

word was originally *medidies*, and that he had seen it so written on a sun-dial.

1. Pertaining to the meridian, or to midday.

The sun sat high in his meridian tower. Milton.

2. Pertaining to the highest point or culmination; as, the hero enjoyed his meridian glory.

**Mer'id'i-on-al** (Synop., § 130), *a.* [Fr. *méridional*, Pr., Sp., & Pg. *meridional*, It. *meridionale*, Lat. *meridionalis*, from *meridies*, midday. See *supra*.]

1. Pertaining to the meridian.

2. Having a southern aspect; southern; southernly. Wotton.

*Meridional distance*, the distance or departure from the meridian; the easting or westing. — *Meridional parts*, parts of the meridian in Mercator's projection, corresponding to each minute of latitude from the equator up to 70 or 80 degrees; tabulated numbers representing these parts used in projecting charts, and in solving cases in Mercator's sailing.

**Mer'id'i-on-á'l-ty**, *n.* 1. The state of being in the meridian.

2. Position in the south; aspect toward the south.

**Mer'id'i-on-á'l-ly**, *adv.* In the direction of the meridian.

**Mér'ills**, *n.* [Fr. *mérelle*, *marelle*, *mavelles*, *marolles*, L. Lat. *marella*, *marrelli*, *madrella*, *madrellum*, from *materella*, *materula*, *materulum*, from *matará*, *mataris*, *materis*, *madaris*, a Celtic javelin, pike.] A boy's play called also *five-penny morris*. See MORRIS.

**Mér'ino** (me-rí-no), *a.* [Sp. *merino*, moving from pasture to pasture, from *merino*, a royal judge and superintendent or inspector of sheep walks, L. Lat. *merinus*, from Lat. & L. Lat. *majorinus*, i. e., major villa. This kind of sheep was driven at certain seasons from one part of Spain to another, in large flocks, for pasturage. Cf. MAYOR.]



Merino.

1. Of, or pertaining to, a variety of sheep of very fine wool, originally coming from Spain.

2. Made of the wool of the merino sheep.

**Mér'ino**, *n.* A thin fabric, of merino wool, for ladies' wear.

**Mér-i-ó'nēs**, *n.* (Zool.) A genus of rodent quadrupeds having long, slender, tapering tails, covered with short, slightly rigid hair. Baird.

**Mér-is-má't'ic**, *a.* [Gr. *μερισμός*, division, from *μέρος*, part.] Taking place by separation, or division into cells or segments; as, *merismatic* growth, which occurs by a division of one cell into many.



Mermaid.

**Mér'it**, *n.* [Fr. *mérite*, Pr. *merit*, Sp., Pg., & It. *merito*, Lat. *meritum*, from *merere*, *mereri*, to deserve, merit.]

1. The quality or relation of deserving well or ill; desert.

Had they no ground for hope but merit, that is, could they look for nothing more than what they should strictly deserve. Paley.

2. The quality or relation of deserving well.

Reputation is often got without merit, and lost without deserving. Shak.

Charms strike the sight, but merit wins the soul. Pope.

3. That excellence or goodness which entitles to honor or reward; worth; worthiness.

To him the wit of Greece and Rome was known, And every author's merits but his own. Pope.

4. Reward deserved; that which is earned or merited. "Those laurel groves, the merits of thy youth." Prior.

**Mér'it**, *v. t.* [imp. & p. p. MERITED; p. pr. & vb. n. MERITING.] [Fr. *mériter*, Sp. *meritar*, It. *meritare*, Lat. *meritare*, verb intens. from *merere*.]

1. To earn by active service, or by any valuable performance; to have a right to claim as reward; to be entitled to; to deserve; sometimes, to deserve in a bad sense, to incur.

This kindness merits thanks. Shak.

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

2. To reward. [Obs. and rare.] Chapman.

**Mér'it**, *v. t.* To acquire desert; to gain value; to receive benefit; to profit.

And if in my poor death fair France may merit, Give me a thousand blows. Beau. & Fl.

**Mér'it-a-ble**, *a.* Deserving of reward. [Obs.]

**Mér'it-ed-ly**, *adv.* By merit; deservedly.

**Mér'it-món'ger** (-múng'jer), *n.* One who advocates the doctrine of human merit, as entitled to reward, or depends on merit for salvation. Milner.

**Mér'i-tó-ri-ó-us**, *a.* [Lat. *meritorius*, It. & Sp. *meritorio*, Pr. *meritori*, Fr. *méritoire*.] Possessing merit or desert; deserving of reward or honor; worthy of recompense; valuable.

And meritorious shall that hand be called, Canonized, and worshipped as a saint. Shak.

**Mér'i-tó-ri-ó-us-ly**, *adv.* In a meritorious manner.

**Mér'i-tó-ri-ó-us-ness**, *n.* The state or quality of being meritorious, or of deserving reward.

**Mér'i-to-ry**, *a.* [See *supra*.] Deserving of reward. [Obs.]

**Mér'i-tót**, *n.* A kind of play used by children, in swinging themselves on ropes, or the like, till they are giddy.

**Mérk**, *n.* An old Scotch silver coin, worth about three dollars and twenty-two cents.

**Mérk**, *n.* A mark. [Obs.] Halliwell.

**Mérke**, *a.* Dark; murky. [Obs.] Halliwell.

**Mér'kin**, *n.* Originally a wig; hence, a mop for cleaning cannon.

**Mér'l**, *n.* [Fr. & Pr. *merle*, Sp. *merla*, *mierla*, *mir-merle*, It. *merlo*, *merlo*, *merlo*, *merlo*, Lat. *merula*, *merulus*.] A blackbird.

The merl upon her myrtle perch There to the mavis sings. Dryden.

**Mér'lin**, *n.* [Eng. *merle*, q. v. Fr. *émérillon*, Pr. *esmerilhó*, *esmirle*, It. *smerti-glióne*, *smerti-glio*, *smerto*, O. H. Ger. *schmerl*, N. H. Ger. *schmerl*, *schmerlen*, *smyr-lin*, *merle*, *myrle*.]

1. (Ornith.) A species of small hawk, of the genus *Falco*.

2. A wizard.

**Mér'ling**, *n.* (Ichth.) A small fish; *Merlangus vulgaris* (*Gadus merlangus* of Linnæus) the whiting.

**Mér'lon**, *n.* [Fr. & Sp. *merlon*, Pg. *merlão*, It. *merlo*, *merla*, from Lat. *merulus*, from *merulus*, wall, dim. *merulus*.] (Fort.) That part of a parapet which lies between two embrasures.

**Mér'o-cé-le**, *n.* [Gr. *μῆρος*, thigh, and *κῆλη*, tumor.] (Med.) Hernia of the thigh. Duglison.

**Mér'ros**, *n.* [Gr. *μέρος*, part.] (Arch.) The plain surface between the channels of a triglyph. [Written also *merus*.] Wade.

**Mér'má'id**, *n.* [Fr. *mer*, Lat. *mare*, the sea, and Eng. *maid*.] A fabled marine animal, having the upper part like that of a woman, and the lower like a fish; a sea nymph with a fish's tail.

**Mér'mán**, *n.* pl. MÉR-MÉN. The male corresponding to *mermaid*; a sea man, with the tail of a fish instead of legs.

**Mér'opi-dán**, *n.* [See *infra*.] (Ornith.) One of a family of birds, characterized by being usually of a green color, and by having long, slightly arched beaks, and long, pointed wings; the bee-eater. Baird.

**Mér'ops**, *n.* [Lat., from Gr. *μέροψ*.] (Ornith.) A genus of birds; the bee-eater. See BEE-EATER.

**Mer-ór-gan-i-zá'tion**, *n.* [Gr. *μέρος*, part, and Eng. *organization*.] An organization not fully completed, or made only in part; partial organization. [Rare.]

**Mér'ri-ly**, *adv.* [Eng. *merry*.] In a merry manner; with mirth; with gaiety and laughter; jovially. See MIRTH and MERRY.

*Merrily* sing, and sport, and play. Glanville.

**Mér'ri-má-ke**, *n.* [Eng. *merry* and *make*.] A meeting for mirth; a festival; mirth. [Written also *merry-make*.]

**Mér'ri-má-ke**, *v. i.* To make merry; to be merry or jovial; to feast. [Written also *merry-make*.] Gay.

**Mér'ri-ment**, *n.* Gaiety, with laughter or noise; noisy sport; mirth; hilarity; frolic.

Methought it was the sound Of riot and ill-managed merriment. Milton.

**Syn.** — See GLADNESS.

**Mér'ri-ness**, *n.* The quality of being merry; merriment; mirth; gaiety, with laughter.

**Mér'ry**, *a.* [compar. MERRIER; superl. MERRIEST.] [A-S. *merk*, *mirig*, *myrig*, Ir. & Gael. *meary*.]

1. Brisk; lively; stirring.

There eke my feeble bark a while may stay, Till merry wind and weather call her thence away. Spenser.

2. Noisily gay; overflowing with good humor and good spirits; hilarious; jovial; exhilarated to laughter.

They drank, and were merry with him. Gen. xliii. 34. I am never merry when I hear sweet music. Shak.

Man is the merriest species of the creation. Addison.

3. Cheerful; not sad; joyous.

Is any merry? let him sing psalms. James v. 13.

4. Causing laughter or mirth; as, a merry jest.

To make merry, to be jovial; to indulge in hilarity; to feast with mirth. Judges ix. 27.

**Syn.** — Cheerful; blithe; blithesome; airy; lively sprightly; vivacious; gleeful; joyous; mirthful; jocund; sportive.

**Mér'ry**, *n.* A kind of wild, red cherry.

**Mér'ry-án-drew**, *n.* One whose business is to make sport for others; a buffoon; a zany; especially, one who attends a mountebank or quack doctor.

This term is said to have originated from one Andrew Borde, a physician in the time of Henry VIII, who attracted attention and gained patients by facetious speeches to the multitude.

**Mér'ry-má-ke**, *n.* & *v. i.* See MERRIMAKE.

**Mér'ry-mák'ing**, *a.* Producing mirth.

Mirth, music, merry-making melody. Speed the light hours no more at Holyrood. Hutcheson.

**Mér'ry-mák'ing**, *n.* A festival; a meeting for mirth.

**Mér'ry-meét'ing**, *n.* mirth.

**Mér'ry-thóught** (-thawt), *n.* The forked bone of a fowl's breast, which is broken in sport by two persons, one pulling at each end, the longest part broken being taken as an omen that the one who gets it will be married first; a wish-bone.

**Mér'sion** (mēr'shun), *n.* [Lat. *mersio*, from *mergere*, *mersum*, to dip in, immerse, plunge into water, sink.] The act of sinking or plunging under water; immersion.

**Mér'ri-li-dán**, *n.* [Fr. *mérulides*, from Lat. *merula*, *merulus*. See MERLE.] (Ornith.) A bird of the thrush family.

**Mér'rus**, *n.* See MEROS.

**Mér'ry-co-thé-ri-ó-us**, *n.* [Gr. *μυρρική* to chew the cud, and *θηρίον*, beast.] (Paleont.) A genus of mammals, allied to the camel, not now in existence, but found fossil.

**Més-a-rá't'ic**, *a.* [Fr. *mésaraïque*, It. & Sp. *mesaraico*, from Gr. *μεσάριον* (sc. *δέσμα*), the mesentery, from *μέσος*, middle, and *ἀραιά* (sc. *γαστήρ*), belly.] Pertaining to the mesentery; mesenteric.

**Més-dámes'** (mā dām'), *n.* pl. of *madame*.

**Més-seems'**, *v. impers.* [imp. MESEEMED.] It seems to me.

**Més-sū-bry-án'the-mūm**, *n.* [Gr. *μεσσηβρία*, midday, and *ἀνθήμα*, a blossoming.] (Bot.)

A genus of plants, mostly shrubby, found at the Cape of Good Hope. The leaves are opposite, thick, and fleshy. The flowers usually open about midday, whence the name.

**Més-en-ce-phá'l'ic**, *a.* [Gr. *μέσος*, middle, *ἐν*, *κέφαλος*, brain.] (Anat.) Occupying a central position in the head or skull. See SKULL.

**Més-en-tér'ic**, *a.* [Fr. *mésenterique*, It. & Sp. *mesenterico*.] Pertaining to the mesentery; as, *mesenteric* glands or arteries.

**Més-en-ter'itis**, *n.* [See *infra*.] (Med.) Inflammation of the mesentery. Duglison.

**Més-en-tér'y**, or **Més'en-tér'yn**, [Fr. *mésentère*, It. & Sp. *mesenterio*, Gr. *μεσεντήριον*, *μεσεντήριον*, from *μέσος*, middle, and *έντερον*, intestine.] (Anat.) A membrane in the cavity of the abdomen, which retains the intestines and their appendages in a proper position. Duglison.

**Més'e-rá't'ic**, *a.* The same as MESARAIC.

**Més'fáith**, *n.* [Fr. *mes*, for *més*, wrong, and *faith*.] Erroneous faith; error of belief. [Rare.] Tompsson.

**Més'h**, *n.* [A-S. *masc*, *max*, *máscere*, O. D. *maesche*, *masche*, N. D. *maas*, N. H. Ger. *masche*, O. H. Ger. *mascá*, Icel. *móskvi*, W. *masg*.]

1. The opening or space inclosed by the threads of a net between knot and knot; net-work.

A golden mesh to entrap the hearts of men. Shak.

2. [See MASH.] The grains or wash of a brewery.

**Més'h**, *v. t.* [imp. & p. p. MESHED (mésht); p. pr. & vb. n. MESHING.] To catch in a mesh; to ensnare.

How small a net may take and mesh a heart of gentle kind! Surrey.

**Més'h'y**, *a.* Formed like net-work; reticulated.

**Més'ial** (mész'al) (Synop., § 130), *a.* [Gr. *μέσος*, middle.] Middle.

*Mesial plane* (Anat.), a plane dividing the body longitudinally and symmetrically into two parts, the one on the right side, the other on the left side. Hence, *mesial* is sometimes used to signify directed toward, or facing, the *mesial plane*; as, the *mesial* aspect of an organ.

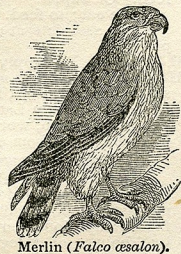
**Més'lin**, *n.* [A-S. *máslin*. See MASLIN.] The same as MASLIN. See MASLIN.

**Més'mer-ee'**, *n.* A person subjected to mesmerism influence; one who is mesmerized.

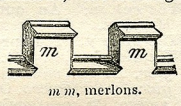
**Més'mér'ic**, *a.* [Fr. *mesmérigue*. See *infra*.]

**Més'mér'ic-al**, *a.* Pertaining to mesmerism, or being under its influence.

**Més'mér-izm**, *n.* [Fr. *mesmérisme*, from *Mesmer*, who first brought it into notice at Vienna, about 1776.] The art of inducing an extraordinary or abnormal state of the nervous system, in which the actor claims to control the actions, and communitate directly with the mind, of the recipient.



Merlin (Falco cesalon).



m m, merlons.



Mermaid.



Bee-eater (Merops apiaster).



Fig Marigold (Mesembryanthemum abrotanum).