

2. Alluring by false show; worn for disguise; having a gaudy but deceitful appearance; false; as *meretricious* dress or ornaments.

MERETRICIOUSLY, *adv.* In the manner of prostitutes; with deceitful enticements.

MERETRICIOUSNESS, *n.* The arts of a prostitute; deceitful enticements.

MERGAN'SER, *n.* [Sp. *mergansar*, from *L. mergo*, to dive.]

A water fowl of the genus *Mergus*; called also *goosander*.

MERGE, *v. t.* [*L. mergo*.] To immerse; to cause to be swallowed up.

The plaintiff became the purchaser and merged his term in the fee. *Kent.*

MERGE, *v. i.* To be sunk, swallowed or lost. *Law Term.*

MERG'ER, *n.* [*L. mergo*, to merge.] In law, a merging or drowning of a less estate in a greater; as when a reversion in fee simple descends to or is purchased by a tenant of the same estate for years, the term for years is merged, lost, annihilated in the inheritance or fee simple estate. *Blackstone.*

MERID'IAN, *n.* [Fr. *meridien*; It. *meridiano*; *L. meridiēs*. Qu. Ir. *mir*, a part; Gr. *μερος*, to divide. Varro testifies that this word was originally *medidies* [mid-day,] and that he had seen it so written on a sun-dial.]

1. In astronomy and geography, a great circle supposed to be drawn or to pass through the poles of the earth, and the zenith and nadir of any given place, intersecting the equator at right angles, and dividing the hemisphere into eastern and western. Every place on the globe has its *meridian*, and when the sun arrives at this circle, it is mid-day or noon, whence the name. This circle may be considered to be drawn on the surface of the earth, or it may be considered as a circle in the heavens coinciding with that on the earth.

2. Mid-day; noon.

3. The highest point; as the *meridian* of life; the *meridian* of power or of glory.

4. The particular place or state, with regard to local circumstances or things that distinguish it from others. We say, a book is adapted to the *meridian* of France or Italy; a measure is adapted to the *meridian* of London or Washington.

Magnetic meridian, a great circle, parallel with the direction of the magnetic needle, and passing through its poles.

MERID'IAN, *a.* Being on the meridian or at mid-day.

The sun sat high in his *meridian* tower. *Milton.*

2. Pertaining to the meridian or to mid-day; as the sun's *meridian* heat or splendor.

3. Pertaining to the highest point; as, the hero enjoyed his *meridian* glory.

1. Pertaining to the magnetic meridian.

MERID'IONAL, *a.* [Fr.] Pertaining to the meridian.

2. Southern.

3. Southerly; having a southern aspect.

Meridional distance is the departure from the meridian, or easting or westing.

MERIDIONALITY, *n.* The state of being in the meridian.

2. Position in the south; aspect towards the south. *Johnson.*

MERID'IONALLY, *adv.* In the direction of the meridian. *Brown.*

MER'IT, *n.* [*L. meritum*, from *mereo*, to earn or deserve; It. Sp. *merito*; Fr. *merite*.]

1. Desert; goodness or excellence which entitles one to honor or reward; worth; any performance or worth which claims regard or compensation; applied to morals, to excellence in writing, or to valuable services of any kind. Thus we speak of the inability of men to obtain salvation by their own merits. We speak of the merits of an author; the merits of a soldier, &c.

2. Value; excellence; applied to things; as the merits of an essay or poem; the merits of a painting; the merits of a heroic achievement.

3. Reward deserved; that which is earned or merited.

Those laurel groves, the merits of thy youth. *Prior.*

MER'IT, *v. t.* [Fr. *meriter*; *L. merito*.] To deserve; to earn by active service, or by any valuable performance; to have a right to claim reward in money, regard, honor or happiness. Watts, by his writings, merited the gratitude of the whole christian world. The faithful laborer merits his wages.

A man at best is incapable of meriting any thing from God. *South.*

2. To deserve; to have a just title to. Fidelity merits and usually obtains confidence.

3. To deserve, in an ill sense; to have a just title to. Every violation of law merits punishment. Every sin merits God's displeasure.

MER'ITABLE, *a.* Deserving of reward. [Not in use.] *B. Jonson.*

MER'ITED, *pp.* Earned; deserved.

MER'ITING, *ppr.* Earning; deserving.

MER'IT-MÖNGER, *n.* One who advocates the doctrine of human merit, as entitled to reward, or depends on merit for salvation. *Milner.*

MERITO'RIOUS, *a.* [It. *meritorio*; Fr. *meritoire*.]

Deserving of reward or of notice, regard, fame or happiness, or of that which shall be a suitable return for services or excellence of any kind. We applaud the *meritorious* services of the laborer, the soldier and the seaman. We admire the *meritorious* labors of a Watts, a Doddridge, a Carey and a Martyn. We rely for salvation on the *meritorious* obedience and sufferings of Christ.

MERITO'RIOUSLY, *adv.* In such a manner as to deserve reward. *Wotton.*

MERITO'RIOUSNESS, *n.* The state or quality of deserving a reward or suitable return.

MER'ITORY, *a.* Deserving of reward. [Not used.] *Gower.*

MERLE, *n.* [*L. merula*.] A blackbird. *Drayton.*

MER'LIN, *n.* [Fr.] A species of hawk of the genus *Falco*.

MER'LON, *n.* [It. *merlo*; Fr. *merlon*.] In fortification, that part of a parapet which lies between two embrasures. *Encyc.*

MER'MAID, *n.* [Fr. *mer*, *L. mare*, the sea, and *maid*.]

A marine animal, said to resemble a woman in the upper parts of the body, and a fish in the lower part. The male is called the merman.

MER'ROPS, *n.* A genus of birds called bee-eaters.

MER'RILY, *adv.* [from *merry*.] With mirth; with gayety and laughter; jovially. [See *Mirth* and *Merry*.]

Merrily sing and sport and play. *Glanville.*

MER'RIMAKE, *n.* [*merry* and *make*.] A meeting for mirth; a festival; mirth. *Spenser.*

MER'RIMAKE, *v. i.* To be merry or jovial; to feast. *Gay.*

MER'RIMENT, *n.* Mirth; gayety with laughter or noise; noisy sports; hilarity; frolic. *Milton.*

MER'RINESS, *n.* Mirth; gayety with laughter. *Shak.*

MER'RY, *a.* [Sax. *mirige*, *myrig*; Ar. *مerry* to be joyful. Class Mr. No. 10.]

1. Gay and noisy; jovial; exhilarated to laughter.

Man is the merriest species of the creation. *Addison.*

They drank and were merry with him. *Gen. xliii.*

2. Causing laughter or mirth; as a merry jest. *Shak.*

3. Brisk; as a merry gale. [This is the primary sense of the word.] *Dryden.*

4. Pleasant; agreeable; delightful. *Chaucer.*

To make merry, to be jovial; to indulge in hilarity; to feast with mirth. Judges ix.

MERRY-AN'DREW, *n.* A buffoon; a zany; one whose business is to make sport for others. *Spectator.*

MER'RY-MAKING, *a.* Producing mirth.

Mirth, music, merry-making melody

Speed the light hours no more at Holyrood. *Hillhouse.*

MER'RY-MEETING, *n.* A festival; a meeting for mirth. *Bp. Taylor.*

MER'RY-THOUGHT, *n.* The forked bone of a fowl's breast, which boys and girls break by pulling each one side; the longest part broken betokening priority of marriage. *Echard.*

MER'SION, *n.* [*L. mersio*, from *mergo*, to dive or sink.]

The act of sinking or plunging under water. But *immersion* is generally used.

MESARA'IC, *a.* [Gr. *μεσαραϊος*; *μεσος*, middle, and *αραια*, intestines.]

The same as *mesenteric*; pertaining to the mesentery.

MESEE'MS, *verb impersonal.* [me and seems.] It seems to me. It is used also in the past tense, *meesemed*. *Spenser.*

MESENTER'IC, *a.* [See *Mesentery*.] Pertaining to the mesentery; as *mesenteric* glands or arteries.

MES'ENTERY, *n.* [Gr. *μεσεντεριον*; *μεσος*, middle, and *εντερον*, intestine.]

A fatty membrane placed in the middle of the intestines, and to which they are attached. This prevents them from becoming entangled with each other by convolutions. It is formed by a duplicate of the peritoneum. *Encyc. Quincy.*

MESH, *n.* [W. *masg*, net-work, a mesh; D. *maas*; G. *masche*, a mesh or a stitch.]