnot.

CLEAVING, *pp.* Sticking; adhering; uniting to. Also, splitting; dividing; riving.

CLECHE, *n.* In *heraldry*, a kind of cross, charged with another cross of the same figure, but of the color of the field. *Eneyd.*

CLEDGE, *n.* Among miners, the upper stratum of fuller's earth.

CLEF, *n.* [*Fr. clef*; *L. clavis*, a key, the fastener.]

A character in music placed at the beginning of a stave, to determine the degree of elevation occupied by that stave in the general claviary or system, and to point out the names of all the notes which it contains in the line of that clef.

Rousseau.

CLEFT, *pp.* of *cleave*. Divided; split; parted asunder.

Milton.

CLEFT, *n.* A space or opening made by splitting; a crack; a crevice; as the *cleft* of a rock. *Is. ii. 21.*

Addison.

2. A disease in horses; a crack on the bought of the pastern.

Furrier's Dict.

3. A piece made by splitting; as a *cleft* of wood.

[This word is sometimes written *cleft*.]

CLEFT-GRAFT, *v. t.* [*cleft* and *graft*.] To engraft by cleaving the stock and inserting a cion.

Mortimer.

CLEG, *n.* The horse fly; *Dan. klag*.

CLEM, *v. t.* [*G. klemmen*.] To starve. [Not in use.]

Jonson.

CLEMENCY, *n.* [*L. clementia*, from *clemens*, mild, smooth; whence *Fr. clemence*, *It. clemenza*, *Sp. clemencia*; *W. llin*, smooth; *Heb. לים* to be soft, mild, gentle.]

1. Mildness; softness; as the *clemency* of the air.

Dryden.

2. Mildness of temper; gentleness or lenity of disposition; disposition to treat with favor and kindness.