

GNASHING, *n.* *gnashing*. A grinding or striking of the teeth in rage or anguish. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matt. vii.

GNAT, *n.* *nat.* [Sax. *gnat*. Qu. Gr. *gnathos*.] A small insect, or rather a genus of insects, the Culex, whose long cylindric body is composed of eight rings. They have six legs and their mouth is formed by a flexible sheath, inclosing bristles pointed like stings. The sting is a tube containing five or six spicula of exquisite fineness, dentated or edged. The most troublesome of this genus is the musketo. *Encyc. Cyc.*

2. Any thing proverbially small.

Be blind guides, who strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. Matt. xxiii.

GNAT-FLOWER, *n.* A flower, called also bee-flower. *Johnson*

GNAT-SNAPPER, *n.* A bird that catches gnats. *Hakewill*

GNAT-WORM, *n.* A small water insect produced by a gnat, and which after its several changes is transformed into a gnat; the larva of a gnat. *Cyc.*

GNAW, *v. t. n. v.* [Sax. *gnagan*; G. *gnagen*; D. *knagen*; Sw. *gnaga*; W. *gnai*; Gr. *gnao*, to scrape; Ir. *gnagh*, *gnai*, consumption; *cnaiagh*, a maggot; *cnaidhim*, to gnaw, to consume.]

1. To bite off by little and little; to bite or scrape off with the fore teeth; to wear away by biting. The rats *gnaw* a board or plank; a worm *gnaws* the wood of a tree or the plank of a ship.

2. To eat by biting off small portions of food with the fore teeth.

3. To bite in agony or rage. They *gnawed* their tongues for pain. *Rev.* xvi.

4. To waste; to fret; to corrode.

5. To pick with the teeth. His bones clean picked; his very bones they *gnaw*. *Dryden*

GNAW, *v. t. n. v.* To use the teeth in biting.

I might well, like the spaniel, *gnaw* upon the chain that ties me. *Sidney*

GNAWED, *pp. gnaw'd*. Bit; corroded.

GNAWER, *n.* *gnaw'er*. He or that which gnaws or corrodes.

GNAWING, *ppr. gnaw'ing*. Biting off by little and little; corroding; eating by slow degrees.

GNÆISS, *n.* *ne'is*. [Qu. Dan. *gniater*, Sw. *gnastas*, to sparkle.]

In mineralogy, a species of aggregated rock, composed of quartz, feldspar and mica, of a structure more or less distinctly slaty. The layers, whether straight or curved, are frequently thick, but often vary considerably in the same specimen. It passes on one side into granite, from which it differs in its slaty structure, and on the other into mica slate. It is rich in metallic ores. *Kirwan. Cleveland.*

GNOFF, *n.* *nog*. A miser. [Not in use.]

GNOME, *n.* *nome*. [Gr. *gnomē*.] An imaginary being, supposed by the cabalists, to inhabit the inner parts of the earth, and to be the guardian of mines, quarries, &c. *Encyc.*

2. A brief reflection or maxim. [Not used.]

GNOMICAL, *a.* *nomical*. [Gr. *gnomai*.] Sententious; containing maxims. [Little used.]

GNOMIOMETRICAL, *a.* [Gr. *gnōmē*, an index, and *μετρον*, to measure.]

The *gnomiotric* telescope and microscope is an instrument for measuring the angles of crystals by reflection, and for ascertaining the inclination of strata, and the apparent magnitude of angles when the eye is not placed at the vertex. *Brewster.*

GNOMOLOGIC, *a.* Pertaining to *gnomology*.

GNOMOLOGICAL, *a.* *mology*.

GNOMOLOGY, *n.* [Gr. *gnōmē*, a maxim or sentence, and *λογία*, discourse.]

A collection of maxims, grave sentences or reflections. [Little used.] *Milton.*

GNO MON, *n.* *no mon*. [Gr. *gnōmōn*, an index, from the root of *gnōmōn*, to know.]

1. In *dialling*, the style or pin, which by its shadow shows the hour of the day. It represents the axis of the earth. *Encyc.*

2. In *astronomy*, a style erected perpendicular to the horizon, in order to find the altitude of the sun. *Encyc.*

3. The *gnomon* of a globe, is the index of the hour-circle. *Encyc.*

GNOMONIC, *a.* Pertaining to the art *GNOMONICAL*, *a.* of dialling. *Chambers.*

GNOMONICS, *n.* The art or science of dialling, or of constructing dials to show the hour of the day by the shadow of a *gnomon*.

GNOSTIC, *n.* *nostic*. [L. *gnosticus*; Gr. *gnōstikos*, from *gnōmōn*, to know.]

The *Gnostics* were a sect of philosophers that arose in the first ages of christianity, who pretended they were the only men who had a true knowledge of the christian religion. They formed for themselves a system of theology, agreeable to the philosophy of Pythagoras and Plato, to which they accommodated their interpretations of scripture. They held that all natures, intelligible, intellectual and material, are derived by successive emanations from the infinite fountain of deity. These emanations they called *aeons*, *aeons*. These doctrines were derived from the oriental philosophy. *Encyc. Enfield.*

GNOSTIC, *a.* *nostic*. Pertaining to the *Gnostics* or their doctrines.

GNOSTICISM, *n.* *nosticism*. The doctrines, principles or system of philosophy taught by the *Gnostics*. *Enfield.*

GNU, *n.* A species of Antelope, in Southern Africa, whose form partakes of that of the horse, the ox, and the deer.

GO, *v. i.* *pret. went*; *pp. gone*. *Went* belongs to the root, Sax. *wendan*, a different word. [Sax. *gan*; G. *gehen*; Dan. *gaar*; Sw. *gå*; D. *gaan*; Basque, *gan*. This is probably a contracted word, but the original is obscure. In Goth. *gaggan*, to go, seems to be the Eng. *gang*; and *gud* may belong to a different family. The primary sense is to pass, and either to go or come. Sax. *ga forth*, go forth; *ga hither*, come hither; *her gath*, he comes.]

1. In a general sense, to move; to pass; to proceed from one place, state or station to another; *opposed to resting*. A mill *goes* by water or by steam; a ship *goes* at the rate of five knots an hour; a clock *goes* fast or slow; a horse *goes* lame; a fowl or a ball *goes* with velocity through the air. The mourners *go* about the streets. *Eccles.* xii.

2. To walk; to move on the feet or step by step. The child begins to *go* alone at a year old.

You know that love Will creep in service where it cannot go. *Shak.*

3. To walk leisurely; not to run. Thou must run to him; for thou hast said so long that *going* will scarce serve the turn. *Shak.*

4. To travel; to journey by land or water. I must go to Boston. He has gone to Philadelphia. The minister is *going* to France.

5. To depart; to move from a place; opposed to *come*. The mail *goes* and comes every day, or twice a week.

I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice. *Ex.* viii.

6. To proceed; to pass. And so the jest goes round. *Dryden.*

7. To move; to pass in any manner or to any end; as, to go to bed; to go to dinner; to go to war.

8. To move or pass customarily from place to place, denoting custom or practice. The child *goes* to school. A ship *goes* regularly to London. We go to church.

9. To proceed from one state or opinion to another; to change. He *goes* from one opinion to another. His estate is *going* to ruin.

10. To proceed in mental operations; to advance; to penetrate. We can go but a very little way in developing the causes of things.

11. To proceed or advance in accomplishing an end. This sum will not go far towards full payment of the debt.

12. To apply; to be applicable. The argument *goes* to this point only; it *goes* to prove too much.

13. To apply one's self. Seeing himself confronted by so many, like a resolute orator, he *went* not to denial, but to justify his cruel falsehood. *Sidney.*

14. To have recourse to; as, to go to law.

15. To be about to do; as, I was *going* to say. I am *going* to begin harvest. [This use is chiefly confined to the participle.]

16. To pass; to be accounted in value. All this *goes* for nothing. This coin *goes* for a crown.

17. To circulate; to pass in report. The story *goes*.

18. To pass; to be received; to be accounted or understood to be. And the man *went* among men for an old man in the days of Saul. 1 Sam. xvii.

19. To move, or be in motion; as a machine. [See No. 1.]

20. To move as a fluid; to flow. The gold I am, whose yellow water flows Around these fields, and fattens as it goes, Tiber my name. *Dryden.*

21. To have a tendency. Against right reason all your counsels go. *Dryden.*

22. To be in compact or partnership. They were to go equal shares in the booty. *L'Estrange.*

23. To be guided or regulated; to proceed by some principle or rule. We are to go by the rules of law, or according to the precepts of scripture.

We are to go by another measure. *Sprat.*

24. To be pregnant. The females of different animals go some a longer, some a shorter time.