

a *see* back, have, of.

a' *see* all.

A¹ [ah] the letter A.

[Pronounced as it was historically in the Latin language.]

A², Ah, ah *pronoun* I.

□ **am** I'm, I am.

□ **I spy, hi-spy, hy-spy** a children's game: hide and seek.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

a¹ *indefinite article* **1** used before vowels *e.g. a umbrella*. **2** used before numerals, *especially not a one*. **3** used before the words "half-past" with reference to time *e.g. at a half-past seven*.

□ **near an age** nearly the same age.

a² in the construction *have + a + past participle, e.g. if ye had only alistened*.

[Usually understood as a shortened form of **have**, but may be South-Western English *a-*, from Old English *3e-* before past participles (corresponding to Modern German *ge-*).]

a³ *preposition* on (**a**) before days of the week; (**b**) in various compounds *e.g. a purpose* on purpose.

◆ *prefix, also a-, rarely a'* **1** before a noun: (**a**) **a-dream** asleep; (**b**) **a want** *e.g. Any coke a want!* a hawkers' street cry; (**c**) **a'ceilidh** *e.g. He is going a'ceilidh, i.e. cayleyin (see ceil)*. **2** before a present participle [archaic in Standard English]: (**a**) in an active sense *e.g. That kettle's long a-boilin*; (**b**) in a passive sense *e.g. a-calling* being called, looked for (**by** someone).

□ **a-lifting** of cattle, *literally* being lifted: starving, too weak to rise without help; *see also* lift¹.

□ **awaitin on** dying [it is not clear whether the dying person is understood to be awaiting death, or being waited upon as an invalid, or being waited for]; *see also* wait.

□ **awanting 1** in an active sense: lacking in intelligence, mentally deficient; crazy. **2** in a passive sense: **a-calling**, wanted.

[Shortened form of **on**.]

a⁴ a syllable inserted in compounds for rhythmical effect, *thus that-a-way* that way; **this-a-way** this way.

[Hiberno-English and English dialectal *that-a-way, this-a-way*.]

a⁵ *exclamation* oh!

[Northern English form.]

a⁶ *particle* in terms of address, *thus (a) achree* an endearment [Irish *a chroí* "oh heart", *see also machree*]; (**b**) **acushla** an endearment [Irish *a chuisle* "oh vein, pulse"]; (**c**) **agra** love [Irish *a ghrá* "oh love"]; *see gra*; (**d**) **a hagur** dear one [Irish *a théagair* literally "oh warmth, comfort"]; (**e**) **a-hasky** an endearment [Irish *a thaisce* literally "oh treasure"]; (**f**) **alannah** child [Irish *a leanbh* "oh child"]; (**g**) **a phaisdin** little child [Irish *a pháistín* "oh little child"]; (**h**) **aroon** darling [Irish *a rún* literally "oh secret"]; (**i**) **asthore** treasure [Irish *a stór* "oh treasure"]; (**j**) **avic, a mhic** son; a term of address [Irish *a mhic* "oh son"]; (**k**) **avilish, a mhillis** sweet one [Irish *a mhillis* literally "oh sweet"]; (**l**) **avourneen, a mhuirnin** darling [Irish *a mhuirín* "oh darling"].

[Irish *a* vocative particle preceding the noun, in various fixed expressions borrowed into Hiberno-English.]

aaba knot *noun* a charm used in healing cattle. A knotted string is passed three times over cattle afflicted with the bots (an intestinal disease).

[Shetland. The first element is unidentified.]

aal *noun* an awl.

[Scots form.]

aback *adverb, of the distribution of the weight of a cartload* **light aback, heavy aback** too light or heavy behind the axle and therefore putting an uneven strain on the horse's back or on the tractor axles.

- **heavy aback** *of a cart* laden too heavily on the front part, causing the weight to press upon the horse.
- **light-aback** a person without financial resources, a person of no social standing.
[A³ + back.]
- abane** *see* abune.
- ABC** *noun* **1** *in plural* the ABC, the alphabet [in the singular in Standard English]. **2** marks on the shins from sitting too near a fire.
- **as plain as ABC**
- a-be**: **let a-be** let be, leave alone.
[Scots, possibly modelled on *let alone*.]
- abed** *adverb* in bed.
- abeen** *see* abune.
- abide** *verb* **1** remain, stay. **2** endure, tolerate, put up with.
- abin** *see* abune.
- abitchary** *noun* an obituary.
- object, object** *noun* **1** an object. **2** a deformed or diseased person; an imbecile; a miserable creature; a term of contempt for a person or animal.
- ablach** *noun* **1** a useless, insignificant person. **2** a dirty, slovenly person.
 - **abhlachan** a useless, insignificant person.
[Irish *ablach* "a carcass; a useless, inert person", also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *ablach*.]
- able** *adjective* **1** physically strong. **2** well-to-do, prosperous.
 - **able for** fit to cope with.
 - **as able as a cyart-horse**
 - **spell able** do what you boast *e.g. Come here till I hit ye! Spell able!*
See also aiblins.
- ableeze** *adjective* ablaze, on fire.
[Scots form; *see* a³, blaze.]
- abode** *verb* bode, portend.
- aboil**: **come aboil** come to the boil.
[Scots and Northern English, *see* a³.]
- aboo** *exclamation, historical* a war cry *e.g. Butler aboo*.
[Irish *abú* "a war cry", possibly a shortened form of *go buaidh* "to victory". *See also* dergaboes.]
- aboon** *see* abune.
- aboord, aboordy** *adjective, in competitive games, especially handball* having equalised the score.
[Scots and Northern English form, archaic sense of English *aboard*; *see* a³, board.]
- about¹** *adverb, preposition* about.
 - **all about** *of things* in confusion, disorder.
 - **keep about one** possess, own *e.g. Farmers keep about them coos, meers, kettle*.
[Scots and Northern English form. *See also* bout².]
- about²** *adverb* to boot, into the bargain.
[Roxburghshire, of + boot¹.]
- abother**: **what's abother to you?** what's troubling you?
[Of + bother.]
- abraird, abrerd, abreard** *adjective, of (a field of) young corn* sprouted.
[Scots, a³ + breard.]
- abreest** *adjective* abreast, side by side.
[Scots form, *cf.* breast.]
- abroad** *adverb* out of doors, away from home; up and about; out to sea.
- absquatulate, obsquatulate** *verb* run away from some place rather than stand and face danger.
- abstrakrous** *adjective* perverse, bad-tempered, cantankerous.
[Possibly a blend of *obstructive, cantankerous* and *obstreperous*.]
- abune, abin, abeen, abane, aboon** *adverb* above.

- [Scots *abune, abin, abeen, abane, aboon*; Northern English *aboon*; forms of *above*, from Old English *abufan*.]
- aburyin** *see* a³.
- abys, aby** *preposition* in comparison with.
[Scots *byes, abies*; formed on *by*.]
- abzurd** *adjective* absurd.
- a-calling** *see* a³.
- acause** *conjunction* because.
[English dialectal and Southern Scots, a³ + *cause* as in *because*.]
- accelerate** *verb* accelerate.
- accident** *noun, euphemism* **1** an illegitimate birth. **2** a crime which may claim sympathy.
□ **accidentally: accidentally-a-purpose** as if by accident, but really deliberate.
- account, accoont** *noun* account.
□ **by all accounts** by what is reported.
□ **lay out your accounts** **1** make your plans. **2** endeavour, make it your business *e.g. A'll lay oot my accounts tae see him*.
□ **no' o' much account** not of much good or use.
[Scots form *accoont*.]
- accoutrements** *noun plural* things strewn about.
- accripped** *adjective* decrepit.
- accuse** *verb* declare *e.g. I accuse it's the first time I've iver seen the like*.
- a'ceilidh** *see* a³.
- ach, agh, auch, augh, ack**, *exclamation* expressing displeasure, frustration, *etc.*
[Irish *ach*, also Scots from Scottish Gaelic. *Cf. och*.]
- achan, ahan, aichan, nyachan** *noun* a shellfish: a trough shell, probably *Spisula subtruncata*.
[Donegal Irish *achan*. The form *nyachan* appears to be from wrong division of *an achan*.]
- ache** *verb* cause to ache.
□ **I've got two achers** *i.e.* sore legs.
- achree** *see* a⁶.
- acetylene** *noun* acetylene *Co. Antrim*.
- acquaint, acquant, acquent** *verb* acquaint.
◆ *adjective* acquainted.
[Scots and Isle of Man *acquent*; Scots also *acquant, acquaint*.]
- acras** *noun* a ruffian.
- acre**
- across: across the water** to or in Britain.
- act: have no act nor part in** have neither art nor part in, have no part in;
cf. art.
- active fortis** aqua fortis, nitric acid.
- October** *noun* October *Mid Uls.*
- acumsinery** *see* sinder.
- acushla** *see* a⁶.
- Adam: Adam's ale** water.
- adapt** *verb* adopt.
- adaucity** *noun* audacity *Co. Antrim*.
- addle** *verb* learn, master by studying hard.
□ **addlins** pin money, small earnings.
[Northern English "earn, acquire by labour", from Old Norse *öðla* "acquire (property)".]
- addle-headed** weak in intellect.
- addy** *exclamation* the call in the games of tig and hide-and-seek.
[Origin unknown.]
- adjetif** *noun* an adjective.
- admiralty** *noun* admiralty.

[Scots form.]

admire *verb* wonder *e.g.* *I admire where they all come from* [archaic in Standard English].

ado *verb phrase* to do *e.g.* *What are you going ado?*

a-dream *see* a³.

advantage: have the advantage of someone When one person meeting another salutes him, if the other does not know him, he says **You have the advantage of me.**

afeard, afeart *adjective* afraid, frightened.

◆ *conjunction* lest, for fear that; *cf.* *afraid.*

[*Afeard* obsolete in Standard English (still general dialectal and Scots), Scots form also *afeart*. *Cf.* *fear.*]

aff *see* off.

affa *see* awfu'.

affected *adjective* not in control of all your faculties.

affected *adjective* behaving strangely, as if mentally disturbed.

affer *see* offer.

affin *see* aften.

affright *verb* frighten [archaic in Standard English].

affront, front *verb* affront, insult a person's dignity or modesty.

□ **fronted** affronted, insulted, mortified.

□ **right affronted** affronted, insulted.

□ **tak all affronts as favours** be unaffected by insults.

[English dialectal form *front*. As in Scottish usage, the usual sense of *affront(ed)* does not imply a deliberate insult.]

afiel' *adverb* afield, outside, at a distance from home.

[Scots form, *cf.* a³.]

afire *adjective* on fire.

afleet *adjective* afloat.

[A³ + Scots and English dialectal *fleet* "float", itself from Old English *flēotan* (later replaced by *flotian* which gives *float*).]

afore *adverb, preposition, conjunction* before.

□ **fingers was made afore knives and forks**

□ **it's all before ye like the man an' the wheelbarrow** meaning that the future is unknown.

□ **lift someone afore he or she falls** make an excuse for someone before they actually do anything amiss; *usually negative, e.g.* *Don't lift me afore I fall.*

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and dialectal); from Old English *on foran*, *cf.* a³.]

afraid, fraid *conjunction, also for afraid, for fraid* lest, for fear that; *cf.* *afeard.*

aft *adverb* oft, often.

□ **aftimes** oft-times, often.

[Scots form.]

aften, affin *adverb* often.

[Scots forms.]

after, afther, efter, efther *preposition* **1** after. **2** of place behind *e.g.* *I left him after me.* **3** of time past (the hour). **4** expressing recently completed action *e.g.* *I'm after telling him* [*cf.* Ulster Irish *i ndiaidh*. It is not clear whether the construction arose first in English or in Irish, though the latter is more likely].

◆ *noun, in plural* **efthers** "afters", pudding.

□ **after ane** alike, matching; *see* one.

□ **after-birth** the placenta.

□ **after-clap** the consequences of something.

□ **aftercrap** **1** an after-crop, a second crop, usually of grass. **2** *figuratively* a small, weakly person; *cf.* *attercop*. *See* crop.

□ **after-saut, efter-saut** after-grass, a second crop of grass [the second

element is possibly Scots *sott* "a leap" (from French *saut*).

- **afther-rap** a small, weakly person.
- **after-gress** after-grass; *see* grass.
- **afternoon, efternin, efterneen** afternoon [Scots forms *nin, neen* of *noon*].

[Scots and Northern English form *efter*.]

a-fuss a-fuss *exclamation* a call to a cat.

afut *adjective* afoot; *cf.* a³, foot.

again, agin *adverb* **1** again. **2** at some future time, *frequently I'll see ye again* implying a promise to do something, *e.g.* repay money, at the next meeting.

◆ *preposition* **agin, agen** **1** against. **2** *specifically* (a) in turn with, in alternation with *e.g.* *He's runnin the wan agen the tother*; (b) in rivalry with *e.g.* *whistlin jigs again the larks*. **3** *of time* (a) also **against** by, before; in time for *e.g.* *Again Friday, I'll be ready*; (b) come *e.g.* *It'll be a fortnight agin Tuesday since I last saw her*.

◆ *conjunction, of future time* by the time that, before.

- **be again** go against *e.g.* *It'll be agin that chile if it has a stoppage in the speech like the mother*.
- **come** or **go again** come or go to meet *e.g.* *I saw them from the window and I went out agin them*.
- **go again to it** *emphatic* after *if... not*, stressing that something is the case *e.g.* *And if Dr Henry is not looking after him, go again to it* meaning that Dr Henry is looking after him very well.

[Scots form *agin*. The preposition has been altered to *against* in Standard English, distinguishing it from the adverb and conjunction.]

age: **an age** of an age, the same age.

- **be aged** have aged *e.g.* *I would scarcely have knowed ye, ye're that aged*.
- **Lord bless his age** a blessing to a child.
- **none of last years chickens, have a good many nicks in one's horn, I'm owl'er nor I'm gud, Whatever ye like, but I'm well preserved**
- **the age of a horse that can plough** the alleged difference between a woman's admitted age and her real age.

agee *see* ajee.

agen *see* again.

agg *see* egg.

agger *see* argue.

aggrovoke *verb* anger, provoke, aggravate.

agh *see* ach.

aght *see* aught¹.

agin *see* again.

- **go aglee** go astray, go to the bad.

agley, aglee *adverb* **1** awry, crooked, into disorder. **2** astray. **3** *of the mind* out of balance; into an agitated state.

[Scots and Northern English *agley*, Scots also *aglee*; *see* a³, glee.]

agnail *noun* a piece of loose flesh at the root of a fingernail.

agone *adverb, of time* ago, since.

[Archaic in Standard English, where it is replaced by the shortened form *ago*.]

agra *see* a⁶.

agree: **agree with** *usually negative* not like (a certain food or drink), suffer ill-effects from [in Standard English it is now only the thing that does not agree with the person].

agreeable *adjective* favourably inclined *e.g.* *He's agreeable to me taking him to the Old Rabble*.

ah *see* A².

a hagur *see* a⁶.

ahan *see* achan.

ahind, ahine, ahint, ahin *preposition, adverb* behind.

[General dialectal and Scots *ahind*, Scots and English dialectal also *ahint*, Scots also *ahin*; see **a³**, *hind*.]

ahoogh *exclamation* expressing surprise and disappointment *Co. Armagh*.

[Onomatopoeic.]

aiblins, ablins *adverb* perhaps, possibly.

[Scots, from *able* + *-ling*.]

aichan *see* *achan*.

aicht, aidays *see* *eight*.

aidge *see* *aitch*.

aidy *see* *eddy*.

aigle *noun* an eagle.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

aikey *adjective* awkward *L'derry city*.

[Origin unknown.]

ail *verb* hinder, prevent *e.g. What would ail it?*

□ **it's good for what ails you** *catchphrase* said of any efficacious remedy, but *especially* alcoholic drink.

□ **What ails ye?** doctor's question to patient. **I have neither ache nor pain** patient's reply to doctor. **That's what brought me to you to fin' out** patient's reply to doctor.

□ **what ails you at?** what objection have you to?; what dislike have you for?; what is the matter with? *e.g. What ails you at that man?*

[The same word as Standard English *ail* "be sickly".]

Ailsa cock or **parrot** *noun* a bird: the puffin *Fratercula arctica*, also called the sea-parrot; *see also* *Welsh*. *Illustration see* *bridle*.

[Scots, named after the island of Ailsa Craig. Puffins have recently been reintroduced to the island after being wiped out by rats.]

ailyin *noun* a brood of chickens.

[Irish *éillín* "a brood, a clutch".]

aim: a good aim a shrewd guess.

aim's ace *see* *ame's ace*.

ain *see* *own*.

aince *see* *once*.

aipern *see* *apern*.

aipple *see* *apple*.

Aiprile *see* *Aprile*.

aiqual, aquil *adjective* equal.

□ **equals** *noun plural* quits.

[Older Scots and English form *aiqual*, *cf.* also Scots extended form *equal-aqual*.]

air: aer-sucker a horse that sucks in air.

□ **air** or **airy goat** a bird: the common snipe *Gallinago gallinago* [translation of Irish *meannán aeir* "kid-goat of the air", *cf.* Scottish Gaelic *gobhar-adhair* "goat of the air". In the courtship display flight, the bird fans its tail and plummets so that the air makes a bleating noise as it passes through the feathers]; *see also* *bog*, *evening*, *God*, *heather-bleat*.

□ **airlock** *slang, of a speaker* stop dead in mid-flow [from the cut-out in a diesel engine if air enters the fuel system].

□ **airlocked** *slang* extremely drunk.

□ **airy** *adjective, of a person* vain, shallow.

□ **have an air** be wise or appear wise about anything.

□ **take an air of the fire** warm yourself at the fire.

airach *see* *eeroch*.

airk *see* *ark*.

Airlan' *proper noun* Ireland.

airle *see* *arle*.

airly *see* *early*.

airn *see* *errand*.

airn, ern *noun* **1** iron. **2** *specifically, in plural* the irons (coulters, socks, etc.) of a plough.

◆ *verb* iron.

[Scots forms.]

airneal *noun* an evening of dancing, singing and story-telling in someone's house, attended by all the inhabitants of a townland.

airt, art, ert *noun* **1** a point of the compass, a quarter of the heavens *e.g. The wind's in a thawy art.* **2** *loosely* direction, *frequently in or from a good or bad airt*

[*airt* also adopted in Standard English]. **3** a district.

□ **all arts and parts, all parts an arts** all directions, everywhere; *cf. art.*

[Scots and Northern English *airt*, Scots also *ert*, Northern English also *art*; from Scottish Gaelic *àird* (corresponding to Irish *aird*).]

aise *see* ease.

aisel *see* aizel.

aish *see* ash².

aist *see* east.

Aister, Aisther *see* Easter.

aisy *see* ease.

aitch, aidge, edge *noun* an adze; *also* foot-edge.

[Scots form *atch*, Northumberland form *edge* (apparently influenced by *edge*).]

aith *noun* an oath.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

aithen *see* and.

aiwal [*ai-wal*] *adjective, of an animal* having fallen on its back and unable to get up.

◆ *adverb* onto its back, *often* fallen **aiwal**

[Scots *awald*, North-Eastern Scots *aiwal*; from Old Norse *afvelta*, apparently influenced by *awkward* (hence stress on first syllable); *see also* *awal*.]

aizel *see* ashel-tree.

aizel, aisel *noun* a cinder; an ember.

[Scots, from Old English *ysel* "ashes".]

aizel-tree *see* ashel-tree.

aizin *see* easing.

ajee, agee *adjective* **1** uneven, awry, lopsided. **2** *of a door, gate, etc.* ajar. **3** *of the mind* agitated, disturbed, slightly deranged.

◆ *adverb* **1** unevenly, awry. **2** ajar.

[Scots and Northern English, **a**³ + **jee**.]

ake *see* oak.

akownst *see* unknownst.

alablaster, alliblaster *noun* alabaster.

□ **ally, alley** a boy's marble made of alabaster or other material.

□ **glass alley** a glass marble.

[Old form, still English dialectal.]

alabnach, alumnach *noun, derogatory, literally* a Scottish Protestant: also applied to an Englishman.

[Irish *Albanach*, originally "a Scottish person", Ulster Irish "a Protestant". The form *alabnach* reflects the Ulster Irish pronunciation. *See also* *allibans*.]

alane *adjective* alone.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

alang *see* along¹.

alannah *see* **a**⁶.

alarm *verb* tell, inform.

alash used for emphasis, normally ironically.

ald *see* old.

alder *see* elder¹.

alebnas *see* allibans.

aleckadoo *noun* an official of a club such as a rugby club; a committee member.

aleg *verb* allege.

a-lifting *see* a³.

alimanass *see* allibans.

alive: **blind alive, death alive, hell alive, man alive, murdther alive, woman alive** *exclamation* *s*

now I've been alive since I was born an a while before it an I have yet to..., I'm alive since I was born an a while before it an I never seen anything like it!

olived active, lively, energetic; the reverse of lazy.

all, a', aw *adjective* all.

◆ *noun* **1** all. **2** everything *e.g. Take all out of the bag.*

a'days every day.

all alone by myself an' no one *or* **body along wid me** a pleonasm.

all as one **1** all one, as good as the same thing. **2 all as one as (a)** as good as, practically the same thing as; **(b)** the same as, just like.

all but except.

all for nothing in vain.

all-heal a plant, valerian.

all one all the same.

all one of people equal in treatment *e.g. I divid the sweeties among them and made them all one.*

all one for that notwithstanding that.

all one (to someone) all the same (to someone).

all out mistaken; *adverb* altogether *e.g. He's a great hand all out with the lancet.*

alloverish *also* **all over** (feeling) sick, qualmish.

alloverness *noun* a general sense of apprehension *e.g. an alloverness on me.*

all sorts **1** a thorough scolding *e.g. I got all sorts for that.* **2** with all your might; also applied to a downpour of rain.

all that's for me all there is of me: said in reply to the question "Is that you?"

all the the only *e.g. He's all the son she has.*

all the one all one, one and the same thing.

all there sane. *usually* **not all there**

all the same notwithstanding.

all to, all for to expressly to, just in order to [*all to* archaic in Standard English].

Almighty Almighty; *also* **the Almighty** [Scots form]

always, allies *adverb* **1** always. **2** still *e.g. Aye, he's always livin.*

3 every way, everywhere.

and all and all that, *et cetera*, and everything.

and all to that and so on.

a'richt alright; *see* right.

awthegither altogether; *see* thegither.

dressed to all's no more dressed up, "dressed to kill".

for all that notwithstanding that.

go all through the house *of an illness* affect everyone in a house in turn.

How are you? Purty well - all that's left of me

like all that "like anything", very quickly and skilfully.

when all's done "at the end of the day".

who all who (plural) *e.g. Who all is comin?*

youse all all of you.

[Scots and Northern English forms *a', aw.*]

allan hawk, aran hawk *noun* a bird: (a) the great skua *Stercorarius skua*; (b) the great Northern diver *Gavia immer*; (c) the red-throated diver *Gavia stellata*.

[Orkney and Shetland *alan*, Western Scots *allan-hawk* "the Arctic skua"; probably of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Swedish dialectal *alle* "the auk". *Hawk* here may be an alteration of *auk*. *See also* Holland hawk.]

alley *noun* the aisle of a church; *also* side alley

allibans, alebnas, alimanass *noun* a bird: the puffin *Fratercula arctica*.

[*Cf.* Irish *albanach* "a species of puffin" from its solemn expression and black plumage; *see* *alabnach*.] [ILLUS: allibans]

alliblaster *see* *alablaster*.

allidan *noun* a lamp, lantern.

allies *see* *all*.

alliways *see* *alaways*.

allow, 'lloow, aloo *verb* **1** allow. **2** consider, be of the opinion that *e.g.* *I alooded he wudnae be lang in the job.* **3** advise, recommend, approve *e.g.* *I would not allow you to travel today.* **4** of God foreordain. **5** command, order.

□ **allowance** permission.

[Scots form *aloo*, mainly Southern English form *'low*.]

almanack: have a head like an almanack be very intelligent.

□ **let alone** besides, to say nothing of.

□ **let someone alone for** trust someone to excel at.

along¹, alang, long, lang *preposition* along.

□ **gae lang o' that**

□ **give someone along the ear** box someone's ears.

[Scots and Northern English forms *alang, lang*; Southern English form *long*.]

along² *adjective* **along on, along of, along with** on account of, owing to.

[English dialectal *along of*, less commonly *along on*; Lancashire also *along with*; from Old English *zelang*.]

aloo *see* *allow*.

alow *see* *alowe*.

alow *preposition, adverb* below.

[Adverb archaic in Standard English; preposition Scots; from *a³ + low*.]

aloways, alliways *noun* a medicine: (bitter) aloes.

[Possibly originally a spelling pronunciation, *cf.* sixteenth century spelling *allowes*.]

alowe, alow *adverb* lit, on fire, ablaze.

[Scots and Northern English, *a³ + lowe*.]

alt *noun* a cliff.

[Irish *a(i)lt* "a ravine".]

altar *noun* a stone, with an image of the Virgin Mary, where Mass was celebrated in the open air.

alumnach *see* *alabnach*.

always *see* *all*.

am *see* *A², be*.

amadan, amadhan, amadaun, omadan *noun* a half-wit, a fool; a blundering, awkward man.

[Hiberno-English *amadaun*, from Irish *amadán*.]

amaist *see* *amost*.

amang *see* *among*.

ambition *verb* aspire to, cherish an ambition of (doing something) *e.g.* *Young Toal suddenly ambitioned learning the fiddle.*

ambience *noun* an ambulance.

ambry, armory *noun* **1** a cupboard. **2** specifically, Roman Catholic a locked cupboard in the wall of a church where the communion vessels are kept when not in use [*ambry* archaic in Standard English].

[Scots and Northern English *ambry*, older form *armary*; from Latin

armārium "a closet, a chest".]

amen: **amen!** **it's a pity to loss a good prayer for the want of a clerk** said to someone who is heard swearing.

amends: **make amends** return a compliment or favour [in Standard English you make amends for causing harm].

Amerikay, Ameriky, Ameeraka *noun* America; *specifically* the United States of America.

◆ *adjective* American *e.g.* *the Ameriky war*.

□ **American:** **American wake** a farewell party for someone emigrating to America.

□ **American weed** Canadian pondweed *Elodea canadensis*.

ame's ace, aim's ace: **within an ame's ace of** *literally* within an ambs-ace (a double one in dice) of: very close to, said *e.g.* of a narrow escape.

[Hiberno-English form.]

a mhic, a mhilis, a mhuirnin *see* a⁶.

amigrant *noun* a clumsy, ignorant person.

amind *see* mind.

amind *adjective* minded, of a mind, having the intention (to do or say anything).

[Scots, apparently of + mind.]

amn't *see* be.

among, amang, 'mang *preposition* among.

□ **among hands** *of work* in the intervals between other tasks, at odd moments, at the same time as doing something else; *see also* **atween, between**.

□ **among youse be it; among ye be it, blind harpers** settle it among yourselves: said to people who are quarrelling.

[Scots and Northern English form *amang*, Scots also *'mang*.]

amos, amoth *noun* a big, soft man who cries easily.

[Possibly the Biblical name *Amos*, from Hebrew "troubled, weighed down".]

almost, amaist *adverb* almost.

□ **have almost (to do something)** have almost (done something) *e.g.* *He had almost to burn his soc in the greesay*.

[English dialectal form *almost*, Scots and Northern English form *amaist*.]

amplish, amplush *see* non-plush.

amplush¹ *noun* a plentiful supply.

amsha, emsha *noun* **1** bad luck, misfortune. **2** an accidental injury; a scar resulting from such an injury.

[*Cf.* Irish *aimseach* adjective "accidental, unfortunate". *See also* **hamshoch**.]

amunt *noun* amount.

[Scots form.]

an *see* and.

anam: **m'anam ye** an expression of encouragement or appreciation.

anan [a nan], **a-nan, nan** a request that what was last said may be repeated, as not having been distinctly heard.

□ **anan eh?** I beg your pardon?

anatomy *noun* a skeleton.

anawthar *see* anither.

ancient, encient *adjective* **1** *of children* precocious. **2** *of animals* cunning, clever, well-trained. **3** *of scenery* picturesque.

□ **ancient girl** an old maid.

[Scots form *encient*.]

ankle *noun* a boorish man.

and, an *conjunction* **1** used between two adjectives to make the first intensify or modify the second, *thus* **brave and, fine and, etc.**, *e.g.* *fine and pleased, quare and late, terrible an cowl', middlin an dear, gey and*

hot the day. **2** in dates *e.g. nineteen and seventeen 1917*. **3** before a subordinate clause, with the verb omitted *e.g. The other was no better an it double the price*. **4** usually **an** if [archaic in Standard English].

□ **ethen, aithen** *exclamation, literally and then e.g. Ethen, it's you he's callin, I'm thinkin.*

□ **if ifs an' an's were pats an' pans, There wud be no call for tinkers**

□ **main and** very, much, greatly.

[Colloquial form *an.*]

□ **Usage** In English, apart from its archaic use in sense 4 "if", *and* is a coordinating, not a subordinating conjunction. Its use as a subordinating conjunction, as in 3, is perhaps influenced by Irish *agus*. However, *agus* in subordinate clauses is followed by a pronoun subject and a verb in the present participle.

andy *noun* the heron.

ane *see* one, own.

anear *verb* come near, approach [archaic in Standard English].

aneath *preposition* beneath.

[Scots and Northern English; **a**³ + *-neath* as in **beneath**, modelled on *afore, ahind, etc.*]

anent *preposition* **1** also **anent** opposite, in front of; *cf.* **forenent**. **2** near to, alongside. **3** about, concerning, with regard to [also adopted in Standard English].

[Scots and English dialectal; Middle English *anent*, from Old English *on efen* "on a level (with)".]

anger *verb* inflame, irritate (a wound).

□ **angersome** annoying, troublesome.

□ **angry angry at** angry with.

[Scots pronunciation with "ng" as in "singer".]

angey *noun* a variety of oats *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

angle *noun, verb* angle.

□ **angle up to someone** try to ingratiate yourself with someone.

[Scots pronunciation with "ng" as in "singer".]

angleberry, ingleberry *noun* a large wart-like growth, usually on the feet, affecting horses, cattle, *etc.*

[Scots and English dialectal *angleberry*, Scots *ingleberry*; from Old English *ang-* "pain" + *-berry*. *See also* **dangleberry, hackleberry**.]

anigh *preposition* beside, near.

anither, anawthar *adjective, pronoun* another.

[Scots form *anither*, Scots and English dialectal form *anawthar*.]

ankler, anklet *see* enkle.

annahydion *noun* an ignorant, ill-informed person.

annet *see* black.

Annie-no-rattle *noun* someone who pipes up at the end of a conversation.

annoy *verb* **1** upset, distress, *usually passive, e.g. He was awful annoyed at his father's death*. **2** disturb (a thing) *e.g. Dinny be annoyin that pile o claes*.

◆ *noun* an actual injury.

annuner: what annuner! what in thunder!

anoanst *see* unknownst.

anoint *verb* beat, thrash (as punishment).

anonder, anondher *see* anunder.

anont *see* unknownst.

anoo *see* even.

answer *verb* **1** *of fish* rise to the bait, bite. **2** suit, fit *e.g. Pink answers it well*.

□ **answerable** *of one of a pair of things* corresponding to, matching.

- make answer** make a reply *e.g. I spoke to him, but he never made me answer.*
- saft answers fits travellers** *proverbial*
- short answers fit travellers** said to a longwinded person.
- Anthony** *noun* the smallest of a litter of pigs [St Anthony is the patron saint of swineherds].
- and the child's name was Anthony** said to cut off an argument.
- St Anthony's fire** erysipelas.
- antic** *adjective, of a person* amusing, funny; light-hearted, merry.
[The same word as Standard English *antics* *noun* plural.]
- antifogging** *noun* humbugging.
- anunder, anonder, anondher, anunner** *adverb, preposition* under.
[Scots and English dialectal, from Middle English *an* "on" (*cf.* *a*³) + *under*. *See also* in.]
- any, ony, onny** *adjective* **1** any. **2** either, one of two things.
 - ◆ *adverb* at all *e.g. Can you row any?*
 - any bit like**
 - any god's amount** plenty.
 - any more** used in positive contexts: from now on *e.g. I think it'll be fine any more.*
 - any more than** only, but that.
 - anything** in any way.
 - any time** from now on.
 - anyway 1** at all *e.g. What'll I do anyway?* **2** at all events *e.g. I may be poor, anyway I'm honest.*
 - any way** to any extent *e.g. Are you anyway cleared up?*
 - anywise** in any way.
 - as anything** in comparisons *e.g. He hit me as hard as anything.*
 - onnybuddy** anybody; *see* **body**.
 - onnythin** anything.
 - onnywhaur** anywhere, *also* **onnyplace**; *see* **whaur**.
[Scots and Northern English form *ony*, English dialectal *onny*.]
- apen** *adjective, verb* open.
 - apenin** an opening.
[Scots form.]
- apenin** *see* open.
- apern, aipern** *noun* an apron.
[Worcestershire and Somerset form *apern*.]
- apiece**: **apiece of** one each of (something) *e.g. I'll give the weans apiece of the sweets.*
- Apiscoplan, apiscoplin** *noun, adjective* Episcopalian.
- appear**
 - appearance**: **have the appearance of rain** look like rain.
- appearance**: **make your appearance** *Presbyterian* appear for the first time at church after being married.
- appearingly, appearantly** *adverb* apparently.
[Scots *appearinly*; archaic Scots *appearandly*; Scots and Yorkshire *appearently*.]
- apperil** *noun* peril.
[Rare and obsolete in Standard English, pseudo-archaic form.]
- applause** *noun* flattery.
- apple, aipple, epple** *noun* an apple.
 - apple balm** a herb: the common balm *Melissa officinalis*.
 - apple bread** potato-apple.
 - apple-picker** a bird: the chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. *Illustration see* **chaff**.
 - apple-tree**:
 - ye might as well climb an apple-tree to gather wallflowers**
[Scots forms *aipple, epple*.]

appleriny *noun* a shrub: southernwood *Artemisia abrotanum*.

[Scots; alteration of Old French *aprotane*, Anglo-French *averoine*.]

apricock *noun* an apricot.

[Old form (still English dialectal), from Portuguese *albricoque*. *Apricot* is from French *abricot*.]

Aprile [Ap-rile], **Aiprile** *noun* April (the month).

□ **April fool, go an' get a pidgeon's milk, go an buy me a whim wham for a goose's bridle**

[Scots form *Aprile*.]

apt *adjective* certain, usually **apt to**

◆ *adverb* certainly.

□ **aptly** certainly *e.g.* *Will you be here the morra? I aptly will.*

□ **be very apt to** *ironic* be certain not to.

a purpose *see* a³.

aquil *see* aigual.

ara *see* out.

aran hawk *see* allan hawk.

aras *noun* a fairy thorn.

arasiplas *noun* a disease: erysipelas.

arcan, arkan, arkawn, orcan *noun* **1** the smallest pig in a litter. **2** a stunted child; an undersized adult. **3** a lively, light-hearted fellow.

□ **arcan's leap** a sudden spurt of growth; *see also* **crowl**.

[Irish *arcán* "a piglet; the smallest piglet of the litter".]

arch, erch, airch *noun* **1** an arch. **2 also archway** a passage between buildings, whether arched or not.

◆ *verb* arch.

[Scots forms *erch, airch*.]

ardent: ardent spirits fiery alcoholic drink.

ardhughs *noun plural* antics, capers.

[Origin unknown.]

are *see* be.

aree: ochone aree alas, O King (of Heaven).

aren't *see* be.

argue, argie, argy, agger, arg *verb* argue.

◆ *noun* an argument.

□ **argay someone black and white**

□ **argiement** an argument.

□ **argisome** argumentative.

□ **argue out** get the last word.

□ **argufy** argue, *especially* heatedly.

□ **argybargy, argyvargy** argue, dispute.

[Scots and English dialectal form *argie, argy*; Southern English *arg*.]

a'richt *see* all.

arigideen *noun* a little silver stream.

ark, airk, erk *noun* **1** a meal bin; *see* meal. *Illustration see* meal. **2 also laying ark** a hen-coop.

□ **ark an all** "everything but the kitchen sink".

□ **it's easy baking when the meal ark is at your elbow** *proverbial*

[Cumberland and Northumberland form *airk*.]

arkan, arkawn *see* arcan.

arkshlave, arshlave *noun* a newt.

[Irish *earc sléibhe* literally "lizard of the mountain".]

arle, airle, erle, earl *noun, in plural, also arles-penny* earnest money (money given *especially* to a newly-hired farmworker to seal the bargain).

◆ *verb* pay earnest money to bind someone to a bargain, *especially* when hiring a farmworker at a hiring fair.

[Scots and Northern English *arle, erle, arles-penny*; Scots also *airle*; from Old French **arle, *erle*.]

arm, erm, airm *noun* **1** an arm. **2** an armful; *specifically* a loose bundle of

hay.

- **armlap** a small heap of hay; *see* lap.
- **arm-rope** a short rope for binding things carried on the back, a burden-rope. [ILLUS: arm-rope]
- **bog, get** or **stick your arm in** "stick it in", take advantage; *see* bog.
- **with both arms the same length, wi yer airms the yin length, with your two arms the one length** *literally* empty-handed: **(a)** bringing nothing: said *e.g.* of a visitor who fails to bring a gift or of someone returning unsuccessfully; **(b)** not offering to take part in work *e.g.* *stannin there wi yer airms the yin length*. *See also* hand.
[Scots forms *airm, erm*.]

armory *see* ambry.

arnut *noun* a wild flower with edible roots: the common pig-nut

Conopodium majus, also known as the earthnut.

[Scots and Northern English form of *earthenut*.]

aroon *see* a⁶.

aroytam *adjective* small-sized.

arr, err *noun* **1** a scar left by a wound. **2** *generally* a blemish on the skin.

- **arred** scarred, pock-marked, *especially* as a result of smallpox, *also* **pock-arred**

- **pock-arred** marked with small-pox; pock-marked.

[Scots and Northern English *arr*, Cumberland *err*; from Old Norse *orr* "a scar".]

arrah, orra *exclamation* used at the beginning of an utterance: really!

[Irish *arú, ara* "ah".]

arran' *see* errand.

arridge *noun* an arris (the angular edge of a block of stone, wood, *etc.*).

[Scots and Northern English form.]

arrigollogher *noun* meadow-sweet *Spiraea ulmaria*.

arse, erse *noun, vulgar* the bottom, the backside.

- **arse about face** back to front.
- **arse-foot** a bird: the great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus* [because the legs are set unusually far back on the body].
- **it doesn't matter how you dress a ham, it's still a pig's arse** *proverbial* "you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear".

arshlave *see* arkshlave.

art *see* airt.

art, airt, ert *noun* art.

- **have art and part in** *usually in the negative* be accessory to, participate in.

- **know neither art nor part of** know nothing about [Scots law term *art or part* "contrivance or participation", also adopted in Standard English]; *see also* act, airt.

[Scots forms *airt, ert*.]

article *noun* a term of contempt for a person of animal.

as *conjunction* than *e.g.* *I'd rather sell as buy*.

- ◆ *relative pronoun* **1** that *e.g.* *For aught as I ken o, she nicht be deed*.

2 who *e.g.* *them ones as has the money*.

- ◆ *adverb* so *e.g.* *I'm as glad*.

- **as how** *conjunction* how.

- **as like as not** probably.

- **as long as** *conjunction* providing *e.g.* *As long as you say so, I be to believe it*.

asafactory *noun* asafoetida.

ash¹, esh *noun* ash(es).

- **ashipet, ashypot, ashiepelt** **1** someone who prefers sitting in the ashes by the fireside to working. **2** a child, or sometimes a kitten or pig, who likes to stay by the fire.
- **ashle** an ash-hole.

- **ash riddle** a riddle for sifting ashes.
- **The cat was in the ash hole makin' at the brose, Down fell a cinder, and burnt the cat's nose**
[Scots form *esh*. Cf. **ass**.]
- ash², esh, aish** *noun* a tree: the ash.
- **ash plant 1** *loosely* any stick taken from a hedge for use as a rod to beat a child, *etc.* **2** a strong stick with a ball on the end used by cattle drovers.
[Scots and English dialectal form *aish*, Scots and northern English also *esh*.]
- ashel-tree, aizel-tree, auxle-tree, also aizel, auxle, exle** *noun* an axle.
[Lancashire form *ashle-tree*, Scots form *aisel-tree*; from forms of *axle* + *tree* in the sense of "a timber".]
- asheet** *noun* a plate.
[Scots "a serving plate or dish", from French *assiette*.]
- ashfalt** *noun* asphalt.
- ashiepelt, ashipet, ashle** *see* **ash¹**.
- ash-spy** *noun* "I spy", the game of hide-and-go-seek.
- ashypot** *see* **ash¹**.
- aside** *preposition* beside.
- asiner, also assinery, asinthery** *adverb* asunder, to bits.
□ **fly asiner** break spontaneously *e.g.* *The plate flew asiner*.
[With the forms *assinery* and *asinthery*, cf. *sinery, sinthery* (*see* *sundry*).]
- ask¹** *noun* a horizontal or vertical pole in an eel-trap in a weir *Lower River Bann*. *Illustration see skeagh²*.
[Origin unknown.]
- ask², ast; past tense ast; verb 1 ask. 2 ask for** ask after (someone).
[English dialectal past tense form *ast*. *See also ax*.]
- asklent** *adverb* aslant, askew, obliquely.
[Scots, **a³** + *sklent* (*see slant*).]
- aspidestra** *noun* a pot-plant, the aspidistra.
- aspy, esp** *noun, also quaking esp* a tree: the aspen *Populus tremula*, also known as the asp; *see also quake*.
[Scots and Northern English form *esp*.]
- ass, awse** *noun* ash(es).
[Scots and Northern English *ass*, Scots also *awse*; from Old Norse *aska*. Cf. **ash¹**.]
- ass¹: an ass's lug**
□ **he would steal the cross off an ass** said of a mean or greedy fellow.
□ **know your road like a beggin ass**
- assel teeth** *noun plural* the molars, the grinding teeth.
[Northern English and Western Scots, from Old Norse *jaxl* "grinder" + *tooth*.]
- assept, 'sept** *verb* accept.
- assinery** *see* **asiner**.
- assult** *verb, noun* assault.
□ **ask me an asier one** *jocular* said by someone who is unable to answer a question.
- asthore** *see* **a⁶**.
- astimied** *adjective* helpless, ruined.
[Cf. colloquial *stymied*, and golfing phrase *lay a stymie* of the opponent's ball "lie between your ball and the hole", from **stime**.]
- astray** *adjective, frequently astray in the head* distraught with pain, worry, *etc.*; deranged.
- at** *see* **thole, work**.
- at¹** *preposition* **1** of, belonging to. **2** in passive sentences: by *e.g.* *Sure we're destroyed at her*. **3** **leave something at someone** leave something with someone; cf. **leave**.

[Usage of the preposition is influenced by Irish *ag* "at".]

- **at all** **1** altogether: used in positive contexts *e.g. It's the greatest fun at all.* **2** *frequently at all, at all* used for emphasis at the end of an utterance.
- **at long an last, at long an at last** at long last, in the end.
- **at long length** at length, at long last.
- **at one** agreed, reconciled.
- **at yourself** **1** *usually not at yourself* **(a)** not in good form, not your usual self; not in your usual good health; **(b)** not in full possession of your mental faculties; **(c)** not mentally composed, upset. **2** **well at yourself** **(a)** physically well-proportioned, well-grown; sturdy; **(b)** prosperous.
- **be at** give a lot of pain or trouble *e.g. Th' owl chest's at him again....*
- **be at someone** make persistent demands of someone *e.g. he's at me about that every day.*
- **he goes on at ye all the time, where's it at?, what channel's the t.v. at now?, he's at odds wi hissell, there's somebody at the doorbell again, what are you at now?, has he got at you yet about the...?**
- **he or she doesn't know what to be at** said of a mischievous person (child or adult).

at² *conjunction, relative pronoun* that.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *at*.]

atchenagh *noun* a shrub, gorse.

ate *see* eat.

athin *preposition, adverb* within.

[Scots, also Southern English, form.]

athout, athoot, ithoot, avout, avoot *preposition* without.

◆ *adverb* outside.

◆ *conjunction* unless.

[Southern English form *athout*, Scots and Northern English form *athoot*.]

athraw *adverb* twisted to one side.

[Scots, **a**³ + throw.]

atomy *noun* a term of contempt for a person.

atop atop of on the top of.

atself *see* it.

attack: *past tense and past participle* **attacked**.

[Southern English form. *See also* **tack**⁴.]

attendance *noun* attention.

attercop, attercap, ettercap, nattercap *noun* **1** a spider. **2** *figuratively* **(a)** an ill-natured person; a petulant, spiteful person; a quick-tempered person; **(b)** an upstart, a cheeky person; **(c)** a small, insignificant person, sometimes applied to a baby; *cf.* **aftercrap**.

[English dialectal *attercop*; Lancashire also *nattercop*; Scots *attercap, ettercap, nattercap*; from Old English *attorcoppa* "poison spider". The forms with *n* are by wrong division of *an attercop*.]

attreccion *noun* attraction.

atween, atwain, atune *preposition* between [*atween* archaic in Standard English].

□ **atween hands or times** in the intervals between other tasks; *see also* among.

□ **atween whiles** in the meantime.

[General dialectal and Scots *atween*, Berkshire also *atwane*; **a**³ + *-tween* as in *between*.]

atwell *exclamation* indeed, of course.

[Scots *atweel*, anglicised *atwell*; probably shortened from *I wat weel* "I wot (*i.e.* know) well".]

atwist *adverb* **1** twisted. **2** *figuratively* confused; gone wrong.

auch *see* ach, och.

auch *see* och.

aucht, ocht *noun* aught, ought, anything.

□ **ye cannae dae aucht when ye hanna dae aucht to dae aucht wi'**

[Scots forms.]

auger: **get auger** incur wrath.

ough *see* ach.

Augher: **Augher and Clogher and Fivemiletown and Tyrone among the bushes**

aught¹, **aght** *noun* **1** property, possession. **2** a term of contempt for a person.

[Scots; from Middle English *ah*, Old English *•ht*.]

aught² *numeral* nought, zero.

[English dialectal (but the *gh* is not pronounced), from wrong division of *a nought*.]

aul', **auld** *see* old.

aumlach¹, **namlach**, **nyamlach** *noun* a small quantity *especially* of flour, meal or sugar.

[Origin unknown, the forms *namlach*, *nyamlach* appear to be from wrong division of *an aumlach* or *vice versa*. Cf. also *nyim* (*see nyimp*).]

aumlach² *adjective* awkward, clumsy, ungainly.

◆ *adverb* awkwardly.

[Origin unknown.]

aunklet *see* enkle.

aunt: **no sooner do something than lift the lid off your aunt's coffin** expressing reluctance.

aurndskew *noun* a concrete barge to keep down the slates on the edge of a roof.

Austin: **if ye'd all Austins on ye ye'd still luk the same** your dress sense is questionable.

author *noun* the authority for a statement, the person who is the source of information *e.g. I'll give you my author for it*.

auxle *see* ashel-tree.

av *see* of.

ava, **avaw** *adverb* **1** at all *e.g. A dinna ken ava*. **2** of all.

[Scots, from *Of* + *all*, translation of French (*pas*) *du tout*.]

avail *verb* **avail of** avail yourself of; take unfair advantage of.

avav *exclamation* expressing surprise and delight *Co. Armagh*.

[Origin unknown.]

avenyie, **evenyie** *noun* an avenue.

average *noun* disadvantage.

avic, **avilish** *see* a⁶.

avis, **aves** *adverb* perhaps, maybe.

avoirdupois:

avon-beg little river.

avout *see* athout.

aw *exclamation* oh.

aw *see* all.

awa *see* away.

awaitin on *see* a³.

awal [*a-wal*] *noun* land on which a crop of oats has been grown without manure after it has lain fallow.

[Scots *awal(d)* "a second crop of oats after grass"; apparently from Old Northumbrian *awælte* "rolled" (i.e. "turned by the plough"?), influenced by *awkward* (hence stress on first syllable), but possibly the same word as *aiwal*.]

a want *see* a³.

awanting *see* a³.

away, **awa** *adverb* **1** away. **2** gone: **(a)** of a person, thing, crop, etc. dead, destroyed, broken, no longer existing; **(b)** gone mad, not right in the head, frequently **away with the fairies**, **awa wi the ban'**, **away to the hills**, **away in the mind**, **away with it** **3** thingummy: used in place of a

forgotten name *e.g. I was talkin to awa last night. Ye know who I mean.*

4 with omission of verb of motion *e.g. I'm away I'm going.*

□ **away-er-thon** *literally* go away out of that: expressing disbelief or wariness; *see* yon.

□ **away wi the donkey** lost track of, whereabouts unknown.

□ **well away 1** away, gone mad. **2** fairly drunk.

[Scots form *awa*.]

awell *exclamation* ah well, well then.

awfu', **affa** *adjective* awful.

◆ *adverb* "awful(ly)", very.

[Scots forms.]

awkward, **akwert**, **awkard** *adjective 1* awkward. **2** perverse, obstinate.

3 unkind, disagreeable *e.g. an awkward word.*

[Scots and Northern English forms *ackwart*, *akwert*; English dialectal form *okard*.]

awn, **ann** *noun* an awn (one of the bristles on an ear of barley).

□ **awnie** having numerous awns.

[Scots form *ann*.]

awp *noun* the curlew.

awse *see* ass.

awthegither *see* all.

ax, **ex**; *past tense and past participle* **axt**, **axed**; *verb 1* ask. **2** *specifically* propose, ask a woman's hand in marriage. **3** **ax for a person** ask after a person, enquire about a person.

□ **ax me eye** a rude reply to a question.

□ **he married her money and axed her to the wedding**

□ **tell your mother I was axin' for her** said to a younger person in real or assumed friendship.

[General dialectal and Scots form *ax*, English dialectal also *ex*; from Old English *æcsian*. English *ask* is from an alternative Old English form. *See also ask*².]

axit *noun* an exit.

ay, **aye** *adverb* yes [*aye* is an archaism of limited use in Standard English].

□ **aye that!** expressing surprise.

ayant *see* ayont.

aye, **ay**, **ey** *adverb* always, continually.

□ **ay eh?**, **ay eh** what? what did you say?

□ **aye sure** yes indeed.

□ **for ever and ay** for ever [archaic in Standard English].

ayont, **ayant** *preposition, adverb* beyond.

[Scots and Northern English *ayont*; from *a*³ + *yont*. *Cf.* beyond.]

ayre [rhymes with "fire"] *noun* inflammation, redness.

[Irish *oighear* "a sore produced by chafing or cold". *See also eeroch*.]

ayrick *see* errock.

ayther *see* either.

aZealand: **New aZealand** New Zealand.

azebra *noun* a zebra. on-glide

azed the letter Z.

azoo *noun* a zoo. on-glide

B: **not know B from a bull's foot, not know a bee from a bull's fut** be ignorant, illiterate.

ba *noun* a baby.

□ **bless the ba!** said when a person sneezes.

Cf. baby.

ba' *see* ball.

baa: **baa-lamb**, **ba-lamb** *childish 1* an endearment to a baby. **2** a runt, the weakest in a litter.

Baab *noun, personal name* Bob.

baak *see* balk¹, balk², bauk.

baal *see* ball.

baald *see* bald.

bab *see* bob.

baboon *noun* bamboo.

babsheen *noun* a child.

baby, babby *noun* a baby.

- **babby dishes** **1** broken pieces of china used as playthings. **2** *also* **babby houses** the children's game of playing houses with broken china, *etc.*

- **babby-faced** chubby faced.

- **baby-clouts** baby's nappies; *in general* baby clothes; *see* clout³.

- **baby-dazzler** a "bobby-dazzler", a fine, handsome person.

[English dialectal and Southern Scots form *babby*. *See also* ba.]

bac, bak *noun* **1** the hob of a fire. **2** the roof space in the angle of the rafters.

bacach *adjective* mean, stingy.

bacan, bocaun *noun* **1** a wooden peg driven into the ground or into a wall to tether an animal. **2** a wooden peg for hanging up coats, *etc.* **3** the part of a hinge of a gate that is inserted into the side of the gate itself. **4** an armful (of peat, *etc.*).

[Irish *bacán* "a hook", *bacán na láimhe* "the arm bent to carry a weight".]

bacawn *noun* a door.

bacca, baccy *noun* tobacco.

bachelor *noun* **1** an admirer, a suitor. **2** a bull being taken to the cows.

- **bachelor's button** a wild flower: (**a**) the common hardhead *Centaurea nigra*; (**b**) devil's bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*; (**c**) sheep's-bit scabious *Jasione montana*; (**d**) the flower of the clover.

[Applied to various cultivated flowers in Standard English, literally "a button with a ring on the back" (this can be fixed on temporarily with a nail or matchstick, avoiding the need for sewing).] [ILLUS: b/button]

bacherins *noun plural* cowpats used as fuel.

[South-Western Scots *bachram, bachruns*; formed on South-Western Scots *bach* "cowdung in pats", itself apparently of Celtic origin, *cf.* Welsh *bawch*, Irish *buachar*.]

bachle, baghal, bahle, bauchle, boghle, boghal *noun* **1** a person who is clumsy and awkward, *especially* in walking. **2** a useless, lazy or untidy person. **3** a boor, a rough, bad-mannered person. **4** *also* **bauchler** a bungler, a person who makes a mess of a piece of work; a clumsy performer. **5** a badly-done piece of work.

◆ *verb* work in a slovenly or clumsy way.

[Scots "an old shoe; a useless, worn-out person; a person with deformed legs; an untidy or clumsy person; a badly-done piece of work; to bungle, to botch (something)"; possibly related to **bauch**.]

back, bawk, beck *noun* **1** the backyard of a house, a back garden. **2** *in plural* green sods used (**a**) on the back of the fire to keep it in overnight; (**b**) for lining the rafters of a house under the thatch. **3** backing, help, assistance.

◆ *adjective, of time* past, gone by, last *e.g.* *from May back* from last May.

◆ *adverb* **1** *of place* west, in the west; hence **back-country** (*see below*) [influenced by Irish *siar*, which means both "west" and "back", *cf.* **west**].

2 *of time* onwards, in the future *e.g.* *From January back we'll be planting trees*.

◆ *verb* write the address (on a letter) [from the practice, before envelopes were in use, of writing the address on the back of the folded letter].

◆ *exclamation, also* **beck, bick, bike** **1** *also* **back outa that, back our that, back er that, back a that** a command: go backwards. **2** a command to a horse to stop.

- **at or in the back of the books** "in someone's bad books", not in good

favour.

- **at the back of the sun** in the shade.
- **back and belly** clothes and food.
- **back an forrad** **1** backwards and forwards. **2** *also* **back an forrads** now and then, from time to time. *See* **forward**.
- **back-band, back-bane** a strap or iron chain passing over a cart saddle or straddle in a groove and supporting the cart shafts.
- **back-board** a movable board at the back of a cart.
- **back-country** *noun* the area west of the speaker.
- ◆ *adjective* of or pertaining to the **back-country**.
- **back-door** the back-board of a cart. *Illustration see* **wing**¹.
- **back-door trot** diarrhoea.
- **back-door work** underhand, mean, stealthy business.
- **back end** **1** latter end (*e.g.* of winter). **2** *also* **back-en' o the year** autumn; harvest-time; the last months of the year.
- **back-en' o nowhere** a remote place.
- **back-entry** a rear passage between terrace houses for back yard access.
- **back-going** *see below* **go back**.
- **backhand** *noun* **go to the backhand** deteriorate, decline; *cf.* **go back**.
- ◆ *adjective* underhand.
- ◆ *adverb* in an underhand way.
- **back-hash** abusive talk [the second element is Scots *hash* "nonsensical talk"].
- **backin** **1** *ploughing* the first two furrows laid back to back. **2** *in plural* backing, a body of followers, support. **3** *in plural, also* **buckings** the waste material of flax, cotton or wool.
- **back-jaw** back-chat, impertinent replies.
- **back-lane** a by-lane.
- **back-load** a load carried on the back.
- **back-of-the-byre wean** an illegitimate child; *see* **wee**.
- **back out** retreat from a bargain or engagement.
- **back-part** the back (of a person).
- **back reek** a down-draught in a chimney; *see* **reek**.
- **back return** an extension at the back of a house.
- **back-rope** a back-band, a piece of harness that rests on a horse's back, supporting the plough-chains.
- **backset** **1** a reverse. **2** a relapse in illness; anything that checks the growth of plants or animals.
- **backside** **1** the back premises of a building. **2** the far side of a hill. **3** an area of country out of sight of the speaker; *cf.* **fore**.
- **back-snash** back-chat, abusive replies; *see* **snash**.
- **back (someone) up** support (someone).
- **back-spang** **1** a sudden step or jump backwards. **2** a back somersault. **3** a kick to the rear. **4** a blow given when a person's guard is down. **5** an unfair advantage; an underhand trick. *See* **spang**.
- **back-spare** the opening of trousers.
- **backstone** a large flat stone between a peat fire and the wall; a stone projecting from the wall behind a fireplace.
- **back-suggan** **1** a straw pad protecting the back of a donkey or horse on either side of the **straddle**. *Illustration see* **bardock**. **2** **the back suggan of an ass** the marking in the shape of a cross on the back of a donkey. *See* **suggan**.
- **back-talk** back-chat, impertinent replies.
- **backward** *of a place* remote, out of the way.
- **backward in goin forrad** backward in coming forward, shy; *see* **forward**.
- **backwater**
- **backwater** what a person hasn't got when they speak their mind.
- **backways** backwards.

- **backy** a ride for a second person on a one-seater bicycle.
- **be on someone's back** scold.
- **don't be there till ye're back again** hurry up.
- **get someone's back up** anger, provoke someone.
- **give somebody the back of your hand** a threat.
- **go back** fail, stop functioning; *hence* **back-going** declining, failing in health; **back-gone** sickly.
- **go to the backhand** deteriorate, decline.
- **his or her back is up** he or she is angry, provoked.
- **in the back of your head** at the back of your head, at the back of your mind, privately *e.g. I believe he thinks so in the back of his head.*
- **it comes off a broad back** an excuse for spending freely.
- **make a back ploughing** lay the first two furrows back to back.
- **never off someone's back** continually watching and correcting someone; always scolding (someone).
- **not backward in comin forrad** able to take care of yourself.
- **sit with your back to the wall** go hungry, not be invited to the table.
- **the back o' beyont** a remote, obscure place. *hence* **at the back o' beyont** "at the back of beyond", out of the world, far away.
- **the back of of time** shortly after *e.g. I will have the workers at your house at the back of half-six.*
- **the back of beyant** somewhere very remote and inaccessible; *see* beyond.
- **the back of my hand to you** expressing refusal or contempt.
- **the front of your back** the chest.

[Scots form *bawk*.]

backs *noun* medicine, tonic.

backy *see* baukey.

bacogue *noun* a small amount, an armful (of hay *etc.*).

bacon: **make bacon** make "a long nose".

bad, *comparative* **badder**, *superlative* **baddest**

- **bad conscience** it is said of people who go out for a walk in the rain that they have a bad conscience and therefore cannot abide at home.
- **bad-doer** a thriftless person, unsuccessful in farming or business [only applied to animals in Standard English].
- **bad end (to you)** mild curses: bad luck (to you).
- **bad in the head** suffering from a headache.
- **bad in yourself** unwell generally, but without any particular illness.
- **bad luck to the foot ye'd go near it** meaning that the person would not go (*e.g.* to church) at all.
- **badly 1** poorly, sick. **2** badly off, helpless.
- **bad man** *euphemism* the devil.
- **bad man's oatmeal** the seeds of a wild flower, the cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*. [ILLUS: b/oatm']
- **badness** sickness *e.g. There's a dale o badness in the country.*
- **bad place** *childish* hell.
- **bad times** *specifically* the time of the Famine.
- **bad 'un** an undesirable person. *frequently, usually* *jocular* **ye're a bad 'un an ye couldn't be good**
- **bad with the bravelies** *or* **bravely** not ill at all; *see* brave.
- **goin' from bad to worse** "going to the bad"; failing in health.
- **gone to the bad** a moral or financial failure *e.g. He's all gone to the bad.*
- **good, bad or indifferent** at all *e.g. I know nothing about it, good, bad or indifferent.*
- **he's bad news, so he is**
- **in a bad way** dangerously ill; financially ruined.
- **not bad** good, very good.
- **not half bad** not so bad, very good.

□ **you couldn't be bad to that** *of a bargain, etc.* that would commend itself to anyone, that's very good value.

[Comparative and superlative: *badder, baddest* obsolete in Standard English, still English dialectal.]

baddle *see* bottle¹.

baddy-baddy *exclamation* a call to geese.

[Northern English *bid* "a call to fowls", onomatopoeic.]

bade *see* bide.

badge *verb* deal as a middleman in oats and oatmeal.

□ **badger** a middleman dealing in oats and oatmeal.

[Obsolete in Standard English, origin unknown.]

badger *noun* **1** The country people believe there are two sorts of badger: i. pig-badger; ii. dog-badger. **2** ? *obsolete* the person in charge of the fifteen-man crew of a salmon fishing boat *e.g. a larger wooden keel boat ... was used at the Gribben fishery on the Foyle in the first half of the 19th century. This boat had crews of 15 men under the supervision of a person called the 'badger' who sat in the bows under an umbrella wearing a tall hard hat.*

□ **dog-badger: pig-badger:**

badgin cutting rushes with a hook.

baffle *verb* **baffle off** resist successfully.

baflum *see* blaflum.

bafting *noun* a beating, a thrashing.

[Scots *baff* "biff"; probably onomatopoeic, but *cf.* Old French *baffe*, Flemish *baf(fe)* "a slap".]

bag, beg, bawg *noun* **1** a bag, a sack; *specifically* the udder of a cow. **2** *in plural* the intestines, the guts.

□ **bag-fox** a fox that has been captured and carried in a bag. *hence* **run like a bag-fox**

□ **baggin-the-chimney** a prank: placing a wet bag over a chimney to prevent the smoke escaping.

□ **bag of bones** an extremely thin person.

□ **bag o' tricks** any combination of things naturally connected, any miscellaneous collection of articles. *often* **the whole bag o' tricks**

□ **bag o' wun'** a windbag, a boaster.

□ **bag-shake** a runt, the weakest in a litter; *see also* poke¹.

□ **bag stuff** *noun* artificial manure.

□ **get the bag** be dismissed from a post; "get the sack".

□ **give (a person) the bag** give (a person) the sack, dismiss him or her from employment.

□ **muckle trash bag** a big pocket.

baggar, baggarman *see* beggar.

baggitch *noun* baggage.

[Scots form.]

baghal *see* bachle.

baghran, baghram, baughram *noun* a wild flower: the bog bean *Menyanthes trifoliata*.

[Irish *bachrán*.]

bagle *see* beagle.

bagonet, bagnet, banet *noun* a bayonet.

□ **A bright spade an' a rusty bagnet;/A rich baker an' a poor dochther;/A full church an' an emp'y dhram-shop;/ Long ears an' a short tongue**

[Old forms *bag(o)net*, latterly general dialectal and Scots.]

bagpipe: he etc. is just like a bagpipe - he niver makes a noise till his belly's full *proverbial*

bahle *see* bachle.

baigle *see* beagle.

bail¹: I'll go bail ye, I'll bail ye "I'll go bail", I'll warrant you, I assure you.

bail² *noun*, also in plural a frame for securing the head of a cow while she is being milked.

□ **bailer** a cow given to chewing the tails of other cows.

[Hiberno-English and East Anglia "a frame to which a cow is tied in the byre"; the same word as Standard English *bail* "a bar", from Old French *bail* "a palisade".]

baillie *noun* a bailiff: (a) usually a sheriff's officer; (b) rare a land-steward.

[Obsolete in Standard English (latterly English dialectal); from Old French *bailli*, a later form of Old French *baillif* (which gives English *bailiff*). See also *bum*³.]

bailiff *noun* formerly, a person charged with public administrative authority in a certain district.

□ **the bailiffs are in possession** indicating approaching bankruptcy.

bailmilk *noun* porridge made by boiling oatmeal in new milk; cf. *boil*.

bailybo see *ballyboe*.

baird see *beard*, *board*.

baird *verb* scold; urge (someone) on by scolding.

[Cf. Scots noun *bard*, *baird* "a strolling minstrel; a vagabond; a scolding woman"; from Scottish Gaelic *bàrd* (corresponding to Irish *bard*) "a minstrel", which gives English *bard*.]

bairge see *barge*².

bairn *noun* a child.

□ **bairnless** childless.

[Scots and Northern English; from Old Northumbrian *barn*, reinforced by Old Norse *barn*.]

bairneac see *barneagh*.

baist see *beast*.

baitershin, **baithershin** *exclamation* nonsense!, rubbish!

[Hiberno-English, apparently from Irish *b'fhéidir sin* literally "that may be".]

baith see *both*.

baiverage see *beverage*.

bake see *beak*.

bake *verb* 1 knead (dough or anything resembling dough); hence **baked turf**, **bakie turf**, **bakie mud turf**, peat moulded into a cake by hand.

2 toast (bread).

□ **bakeboard** the board on which dough is kneaded. [ILLUS: *bakebd*.]

□ **baker** a type of small, wild bee without stripes; cf. *butcher*.

□ **bake someone's bread for life** kill, do for someone.

□ **betther pay the baker nor the docther** *proverbial*

□ **not forget the dish you were baked in** not forget your humble origins when you prosper in the world.

bake¹, **beic** *verb* shout.

◆ *noun* a shout.

bakerum *noun* a broad sod of peat *Co. Antrim*; cf. *bacherins*, *bake*.

bakie see *bake*.

bakin *noun* a ? bunty person.

ba-lamb see *baa*.

balance: **balance-the-bank** the game of seesaw.

bald, **baald**, **beld** *adjective* bald.

□ **bald-faced** *of an animal* white-faced.

□ **baldheaded**:

□ **baldpate**, **baldy** a bird: the coot *Fulica atra*, also known as the bald-coot or baldicoot.

□ **do (something) baldheaded, go baldheaded** do your best against an adversary.

[Scots forms *baald*, *beld*.]

balderdash *noun* nonsense.

bale *noun* the final round hay-heap.

balefire *noun* a bonfire, *especially* one lit on St. John's Eve (June 23rd) or the eve of May Day.

[Scots, from Old English *bæl* "a bonfire" + *fire*; also adopted in Standard English.]

balgaedonagh *exclamation* by the shrine or relics of Donagh.

balk¹, **bauk**, **bawk**, **bock**, **baak** *noun* **1** a balk, a roof timber. **2** a tie-beam in the roof of a house. **3** *usually* **the balks** a loft formed in the roof space in the angle of the rafters. **4** a beam supporting a chimney. **5** *loosely* a chimney canopy. *Illustration see chimney.* [ILLUS: balk]

□ **bauken** an iron pin or stake.

□ **lay (a thing) to the balks** put (a thing) aside when it is not in use.

[Scots and English dialectal forms *bauk*, *bawk*; Scots also *baak*.]

balk², **baak** *noun* **a balk of rain** a heavy shower.

[Irish *balc* (*fearthanna*) "a heavy shower (of rain)".]

ball, **baal**, **ba'**, **baw** *noun* **1** a ball. **2** **the ball of the leg** the calf. **3** **the ball of the hand** the hollow of the hand, the palm. **4** a compact shoal of fish.

◆ *verb, of seabirds* pounce on a ball of fry.

□ **ba'-hole** a game: one player tries to throw a ball into a hole in the ground and another tries to stop the ball with a bat.

□ **give someone the ball** consider someone to be excellent.

□ **have the ball at your toe** be in a dominant position.

□ **It is two to wan anything ye put in there'll nivver come out again** comment on the pawnbroker's sign of three gold balls.

□ **keep the ball rollin'** keep up the fun and amusement at an entertainment.

□ **play ba' wi baith hands** be untrustworthy; *see both, cf. dig.*

□ **the balls a me legs are turned to the front**

[Scots forms *ba'*, *baw*.]

ballaghan *noun* a big awkward fellow.

[*Cf.* Argyllshire *ballachan* "a young lad", from Scottish Gaelic *balachan*.]

ballan *noun* a shellfish: a trough shell, probably *Spisula elliptica*.

□ **ballan wrasse** the wrasse *Labratus maculatus*.

[Irish *ballán* "a cup; a snail's shell".]

ballast: carrying too much sail for your ballast too extravagant for your income.

ballet *noun* a ballad; the sheet on which it is printed.

□ **a hole in the ballet** *historical* an excuse when the ballad singer at a fair forgot or could not read the words; *figuratively* used when a person forgets part of a story, *etc.* or (in school) an answer.

[Scots and English dialectal form.]

Ballinderry: Ballinderry Black-Reds Lord Conway's soldiers.

ballion *Co. Donegal, noun* **1** a rough, careless fellow; a bad workman. **2** a clumsy person. **3** a coward; a weakling.

[Origin unknown.]

ballister *noun* a banister.

[Older form, from French *balustre*, altered to *banister* in Standard English.]

balloar *see* balyor.

ballom *adjective* badly-dressed.

balloon *noun, slang* a person who is "full of hot air", a foolish, talkative person.

ballot *noun* **1** a raffle ticket. **2** a raffle.

bally:

ballyboe, bailybo *noun* a division of land, in parts of Ulster the basis of the modern townland; *frequently in place-names.*

[Irish *baile bó* "townland of a cow".]

Ballygowan: Ballygowan waistcoat an arm around the waist

[Ballygowan is in Co. Down]; *cf.* Killinchy.

Ballyhaise *noun* a fool *e.g.* *Don't make a Ballyhaise of yourself.*

Ballymena: **Ballymena biscuit** a small, round, flat bun with a hollow in the middle.

□ **Ballymena linen** a Brams.

□ **If you weren't so Ballymena with your Ballymoney, you'd buy a Ballycastle and make it your Ballyholme**

□ **in Bellamaena they play tåg wae hatchets**

□ **the Ballymena anthem** *i.e.* "What's in it for me?" [Ballymena in Co. Antrim is largely Ulster Scots in population and has inherited the stereotype of the Scot as being mean].

ballyrag *see* bullyrag.

Ballyshannon: **make a Ballyshannon of it** "split the difference" [the town of Ballyshannon in Co. Donegal is divided by the River Erne].

balmy *adjective* intoxicated, drunk.

balsam *noun* medicine.

baltiorum *noun* a form of dance *e.g.* *Is it a reel or a jig or a baltiorum?*

balyor, balyore, balloar, baulyor, belyore, billyar, billour, bulyor *verb* bellow, roar, shout.

◆ *noun* **1** *also bellora* a bellow, roar, shout, *frequently let a balyor out of you. **2** an uproar, an outcry. **3** a loud, noisy person.*

[Origin unknown.]

bam *verb* deceive, cheat, impose upon.

bam *see* bum¹, bum².

bamboozle *verb* deceive, cheat, impose upon.

ban *verb* swear [archaic in Standard English].

ban' *see* band.

ban' *noun* a musical band.

banafan *noun* a chubby youngster.

[Irish *banbhán* "piglet"; from *banbh* "piglet" (which gives *bonive*) + diminutive suffix *-án*. *See also* *bonham*.]

Banagher: **that beats or bangs Banagher (and Banagher bangs the deil)** that beats everything.

[Hiberno-English. This is the name of a parish in Co. Londonderry, but there are at least eight townlands called Banagher around Ireland, and a small town in Co. Offaly.]

banam *see* *bonham*.

banati, beanati *noun* a landlady.

[Ulster Irish *bean an toighe* (Standard Irish *bean an tí*) "woman of the house". *Cf.* *colytee, faratee*.]

banbox: **like as you come out of a banbox** well-dressed.

banchan *noun* an old by-road.

band, ban' *noun* a band, a strip for binding round something.

□ **take a band of lime** have a good binding quality.

□ **through-ban** a long stone in a wall, a hoozle-binder.

[Scots form *ban'*.]

bane *see* *bean, bone*.

banet *see* *bagonet*.

bang, beng *noun* a bang.

◆ *verb* bang; outdo, beat.

□ **bangster, banxter** *noun* a bullying, violent person.

◆ *verb, usually banxtering* going about in a noisy, threatening manner.

□ **bang the beggars** *historical* drive the poor out of the parish; *hence*

bang-beggar *historical* a parish officer with responsibility for the poor; *see also* *bind*.

□ **bang-up** a large nail used for the toes of boots.

bang jang: **a whole bang jang** an abundance, a whole lot.

[Derbyshire *the whole bang-jang* "the whole jing-bang". *See also* *jing-bang*.]

Bangor:

- **Bangor measure** full and running over [Bangor is in Co. Down].
- bangster** *see* bang.
- banian** *see* banyan.
- banjaxed** *adjective, slang* worn out, broken down.
[Hiberno-English, origin unknown; also adopted recently in English slang.]
- bank:** **banking** *building* the extension of the rafters over the side-wall to carry slates.
- banker¹** *noun* a stone-mason's work-bench.
- banker²** *noun* a stray dog.
- bankrope** *noun, also bankroper* a bankrupt.
[Obsolete Scots form *bankrup*. *See also* benk.]
- bannat** *noun* building material, such as burned stone, used to line a well.
[Origin unknown.]
- banniv** *see* bonive.
- bannock, bonnock, bunnock** *noun* originally an oatcake baked on a griddle, now applied to various products of home-baking.
- **a bonack of a face**
[Scots and English dialectal *bannock*, Western Scots also *bonnock*; from Old English *bannuc*, itself from Latin *panicium* "bread". *See also* bonaught, bunnog.]
- banny** *verb* cajole, persuade with a show of kindness.
[Irish *bánú* "to stroke, to pet".]
- banshee, beanshee, benshee** *noun 1* a fairy-woman who is supposed to be heard keening outside a house to announce the death of a member of the family. **2** *loosely* a bogle.
[Hiberno-English, from Irish *bean sí* literally "woman of the fairy mound".]
- bantam:** **bantam grebe** a bird: the little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*.
- **banty** *noun 1* a bantam fowl; *also banty cock, banty hen*
2 *figuratively* a small, strutting, conceited person. **3** an undersized person.
◆ *adjective, of fowl* small. *See also* bunty¹.
- bantel** *noun* a throughother, untidy person; a simpleton.
- banter** *verb* challenge, taunt (someone) to fight.
□ **banterer** one who banterers.
- banty** *adjective* bandy, bow-legged; *see also* bendy.
- banvan** *noun* a six week old pig.
- banville** *noun* a band of reapers or peat-cutters *Co. Donegal*.
[*Cf.* Scots *bandwin* "a band of reapers", from *band* "a crowd of people" (*cf.* ban¹) + *win* "the amount of corn a band of reapers can cut" (*cf.* win¹).]
- banxter** *see* bang.
- banyan, banian** *noun* a flannel jacket or jersey worn by fishermen.
[Partly English "a Hindu trader; a type of loose flannel jacket or shirt, worn in India and also in military barracks as a lounging jacket" from Portugese *banian* "a Hindu trader"; partly Irish *báinín* "flannel; a type of white jacket".]
- bap** *noun 1* a baker's roll, usually diamond-shaped. **2** a round scone. **3** an oatcake. **4** the brain, the head, *thus Use your bap!, off your bap, lose yer bap. **5** *also bap-face* a stupid person.
□ **Caan ye spän a peerie? / Caan ye flog a taap? / Caan ye eat the nose / Aaf a penny baap?** *rhyme*
□ **like the last bap in the winda** *e.g. A girl in answer to a young fellow who asked her "was there any word of her getting married?" replied: "There's no knowin'; I'm like the last bap in the winda; someone 'ill come for me when you wud least expect".*
[Scots, origin unknown.]*
- bar¹** *noun* "home" in games such as tig.
□ **barduck, bardrake** a bird: **(a)** the red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator*; **(b)** the shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*.

[From the bar-like wing markings.]

□ **barring-out** a custom among schoolboys, usually practised before Christmas, of shutting out the schoolteacher from the room or from the school, in order to demand a holiday.

bar² *noun* a striking or amusing incident; a story told about such an incident; news, gossip.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

bar³ *noun* a boyfriend or girlfriend *L'derry city*.

barber *noun, jocular* a cow given to chewing the tails of other cows.

bardock, barduck, bardugh, bardagh, barda, pardeog *noun* **1** a creel with a collapsible bottom, used to carry peat, *etc.* **2 pardeog** a mat to protect the animal's sides from the creels.

□ **bardhings** the straddle and creels used on a donkey. [ILLUS: bardhing/P]

[Irish *pardóg*, East Ulster Irish *bardóg*.]

barduck, bardugh *see* bardock.

bare: **bare a stool** *literally* leave an empty seat: take one of the daughters of a house in marriage.

□ **bare-boned** *of animals* thin, in poor condition.

□ **bare buff** the "buff", the naked skin.

□ **bare-faced** beardless, young.

□ **barefoot, barefut, barefooted** **1** barefoot, without shoes or socks.

2 *figuratively* hungry, empty; *also on the barefoot(ed) stomach, on the bare stomach* **3** *figuratively, of spirits* raw, neat *e.g. I'll take it barefoot.* *See* foot.

□ **bare naked** completely naked.

□ **bare pelt:**

□ **don't be bare with the land or the land will be bare with you** *proverbial*

□ **for the bare life** "for dear life", for all you are worth.

□ **out of your bare knees** out of short trousers.

□ **the shoemaker's wife an' the smith's mare af'en goes barefooted** *proverbial*

bargain: *noun* applied to a marriage, implying a poor choice *e.g. He has a bargain in her anyhow.* **A bargain's a bargain niver tae rue/ Till I be black and you be blue** *rhyme*

□ **dear bargain** something that turns out not to be a bargain at all, a "white elephant"; *frequently* a drunken husband or a mismanaging wife.

□ **get something a bargain** get something in a bargain, as a bargain.

□ **into the bargain** given as something additional by the seller to the buyer.

□ **it takes two to make a bargain** *proverbial*

□ **make the best of a bad bargain** *proverbial* make the best of things; "lie in the bed one has made oneself".

barge¹ *noun* **1** the cement, tiling, *etc.* sealing the barge-course of a roof (*i.e.* the part overhanging slightly at the gable end). **2** the edge of a lean-to roof fixed to the wall.

barge², bairge *verb* **1** scold (someone) loudly and abusively. **2** speak angrily. **3** give vent to (anger) *e.g. barge a bucketful.*

◆ *noun* **1** a person who scolds or speaks loudly, *especially* a woman. **2** a bird: the bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica*.

[Hiberno-English, English dialectal, and Western Scots *barge*; Scots also *bairge*; origin unknown.]

barin *noun* a sea fish.

bark *noun, in plural* a medicine: bark.

□ **barkened** *of dirt* encrusted, hardened.

bark¹ *noun, verb* (a) cough.

barknocks *noun plural* shooting marbles.

barley¹: **barley bogle** a scarecrow; *see* bogle.

- **barley bree** whiskey; *see* bree.
- **barley bunting** a bird: the corn bunting *Miliaria calandra*.
- **barley leave 1** the stubble of barley. **2** a field from which one crop of barley has been taken.
- **he or she ate no green barley for that** meaning it is a hereditary trait.
- barley²** *exclamation, also barley-play* a cry for truce in a game.
[Scots and English dialectal *barley*, Northumberland also *barley-bay*; possibly an alteration of *parley*.]
- barley³** *adverb* barely.
- Barlow: Barlow rail:** *e.g. The Junction Company adopted the "Barlow" rail laid on transverse timber sleepers, and it is interesting to note that on the three Railways which covered the distance between Dublin & Belfast there were three separate patterns of track; no one of these types has remained a permanent feature of the track, although about 1890 "Barlow" rails were still in use on the main line near Castlebellingham.*
- barm** *noun* a fog rising from a river; condensation rising from a stack of hay or corn.
◆ *verb, usually barm up* literally froth up like yeast: break out into open anger.
[The same word as Standard English *barm* "yeast".]
- barmbrack** *see* barnbrack.
- barn** *see* birn².
- barn:** **a barn's never that full that you can't thrash a stook at the door, it's a full barn where ye can't thrash a stook at the dour** *proverbial*
 - **barn-door breeches** old-fashioned men's trousers which opened by a flap buttoned up either side.
 - **barn-fan** *noun* a fan for winnowing grain.
- barnacle, bernacle** *noun, also barnacle goose* the brent-goose *Branta bernicla* [in Standard English, the barnacle goose is a different bird, *Branta leucopsis*, rare in Ireland, but *see* white].
 - **barnacle goose:** it is still believed in Donegal that it comes from the shell-fish and not an egg **barnacle grass** eel-grass *Zostera spp.*
 - **barnacle hole** *noun* a hole made in a rock by any boring crustacean.
 - **barnacle's egg 1** a crustacean: the goose barnacle *Lepas anatifera* [the barnacle goose was popularly believed to hatch from the barnacle]. **2** a shellfish: the common limpet *Patella vulgata*.
 - **barnacle storm** a few very rough days at the beginning of October [the geese are supposed to arrive at this time].
[Older form *bernacle*.]
- barnbrack, now usually barmbrack,** *noun* a large round bun with dried fruit in it. At Hallowe'en charms were concealed in it, such as a ring (foretelling marriage), a coin (foretelling wealth) or a rag (foretelling death).
[Hiberno-English, from Irish *bairín breac* literally "little speckled loaf".
See also brown, tea.]
- barneagh, barneach, bairneac** *noun 1* a crustacean: the goose barnacle *Lepas anatifera*. **2** a shellfish: the common limpet *Patella vulgata*.
 - **till the barneaghs grow on you** expressing the length of a long wait.
[Irish *bairneach* "a limpet".]
- barney** *see* brown.
- Barney: Barney Bridge** a children's game: Oranges and Lemons.
- barney¹** *noun* the "barnet", the head, *usually not bother your barney*.
- barney²** *noun* a chat [in English slang "an argument"].
◆ *verb* chat confidentially [in English slang "argue"].
- barney³** *noun* some sort of cake.
- barney⁴** *noun* *e.g. wouldn't have a barney*; wouldn't have a clue.
- barnie** *noun* a hot water bottle.
- barnigoat, barmigoat: Barnigoat is hot, and Barnigoat is dry,/ And under the white thorn Barnigoat shall die/ In the name of the Trinity**

rhyme a charm for erysipelas.

barra *see* barrow², borrow.

barra¹ *noun* a barrow, a mound.

[Scots and English dialectal form.]

barra²: **barra-coat** a barrow, a long sleeveless flannel garment for a baby.

[ILLUS: barra-ct]

[Scots and Northern English form.]

barracks, berricks *noun* **1** a barracks. **2** the barracks, *also* the borrhack the police station.

□ **barracker** a braggart.

□ **barracking** bragging, boastfulness.

[Scots form *berricks*.]

barradugh, barradoo, borradugh *noun* a cluster of plant roots from a sand-bank, used for scouring pans, *etc.*

[Ulster Irish *barrach dumhcha* (Standard Irish *barrach duimhche*)

"roots of dune grass".]

barrel: barrel-lap a medium-sized haycock.

□ **like the Hiellan man's gun he or she has neither lock stock nor barrel** *proverbial*

□ **speak out of a barrel** speak in a deep hoarse voice.

barrough *see* bourach¹.

barrow¹, **borrow, borra** *noun, also barrow-pig* a castrated male pig.

[South-Western English forms *borrow, borro* of obsolete Standard English *barrow(-pig)*; from Old English *bearg*.]

barrow², **barra, borrow, borra** *noun* **1** a wheelbarrow. **2** *also* milk-barrow a wooden frame laid on top of the pail as a rest for the strainer when straining milk.

□ **barrow back** round-shouldered.

□ **just into my barrow** "just up my street".

[Scots and English dialectal form *barra*.]

bart, bert, birt *noun* **1** an oblong haystack. **2** **bart** a sheaf of hay, corn, flax, or marram grass for thatching.

□ **birt-bottom** the base of a haystack.

[Irish *beart* "a bundle". *See also* birteen.]

bash *noun* a crab that has cast its shell.

bash¹ *noun* **1** a heavy blow. **2** the dent caused by such a blow.

◆ *verb* beat, smash, crush, strike.

basin: basin-crop hair cut in such a way that it looks as if a basin had been placed on the head and the hair cut around it.

basket, bastick *noun* a basket.

□ **basket and store** worldly goods *e.g.* *Bless him in basket an' store.*

□ **basket-faced** very shy, very modest.

□ **basket fern** the male fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*.

□ **basket tea** a fund-raising social evening. Women brought picnic baskets, which were auctioned off to the men, who then took tea with the women whose baskets they had purchased.

□ **like a basket o cats** wild, noisily argumentative.

□ **they etc. would eat praties out of a basket** meaning that a family *etc.* lives plainly.

[Somerset form *bastick*.]

baste:

baste *see* beast.

□ **baste the boar** a children's game.

□ **basting, bastin** a beating.

bastick *see* basket.

bastings *see* beestins.

basty *adjective, of clay* stiff, heavy.

◆ *noun* stiff, heavy clay.

[Possibly an altered form of *pasty*.]

bat¹ *noun* **1** a stick [archaic in Standard English]. **2** *specifically* a goad. **3** a staple, a loop of iron. **4** a peat, a lump of dried peat. **5** a ball of straw-rope. **6** a blow (with a stick, *etc.*). **7** a stroke (of work). **8** rate, speed *e.g.* *He came at a great bat.*

- **a bat on the gub** *slang* a blow on the mouth.
- **bats and bands** simple hinges, consisting of hooks driven into a door-frame and straps nailed to the door, so that the door can be lifted off the hooks at any time.
- **batting** a beating.
- **batting-stone** a scapegoat, somebody who takes a beating that is due to somebody else.
- **give the ground a bat** die.
- **he or she can do (something) to the bat of a stick**
- **on the bat of** approximately *e.g.* *That clock cost me on the bat of fifty pound.*
- **wash bat** a wooden implement resembling a small cricket bat, used for pounding washing by hand.

bat² *noun* a moth *Co. Antrim, Co. Down.*

[Apparently French *blatte*, influenced by *bat* (the mammal).]

bat³ *noun* **1** a sturdy young person, *especially* a boy. **2** a small, neat, alert person.

[*Cf.* military slang "a batman".]

bat⁴ *noun* **1** an ugly-looking person. **2** a person who pretends not to hear what is said. **3** a mentally unbalanced person.

- **The bat, the bee, the butterfly, the cuckoo and the gowk, / The heather-bleat, the mure-snipe, how many birds is that? Two** *rhyme*
- [*Cf.* English slang, abusive, "an unpleasant middle-aged or elderly woman".]

batch *noun, verb* botch.

[Hiberno-English form.]

batch¹ *noun* **1** *of people* a set, a clique, a family. **2** a parcel. **3** a flock of sheep.

bate *see* beat¹.

bate *see* beat².

bate *noun, verb* bet.

- **for a bate** for a bet.

[Lanarkshire form.]

bate¹ *noun* a bit.

bath: **a good bath of cold** a heavy cold.

- **bathing** ["bath" + "ing"] bathing, swimming.

batin *see* beat¹.

batley board *noun* **1** a small, rectangular hand-paddle used to manoeuvre a cot in deep water. **2** a board with the letters of the alphabet pasted on it for children to learn.

Cf. bat¹.

batta-more *noun* a walking stick.

batten *noun* a narrow plank.

batter *see* battery.

batter¹ *verb* **1** **batter on** continue, go ahead. **2** *in traditional dancing* beat rapidly with the feet on the floor while dancing, in time with the music.

- ◆ *noun* **1** the cover of a book [literally "something pasted"]. **2** a large number or quantity; a great deal (of talk, work, *etc.*).

- **batterin, batterin** a beating.

batter²: **off the batter** *rare* not active, confined to the house through illness, *etc.*

- **on the batter** **1** on the tramp, wandering about without any particular business; *hence* **batter** a quick walk; *cf.* batter¹. **2** "on the go", busy at work in and around the house.

[English slang "on the spree". **Batter** is popularly understood as Irish

bóthar (Old Irish *báthar*, *bóthar*; *see boreen*) and this appears to have influenced the senses. However, it is not certain that the Irish word is the source, as the *t* in *bóthar* has not been pronounced since the medieval period, and there is no evidence for the slang phrase *on the batter* before the nineteenth century.]

batterbolyay *see* *boolia-botha*.

battery, batter *noun* **1** a battery, an embankment; *specifically* (**a**) an embankment across an inlet to reclaim it from the sea; (**b**) a projection in a river-bank to modify the river's course; (**c**) **battery** a mill dam. **2** a sloping pathway or lane leading to a house. **3 battery** the buried remains of a wall, *etc.* **4** an obstacle, a difficulty in crossing a stretch of land.

battle *see* *bottle¹*, *bottle²*.

batts *noun* **1** *usually* **the batts** the bots (a disease *especially* in horses, caused by the parasitical bot-fly). **2 jocular** the supposed cause of mental instability in a person *e.g.* *He's got the batts*; *cf.* *head*.

[Scots form.]

bauch, baugh, bock *verb* handle carelessly, misuse (clothes, shoes, books, *etc.*).

◆ *noun* a foolish bungler.

□ **baughy** foolish.

[Scots "ineffective, weak", from Old Norse *bagr* "awkward, clumsy".

See also *bachle*.]

bauchan *noun* an old by-road.

bauchle *see* *bachle*.

baudeen *noun* a loose white flannel jacket.

baudran *noun* a pet name for a cat.

[Scots *baudrons*, origin unknown.]

baugh *see* *bauch*.

baughran *see* *baghran*.

baughy *see* *bauch*.

bauk *see* *balk¹*.

bauk, baak *noun* a balk, an unploughed ridge.

◆ *verb, of a horse* balk (at an obstacle).

□ **open a bauk** plough the first furrow.

[Scots and English dialectal form *bauk*, Scots also *baak*.]

baukey, backy *adjective* **1** lame. **2 of a finger, etc.** bad, not able to be used properly.

[*Cf.* Irish *bacach* "lame".]

baul', bauld *see* *bold*.

bauk *see* *bulk²*.

baukyor *see* *balyor*.

bavin *Co. Antrim, Co. Down, noun* a fish: (**a**) the ballan wrasse *Labrus bergylta*; (**b**) the young of the pollack *Pollachius pollachius*.

baw *see* *ball*.

baw *see* *boo¹*.

baw *verb* bawl; *of cattle* bellow, low.

[Scots form of *baa* "bleat".]

bawbee *noun* a halfpenny in old coinage.

[Scots; originally a sixteenth century coin worth sixpence Scots, from the name of Alexander Orrok, Laird of Sillebawbe.]

bawg *see* *bag*.

bawk *see* *back*, *balk¹*.

bawken, bocaun *noun* **1** a boy, a youth. **2** a raw, unsophisticated youth.

3 a good-for-nothing fellow. **4** a "softie", a gullible person, someone who is easily imposed upon.

□ **bawky, boky** half-witted, "soft".

[*Cf.* Irish *bocán* "a billy goat". *See also* *maukin*.]

bawkie *see* *booky*.

bawky *see* *bawken*.

baw-man *see* bo.

bawn *noun* **1** *historical* a walled enclosure, usually with towers at the angles, used as a cattle-court normally, and for defence in an emergency; *common in place-names*. **2** an enclosure for cattle.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *bábhún*.]

bawraun *see* bowraun.

bawsant *adjective*, of a cow having a white stripe on the face.

□ **bawsey** **1** a pet name for a horse. **2** *generally* a horse.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old French *bausen*.]

baxtan *noun* a reclaimed bog.

bay *noun* **1** a division of the roof in a traditionally-constructed building, the distance between **couples** or **crucks**. **2** the space between partition walls forming rooms or units in a traditional one-storied house. **3** the part of a barn in which hay is stored. [ILLUS: bay]

be *see* bud².

be *see* by.

be *verb* **1** **be**, **bees** the present tense with **be** or **bees** is used to express a habitual or normal state of affairs *e.g.* *By the law of averages, it doesn't always be a problem* [for both the main verb and the auxiliary verb (below), the forms are historical in English, but the construction may be influenced by Irish, where there are separate habitual and actual present forms of the verb "to be"]; *see also* do¹. **2** in expressions of past or future time *e.g.* *Yesterday was a week a week ago yesterday, Tomorrow'll be a fortnight a fortnight tomorrow* [of past time, archaic in Standard English].

◆ *auxiliary verb* **1** **be**, **bees** the present tense with **be** or **bees** is used to express a habitual or normal state of affairs *e.g.* *She bees working every day* [see main verb (above)]; *see also* do¹. **2** **be** is used instead of **have** with the perfect tense, *especially* of verbs of movement *e.g.* *They're no here, they're flit*. As with **have**, the main verb may be postponed to the end of the sentence, when the emphasis is on the present state arising from the completed action *e.g.* *Oh, mother! you're very handless got; see also get*.

□ **A'm are so, Am are so, so Am are** I am indeed: said in emphatic contradiction of *you are no*; *see* no².

□ **being, bein** **1** a person, a human being [without derogatory or distant overtones, as in Standard English]. **2** means of livelihood *e.g.* *He has good bein in that place*.

□ **is that where ye are?** a salutation.

□ **right you be, right yebe** "right you are", okay.

□ **they ere** there are.

[English dialectal and Scots *be* "is, are"; Southern English "am"; less common English dialectal *bees*, also in Scots as a subjunctive form. Rare English dialectal *they is*.]

□ **Usage Is and was** forms are used in the plural when the subject is a noun, *e.g.* *the people is or was*. They are not generally used with pronoun subjects, where the usual forms are **they are** or **were**. These rules are Scots and Northern English. It is, however, usual to say **them is** *e.g.* *Them's the words he used to me*.

bead

□ **as clean as a bead**

beag a mhaith *lit* little of good; a useless person, a good-for-nothing.

beagle, baigle, bagle *noun* **1** a type of dog: a beagle. **2** an unprincipled ruffian. **3** a wild, impulsive person. **4** a naughty child.

□ **the length of a beagle's gowl, within a beagle's gowl** a measure of distance: as far as the sound of a beagle's howl would carry.

[Older form in Scots and English *baigle*.]

beak, bake *noun* **1** a bird's beak. **2** the "beak", the nose. **3** the mouth.

- **beaky lady or man** a truancy officer; *hence* **beak off** play truant.
[Older form in Scots and English *bake*.]
- beal, beel**, *also incorrectly beeld*, *verb*, *of a sore* fester, become septic.
 - **bealing, bealin, bealdin** *noun* **1** a festering sore. **2** pus from a sore, *etc.*
 - ◆ *adjective* festering, septic.
 - **beely**:
 - **beely-head** a ripe pimple or boil.
[*Beal(ing)* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and Northern English); a form of *boil* (see *bile*).]
- bealdin** *see* beal.
- bealtin** *see* beltane.
- beam**: **at the beam-end** *literally* at the end of the bar of a pair of scales: at the point of sale.
 - **beam an breids** a pair of scales, a balance; *see* brads, *cf.* bow¹.
 - **beam-end** the human backside.
 - **even beam an' full measure** *of a person* honesty in your dealings.
- bean, bane** *noun* a bean.
 - **know how many beans make five, know how many banes make five** be sharp-witted, knowing.
 - **not a bean** no money.
[Older form in Scots and English *bane*.]
- beanati** *see* banati.
- beannacht**: **beannacht leat** a farewell greeting; goodbye.
- beanshee** *see* banshee.
- beansho** *noun* a woman of ill-repute.
- bear**: **bearing** productiveness (of the soil).
- beard, baird, berd** *noun* a beard.
 - **he has more baird nor brains as the fox said of the goat**
 - **set someone's beard in a blaze** enrage someone, make someone furiously angry.
 - **them cups have beards on them** *i.e.* need washing.
[Older form in Scots and English *baird*.]
- bearrach**: **bearrach ionlan** a cow in calf for the first time.
 - **bearrach tirim** a heifer, a young cow that has not had a calf.
- beast, baste, baist** *noun* **1** a beast, any animal apart from a human being [in Standard English now applied only to mammals]. **2 specifically (a) plural beece** a beast, a cow or bullock; *also* **cow-beast**; **(b) also horse-beast** a horse *e.g. three or four cows and a beast* [influenced by West Ulster Irish *beathach*, which means both "a beast" and "a horse"]; *cf.* horse.
 - **not to compare a beast with a body or a bull-calf** an apology for an undignified comparison; *see* body.
 - **tak the beast for the damage** *jocular* an invitation to help yourself to payment.
[Older form in Scots and English *baste, baist*. Plural: Scots and English dialectal *beas, beece*]
- beastlings** *see* beestins.
- beat¹, bate**; *past tense and past participle* **beat, bate**; *verb* **1** beat, strike. **2** beat, surpass *e.g. couldna be bate*.
 - ◆ *noun, usually* **the bate of** anything that outdoes (a person or thing), *frequently negative e.g. I never seen the bate of them for work*.
 - **bate down** *of a person* worn out, kept down.
 - **beaters** *in a flax mill* scutching blades.
 - **beatin' docket** a lost cause; a hopeless case *e.g. He's a beatin docket*.
 - **beating, beatin, batin** **1** a beating. **2 in plural, also beatal** reclaimed bog; *cf.* burning the beatings (below). **3 also in plural** infertile upland in general.
 - **burning the beatings** the practice of paring the sods from land being reclaimed, heaping them up, and burning them to kill weeds and add

nutrients to the soil.

- **he or she would beat the divil an Docthor Fosther** he or she surpasses everyone else.
- **that bates all, don't that bate all?** expressing astonishment, *especially* at an unexpected piece of news.

[Older form in Scots and English *bate*. *See also unbatable*.]

beat², beet, bate *noun* **1** a beat, a beet (a sheaf) of flax. **2** a small bundle of hay for seed, twelve of which go to make a **stook**. *Illustration see stook*. **3** *in plural* the medullary rays seen in wood cut in cross-section.

- **beatin bands** bands of rushes for tying beats of flax.

[Older form in Scots and English *bate*.]

beatall *see* beat¹.

beauty: a born beauty, like Andrew Shane's foal *proverbial*

- **all for beauty like the curl on the pig's tail**
- **beaut** *noun* anything beautiful or fine of its kind.
- **beauty will never make the pot boil** *proverbial*

bebble *verb* tipple, drink (alcohol).

- **bebbler** a tippler, a drinker.

[Scots form of obsolete Standard English *bibble*, itself an elaboration of *bib* "to drink", possibly from Latin *bibere*.]

becase *see* because.

because, becace, bekase *conjunction* because.

- **because why 1** because, for the reason that [archaic in Standard English]. **2** why? for what reason?
- **just becace** because: a dismissive answer to a query demanding reasons.

[Derbyshire form *becace*.]

beck *see* back.

beck¹ *verb* nod the head, make a slight bow.

[Scots and Northern English, shortened form of *beckon*.]

beck² *noun* a stream, a brook.

[Mainly Northern English, from Old Norse *bekkr*.]

becker-dog *noun* a species of whale: the grampus *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*; *see* gramfus.

[Origin unknown.]

become *verb* come.

become¹ *verb* suit, either *e.g. She becomes her bonnet or, Her bonnet becomes her*.

bed *noun, in plural, also beddies* a game: hopscotch.

- **bedfast** temporarily confined to bed by illness, *etc*.
- **bedfella** a bedfellow.
- **bedgown, bedgun 1** a short bed-jacket [in Standard English "a nightgown"]. **2** a loose-fitting overall formerly worn by women when working outdoors.
- **bed-happins** bedclothes; *see* hap.
- **bed-post:**
- **bedral, bedderel, bethrel, betherell** *noun 1* a bedridden person. **2** *also bedder* a cripple.
- ◆ *adjective* bedridden, confined to bed.
- **bedrid** bedridden [archaic in Standard English].
- **bed-stick** a stick used to tuck in the bedclothes next to the wall *especially* when the bed was in a recess.
- **bedstock** a bedstead; *see* stock¹.
- **bed-tick** a mattress, so called from the cover, usually of linen ticking.
- **bedtim** bedtime. [weak vowel in second syllable]
- **be put to bed with a shovel** be buried.
- **get her bed of of a woman** give birth to.
- **get out on the wrong side of the bed** be in a bad mood.
- **in the twinkle of a bed-post** in an instant, quickly.

- **misfortunes makes quare bedfellas** *proverbial*

bedad *see* dad.

bedahusht *exclamation* be quiet!

beddy *adjective* **1** faddy about food; hard to please. **2** conceited, self-satisfied. **3** bold, forward; impudent. **4** nosy, inquisitive; interfering. **5** mean, stingy.

[Irish *beadaí* "fussy about food; haughty", also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *beadaidh*.]

bedevilment *noun* devilment.

bedgun *see* bed.

Bedlam: go to Bedlam! *literally* go to the lunatic asylum; go away!

bedrabbed *adjective* bedraggled.

bedral *see* bed.

bee¹: as neat as a bee's toe

- **bee-headed** reckless; unsettled.

- **he or she lived when or where the bees were givin' the honey** said of a person, apparently no different from other people, who has succeeded in life.

bee² *noun* a metal ring, a ferrule used to keep a stick from splitting.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *bēah* "a ring".]

beece *see* beast.

beed *see* bud².

beedle *verb, of jam, etc.* thicken, set *Mid Ulster*.

[Origin unknown.]

beef: beefer a cow fattened indoors for sale as beef.

- **there's more beef on a coul chip** describing a skinny person.

beek *verb* **1** warm yourself at a fire; bask in the sun. **2** *of the sun* "roast" (a person). **3** feed (a fire); *also, figuratively* feed (ambition); *cf.* beet.

- **Beek, belly, beek! / Beek, belly, Beek! / Aa'll be foo oa giss's flesh / Afore Aa sleep** *rhyme*

- **beeking** *adjective* very hot, "roasting".

- ◆ *noun* a thrashing.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

beel, beeld *see* beal.

beelie *noun* a cat.

[Origin unknown.]

beely *see* beal.

beelybatter *see* boolia-botha.

beely-head *see* beal.

beerach *see* bourach¹.

bees, bees not, beesn't *see* be.

beesom *see* besom.

beestins, beesnins, beeslings, beeslin, beastlings, beesings; *also incorrectly bastings*; *noun plural* **1** beestings, the first milkings of a newly-calved cow. **2** a junket (a type of pudding) made from the first milkings of a newly-calved cow.

- **beeslin butter** butter made partly of beestings.
- **beesnin cheese** a product made by boiling beestings.
- **beestin' milk** milk after calving.
- **beestin-stirabout** porridge made with beestings; *see* stir.

[English dialectal, Southern and Western Scots form *beesnin(s)*; English dialectal also *beeslings, beastlings*.]

bees-wisp *noun* a peasewisp.

[Influenced by bee¹.]

beet *see* beat².

beet *see* bud².

beet *verb* add fuel to a fire; *see also* beek.

- ◆ *noun* fuel for a fire.

[Scots and English dialectal verb, from Old English *bētan* "to make

better".]

beeta *see* bud².

beetle: **beetle-head**, *also* **beetly head**, **beetle** a tadpole.

- **beetle-headed** stupid.
 - **beetle-head or needle-point**, **beetle or needle** a game played with pins at Christmas. The object is to guess whether a pin, held in a closed hand, has the head or the point towards the thumb.
 - **beetler**:
 - **beetling**, **beetlin** a beating, a thrashing.
 - **beetling-engine**:
 - **beetling-mill** a fulling mill for finishing linen.
- [The same word as Standard English *beetle* "a pestle".]

beetle¹

- **one beetle knows another beetle** *proverbial*

beez *see* be.

beezer *noun* a fine-looking girl.

befa' *verb* befall.

[Scots form.]

before *preposition*: *e.g.* *There's a dog foofing; it's before something.*

befright *verb* affright, frighten.

befunked *adjective* affected by "funk", afraid.

[*Be-* (as in *beset*) + *funk*.]

beg *see* bag.

beg: **I beg yer pardon, grant yer grace, / An' hope the cat 'ill spit in yer face** *rhyme*

beggar, **baggar** *noun* a beggar.

- **all in motion like a beggarman's britches** moving as if seething with lice.
- **baggarman** a beggarman.
- **baggars shouldn't be choosers** *proverbial*
- **beggar-plet**, **beggar-plait** *adjective*, of clothing creased, wrinkled; *see* plet.
- ◆ *noun*, in plural creases in clothes, as if they had been slept in.
- **beggar's bread** a toadstool.
- **beggars' inkle** inkle, a coarse kind of narrow white tape.
- **I'm taking them as they come (no pickin' or choosin' like the beggarman and his shirt)**
- **like the Londonderry or Banbridge beggars - out wi wan, out wi all** *proverbial*
- **no one knows what's in a beggar's pack till it's opened, it's hard to tell what's in a beggar's pack till it's opened** *proverbial*
- **you'll fin' out, like the beggarman pickin' the bone, that the cost overgoes the profit**

begh *noun* the birch *Betula*.

begin *verb*, *past tense* **begun**, **begoud**, **begood**.

- **beginning**: **there's naither beginning nor end to him**
[English dialectal past tense *begun*; Scots *begood*, *begoud*, influenced by *could*.]

beglammer *verb* bewitch; confuse; dazzle (*e.g.* with lights).

begob, **begorra** *see* by.

begrudge, **begridge** *verb* grudge.

begunk *verb* deceive, cheat, disappoint.

- ◆ *noun* a disappointment.
 - **begunked** disappointed, taken aback.
- [Scots, from *be-* (as in *beset*) + *gunk*.]

begvess: **have begvess on** not value much.

[Irish *beagmheas*, from *beag* "small" + *meas* "esteem" (*see* *meas*).]

beh *verb* bay, cry *Co. Antrim*.

behadden *see* beholden.

behang *exclamation*: also **behang t'ye, behang to you for a fool!**

behaben *verb* happen to *e.g.* *What has behappened ye this long time?*

[Obsolete in Standard English, intensifying prefix *be-* + *happen*.]

behind, behin', behint *preposition, adverb* behind.

□ **behind-backs**, also **behindhand** secretly, in an underhand way.

□ **behind-hand** in arrears with payment.

□ **he or she was behind the dure when beauty etc. was divided**

meaning that a person has missed out on beauty *etc.* (by being overlooked when it was being divided out). also conversely **he or she wasn't behin' the dure when they were givin out noses etc.** meaning that he or she certainly got a fair share of nose *etc.*, *i.e.* a big one.

□ **not behind the door** not slow in coming forward, quick to claim your entitlement.

[Scots form *behin'*, Scots and Northern English form *behint*. See also *ahind*.]

behold, behoul' *verb* behold.

□ **behold ye** *emphatic* mark you.

[English dialectal form *behoul'*.]

beholden, behadden, also *incorrectly* **beholding**, *adjective* **1** beholden; *specifically* **beholden to** indebted, obliged to; thankful, grateful to.

2 beholden to depending on.

□ **he or she is not beholden to it** expressing doubt about a person's admitted age.

[Scots form *behadden*, English dialectal form *beholding*.]

behopes *noun plural* hopes, expectations *e.g.* *Billy said he was in fairish behopes of her*, *i.e.* of her recovery.

[Southern English, intensifying prefix *be-* (normally used with verbs) + *hope*.]

behoul' *see* behold.

beisoge *noun* a young sow about to have her first litter.

bejorrah *see* by.

bekase *see* because.

bekaste make haste, hurry.

beknownst *adjective* unbeknownst, unawares.

belang *see* belong.

belch *noun* a thick-set, short-legged animal.

belch¹ *verb* bring up wind.

beld *see* bald.

Belfast: Belfast cistern a cast-iron, chain-pull, flushing toilet required to be installed in all Belfast terraced houses under a bye-law of 1874.

□ **Belfast roof or truss** a wooden bow-string girder constructed of short lengths of timber but capable of spanning up to a hundred feet (30.48 metres). [ILLUS: B'fast/r]

□ **Belfast sink** a type of deep, originally brown-glazed, earthenware sink.

belive *adverb* by and by.

[Obsolete in Standard English (latterly Scots and Northern English), *by* + *live*.]

bell: bell, book and candle

□ **bell-horses**:

□ **Bell-horses, bell-horses, what time o' day/ Two o'clock, three o'clock, up and away** *rhyme*

□ **bellman** a coalman.

□ **bell the cat** contend with someone in authority or in a position of power or influence.

□ **in bell and bow** of *flax* in blossom; *see* **bow²**. *Illustration see* **blue**.

bellas, bellies *noun plural*, also **bellowses** bellows.

□ **Polly, pit the kettle on,/ Johnny, blow the bellows strong,/ An' we'll all go to Biddy's house,/ An' have a cup of tea** *rhyme*

[Scots and English dialectal forms.]

bellora *see* balyor.

belly: **belly bachelor** a man whose reason for courting a girl is to eat well at her parents' house.

□ **belly-band 1** a strap attaching a horse's harness, saddle *etc.*; the girth in harness for a carriage or cart. **2** the piece of cord attached to the front of a kite, to which the string is tied.

□ **belly-fummux 1** stomach pains. **2** a sinking feeling.
[Second element unidentified.]

□ **belly-grubs** "molligrubs", cramps in the bowels.

□ **he** *etc.* **can knot his belly-band and have a piece over** said of someone well-off.

belong, belong *verb* **1** belong. **2 Who belongs (a thing)?, Who belongs to (a thing)?** To whom does (a thing) belong?

[Scots form *belang*.]

belongings *noun plural* luggage, personal possessions, clothes.

belt: **belter** a cross-rope used in thatching a haystack.

□ **beltie** a saddleback pig (a black pig with a white band); a belted cow.

□ **belting** the ropes binding a haystack.

beltane, bealtin, beltany *noun* May 1st, traditionally the beginning of summer.

[Hiberno-English *beltane*, from Irish *Bealtaine* "May"; also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *Bealltuinn* "May-day".]

belty *see* bilty.

belyore *see* balyor.

bemean *verb* demean (yourself).

ben' *see* bend.

ben *adverb* in, within, towards the inner part of a house.

◆ *preposition* in, to the inner room, through (a house) towards the inner part.

◆ *noun* the inner room of a two-roomed house.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *binnan* "within". *See also* but².]

bename *verb* name, call, *usually* **benamed**

[Obsolete in Standard English, from Old English *benemnan*.]

bend, ben' *verb* **1** bend. **2** *slang* drink heavily.

◆ *noun* **1** a bend. **2** a hint *usually* **give someone the bend** drop someone a hint. **3** an effort *usually* **make a bend**

□ **badly bent** embarrassed.

□ **bendard** the bent stick in the frame of a kite [apparently influenced by *standard* "an upright stick"].

□ **bended** *adjective* **bended on** directed, inclined towards *e.g.* *The wind is bended on that window.*

□ **on the bend** on a drinking spree.

[Scots form *ben'*. *See also* **bendy**.]

bendebus *noun* any figure of speech.

[Mock Latin.]

bendle *see* bennel.

bendy *adjective* bandy, bow-legged.

□ **bendy-kneed** bandy-legged.

Cf. bend, *see also* banty.

beneath: **beneath yourself** condescend, lower yourself.

benefeeshil *adjective* beneficial.

benefit: **take the benefit of** fail to do.

beng *see* bang.

bengle, bengal *noun* an unprincipled ruffian *Co. Londonderry*.

[Origin unknown.]

bengore skate *noun* a fish: the spotted ray *Raja montagui*, *Co. Donegal*.

[The first element is unidentified.]

Benjamin *noun* a right-handed person.

benk *noun* a bank, a banking house.

[English dialectal form. *See also* bankrope.]

ben-leather *noun* thick leather for the soles of shoes.

bennel, bandle, bindle *noun* **1** a clump of the great wood-rush *Luzula sylvatica*. **2** a withered stalk of a plant; the withered stems of plants collectively.

[Scots "a long reedy grass", possibly from bent + *-le*.]

bennin *see* bind.

benorth *see* by.

benshee *see* banshee.

bent *noun* **1** applied to various grassy bog plants, such as (**a**) the bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*; (**b**) cotton-grass *Eriophorum spp.*

[Applied in Standard English to a wide range of reedy grasses, reeds and sedges, including marram-grass.] **2** land covered with bent (*i.e.* coarse grass). **3** a hillside.

See also bennel.

benwee *noun* a quagmire *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

benweed *noun* a wild flower: the common ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

berd *see* beard.

bere *noun* a coarse variety of barley with four rows of grain in the ear.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *bere*.]

bergamot *noun* the pepper-mint *Mentha piperita*.

bernacle *see* barnacle.

berricks *see* barracks.

berril, berrin *see* bury.

berry *noun, specifically* a gooseberry.

berryin *see* bury.

bert *see* bart.

beschuter *verb* besmear *e.g. Himself the untutor'd ou' haythen*

beschuter'd /us, ears over head with boilin'-hot tar.

beseem *verb* befit, become, *usually ill* **beseem** *e.g. It ill beseems me to do it* [archaic in Standard English].

beside *preposition* except.

besides *preposition* beside, in comparison with.

beslabber *verb* beslobber.

[Old form, still Scots. Also Hiberno-English form. *See* slabber.]

besom, beesom, busom, beson *noun* **1** a broom [in Standard English, specifically a broom made of a bundle of twigs, *etc.*]. **2** a small, lightly-built woman. **3** *derogatory* an unpleasant woman, *especially* a scolding woman.

□ **besom man** a man who makes and sells besoms.

besouth *see* by.

bespake *verb* bespeak, order (goods).

□ **bespake** **1** *of goods* bespoke, bespoken, ordered. **2** engaged to be married. **3** bewitched; under the control of the fairies or some evil influence: said of a person who acts strangely.

[*Bespake*: older form in Scots and English of infinitive and past participle.]

besp-besp *exclamation* **1** a call to horses. **2** *also* **bess-bess** a call to sheep.

[Onomatopoeic.]

bespoke *see* bespake.

besprinted *verb, past participle only* besprent, besprinkled.

[Yorkshire *besprented*, incorrect form of *besprent*, itself the past tense and past participle of obsolete Standard English *bespreng*, from Old English *besprengan*.]

bess-bess *see* besp-besp.

bessy dooker *noun* a bird: the dipper *Cinclus cinclus*.

[Scots and Northern English, apparently *Bessy* "Elizabeth" + *dook* (see *duck*¹) + *-er*. Cf. *Willie*.]

best: at the best *emphatic* e.g. *He's a poor cratur at the best*.

- best girl** sweetheart.
- best maid** a bridesmaid.
- get the best of someone** get the better of someone.
- put yer best fut foremost** do your level best.
- the best 1** very well e.g. *Him an me gets on the best at all*. **2 the very best** reply to the greeting, "How are you?"
- the best end of the bargain** the best or biggest part.
- the best of** most of.
- the best of (goods)** very good, best quality.
- the best of the boilin** "the best of the bunch".
- the best of your play** the wisest thing to do.

bestow *verb* give (somebody something), bestow upon e.g. *I'll bestow you that*.

[Scots pronunciation rhyming with "cow".]

betake *verb: past tense betuk*

betattered *adjective* tattered, in pieces, in ruins.

bethankit *adjective* grateful, thankful.

betherell *see* bed.

bethought *verb pt* recalled.

bethrel *see* bed.

betimes *adverb* at times, occasionally.

[Hiberno-English, Southern English and Scots; *by* + *time* + adverbial ending *-s*.]

betoken *see* token.

better *adjective* **1** recovered, well again after an illness e.g. *She's improving, but she's not better yet*. **2** of a woman having given birth.

3 better nor more than; *see* *nor*².

- (all) the better of** "(all) the better for".
- be better** had better e.g. *Ah'm better be going*.
- better again** said when someone does even better than a previous contestant in a game.
- better at the en' of a faist than at the beginnin' of a row** *proverbial*
- better favoured** more handsome.
- betterment**
- better penny** something given in addition.
- better rue sit nor rue flit** *proverbial* said especially in relation to marriage, meaning that you might go further and fare worse.
- better wear out than rust out** *proverbial*
- had you not better (do something)?**
- it would fit (a person) better, (a person) would be better fit** it would be wiser for (a person), it would befit (a person) better e.g. *I'd be better fit if I had not gone*.
- the better part** the greater part.
- the better soort** the upper classes.
- the betther day the betther deed** *proverbial*
- there's no betterment for him or her** he or she is fatally ill.

between, betune *preposition* between.

- between hands** in the intervals between other tasks; *see also* among.
- between two minds** in two minds (about what to do).
- between you an' me an' the wall** between ourselves.
- what's between us?** said by a customer wanting to know how much he or she owes a shopkeeper, etc.

[Hiberno-English form *betune*. *See also* atween.]

betwix *preposition* betwixt, between.

- betwixt and between** neither one thing nor the other, intermediate,

vacillating; *of health* neither very good nor very bad.

[Older form, still English dialectal.]

beuk *see* book.

bevel: **bevelled** *adjective*, *of an edge* aslant, not straight.

□ **bevel-tree** the board above a cow's head in the byre.

beverage, baiverage *noun* **1** *literally* a drink, hence drink-money: a forfeit, usually a kiss, demanded from a person wearing something new.

2 the first use of anything.

bewray *verb* reveal, give away.

beyond, beyon', beyont, beyant *preposition* beyond.

◆ *adverb* yonder.

□ **beyond the beyonds** **1** *of a story or event* incredible. **2** *of actions* outrageous. **3** *of a place* out of the way.

□ **beyont the beyon's where the aul' meer foaled the fiddler, at the back o' beyont, where the owl' meer foaled the fiddler** *jocular* reply to someone asking "where?" *Co. Antrim*.

□ **beyont the common** *of a person* distinguished, out of the ordinary.
[Scots and English dialectal forms *beyon'*, *beyont*; Hiberno-English form *beyant*.]

bib: **best bib and tucker** smart, holiday clothes.

bibbles *noun plural* bibble-babble, nonsense, nonsensical talk.

bicelick *see* bicylic.

bicht *noun* a belch, a burp.

[Onomatopoeic.]

bick *see* back.

bick *noun* a bitch.

[Scots; from Old Norse *bikkja*, corresponding to Old English *bicce*, which gives English *bitch*.]

bick-airn *noun* a bick-iron, a bickern, a small beaked anvil.

[*Bick-iron* is from French *bigorne*, itself from Latin *bicornia* "two-horned", misunderstood as containing the word *iron* (*see* **airn**).]
[ILLUS: bick-a]

bicker *noun* a blow from a stone.

[Origin unknown.]

bicket *noun* a becket, a contrivance for securing loose ropes, *etc.* on a ship
Co. Donegal.

bicylic, bicelick *noun* a bicycle.

bid *verb* invite, *especially* to a wedding or funeral [archaic in Standard English].

◆ *noun* a witty saying; a piece of repartee.

□ **biddable** *especially of a child* obedient, willing [also adopted in Standard English]; *see also* **unbiddable**.

□ **bidder** a person who bids at an auction.

□ **biddin's** biddings, precepts.

□ **bid someone the time of day** greet someone, say "Good morning" *etc.*

□ **it's a folly to bid a madman run** *proverbial*

biddy *noun, also biddy-belore* a nosy, interfering woman; *cf.* **balyor**, **billore**.

[English slang *biddy* "a derogatory term for a woman", from *Bridget*.]

bide, *past tense and past participle bade*, *verb* **1** stay, wait. **2** live, dwell [archaic in Standard English]. **3** *usually negative* endure, tolerate. **4** **bide by** stick to (an agreement, *etc.*) [archaic in Standard English].

□ **bide a wee** wait a minute; *see* **wee**.

□ **bide content** live contentedly.

□ **bide tryst** wait at the appointed place to keep an appointment; *see* **tryst**.

[From Old English *bīdan* "wait", replaced in Standard English by *abide*.]

Past tense: Scots and Northern English *bade*. Past participle: Scots *bade*.]

biff *noun* a bevvie, a drink.

big¹; *past tense and past participle bigged, biggit*; *verb* build.

- **bigging, biggin** a building; *now usually* a cottage or an outhouse.
[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *byggja*.]
- big²** *adjective* friendly, intimate.
- **as big as a barn door** very big.
- **big an' wee** all kinds of people *e.g.* *There was big an' wee at the meeting.*
- **big bug** an important person.
- **big coat** a greatcoat, an overcoat; *see also* *cottamore*.
- **big diver** a bird: the great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*. *Illustration see* *tossel*.
- **big end** the larger part, most (of a piece of work, *etc.*); *cf.* *thick*.
- **big gall** a disease causing swelling of the loins in cattle.
- **biggest part** the larger part, most.
- **big hawk** a bird: the peregrine *Falco peregrinus*. *Illustration see* *goose*.
- **big-hearted Arthur** the type of a soft-hearted, generous person.
- **big house** the house of the local landlord or important person in a district.
- **bigly** ... largely.
- **bigness** friendliness.
- **he'll show her big bread in other people's windas** said of a man who marries without having any means to support his wife.
- **no' as big as a ha'porth o' saut** not very big at all.
- **the big people** the upper classes.
- **there's a great bigness between the cow and the haystack** *proverbial*
- **too big riggitt** *of a boat* over-rigged.
- bight** *noun* a knot on a rope; a loop.
- bigoted** *adjective, loosely* obstinate.
- bike** *see* *back*.
- bike, byke** *noun* **1** a wild bees' nest; a nestful of bees, a swarm.
2 *figuratively* a crowd of people.
[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]
- bilberry: bilberry-day** a day at the end of July when young people arrange to go to the woods to gather bilberries.
- **bilberry Sunday** local youths gather at the top of Benoughlin (Bhinn) mountain to pick bilberries on the third Sunday in August.
- bile, byle** *noun* a boil, an inflamed swelling.
- **a bile on the liver** a bilious attack.
- **wee bile** a pimple.
[Old form in Scots and English. *See also* *beal*.]
- bill** *see* *bull*.
- bill** *noun, figuratively* the human mouth.
- bill-hook** *noun* a large hook or knife for cutting.
- billore, bilyore, bullyore** *noun* a clown, a fool.
[Irish *baileabhair*.]
- billour** *see* *balyor*.
- Billy** *noun* a name for a Protestant man, an Orangeman; *cf.* *teague*.
- **Billy biter** *or nipper*, *also* **Billy-blue-bonnet** a bird: the blue tit *Parus caeruleus*.
- **Billy bluff** a drink: porter.
- **Billy brighteye** a wild flower: the germander speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*; *see also* *eye*.
See also *billy¹*.
- billy¹, billie** *noun* a friend, a comrade.
- **billie boys** originally a gang of mates, now sometimes understood as *Billy-boys* (Orangemen) (in reference to King William).
[Scots and Northern English, probably the same word as *Billy* (the proper name).]

billy² *noun*, also **billy lamp** a small open lamp used indoors.

billy³ *noun* ? food.

bilyar *see* balyor.

bilty, **belty** *adjective* low-built, not large.

[Western Scots *biltie*, origin unknown.]

bilyore *see* billore.

bin¹, **binn**, **bing** *noun* a cliff *frequently in place-names*.

[Irish *binn*; *bin(n)* also Scots as a form of *ben*, from the corresponding Scottish Gaelic *beinn* "a mountain". *See also* *bink*.]

bin²: **binlid** *literally* the lid of a dustbin: a stupid person.

binch *noun* a bench.

□ **bench day** a day when a Magistrate's Court sits.

[Scots form.]

bind, **bine**; *past tense and past participle* **bun'**; *verb* bind.

□ **bind-beggar** *historical* a bang-beggar.

□ **binder** a rash idiot.

□ **bindwood** the common ivy *Hedera helix*.

□ **binnen**, **binnon**, **bennin** **1** a tether for a cow. **2** the ring to which the *bourach* is attached when tying up a cow in the byre.

□ **boun' to** bound to, certain to.

□ **he or she is neither to bind nor hold, he or she will nayther hou' nor**

bind he or she is beyond control; *see also* *hold*.

[English dialectal form *bine*. Past participle: Shropshire form *bund*, Scots *bun'*. *See also* *hough*.]

binderer *see* binner.

bindle *see* bennel.

bing *see* bin¹.

bing¹ *noun* **1** a heap (*e.g.* of potatoes or grain); a potato pit, a clamp of potatoes. **2** *figuratively* a large number (of things); a crowd (of people).

◆ *verb*, also **bing up** pile up in a heap; *figuratively* accumulate. [ILLUS: *bing*]

□ **potato-bing** **1** a covered heap of potatoes, for winter storage. **2** an uncovered heap of potatoes kept in a house.

[Scots, from Old Norse *bingr* "a heap".]

bing² *noun* a bin for holding meal, flour, *etc.*

[Northern English, *cf.* Danish *bing* "a bin".]

bink *see* bin¹.

bink *noun* **1** a shelf. **2** also **turf-bink** the bank from which peat is cut. **3** a cliff; *cf.* bin¹.

[Scots and Northern English "a shelf; a bank"; from Old Norse **benkr*, corresponding to Old English *benc*, which gives English *bench*; *see also* *binch*.]

binn *see* bin¹.

binnen *see* bind.

binner *verb* **1** move quickly, move with a rush. **2** work noisily and energetically. **3** *of a wheel, etc.* whirr, produce a buzzing sound.

◆ *noun* the sound of an impact, *especially* on a resounding surface such as a drumhead.

□ **binnerer** **1** a good worker. **2** also *incorrectly* **binderer** anything large and good of its kind. **3** a resounding blow.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

binnon *see* bind.

binthern *noun* a thrashing.

biolar, **biller** *noun* water-cress.

bird¹, **burd**, **bord** *noun* **1** a bird. **2** a chick, a young bird *e.g.* *ivery crow thinks its own bird the whitest, proverbial*. **3** a term of endearment to a child. **4** also **birdie** *childish* a "peck", a kiss.

□ **a bird of a different colour** "a bird of a different feather", a different matter entirely.

- **a bird that can sing and won't sing must be made sing** a threat to use force.
- **an early bird gets the first worm** *proverbial*
- **bird alone** completely alone.
- **birdie birdie** a call to chickens.
- **bird lime**
- **bird's eyes** *childish* tapioca.
- **birds of a feather flock thegither** *proverbial*
- **ivery crow thinks its own bird the whitest**
- **twigged with fine bird lime** loudly and gaudily dressed, "dressed to kill".

[Scots form *burd*; English dialectal form *bord*.]

bird²: **bird-mouthed** very shy; reluctant to speak out.

[Archaic English *burd* "a woman", origin unknown; often confused with *bird*¹.]

birk *verb* birch, punish by beating with a rod.

- **birkin** a birching, a caning.
- **burckin** a stick used to punish children.

[Scots and Northern English; from Old Norse *björk*, influenced by Old English *birce*, which gives *birch*.]

birkie: **as bare as birkie** completely bare.

birl *see* bury.

birl, burl, borl *verb* **1** spin, whirl round; make (something) spin or whirl round. **2** *of a wheeled vehicle* go fast. **3** *figuratively* run fast. **4** make a buzzing sound. **5** blow a whistle (originally one with a pea inside).

◆ *noun* **1** a whirl, a spin. **2** the turning of a skipping rope, *etc.* **3** a "turn" at dancing. **4** a ride *e.g.* in a cart. **5** a row, a quarrel. **6** energy, vigour at work *e.g.* *He has a birl with him.* **7** a whirring sound. **8** a verbal "dig".

- **birle-go-round** a manoeuvre in playing with a ball against a wall.
- **birlin** a thrashing.
- **birlin stones** heavy shingle [from the stones being dragged about by the tide].
- **birl your leg** dance well.
- **give it a birl** give it a try.
- **give someone a birl** *figuratively* bring someone's name up for abuse.
- **on the birl** on the spree.
- **take a birl at** aim a stroke or blow at.

[Scots *birl, burl*; onomatopoeic.]

□ **birlin' in your toories** *literally* "spinning in your woollen caps"; said of people who have enjoyed themselves too well and lost all sense of proportion.

birn¹, **pirn** *noun* **1** the remains of burnt heather or whins. **2** **birn** the withered stalks of plants. **3** **pirn** sticks for fuel.

[Scots form *birn* of *burn*.]

birn², **barn** *noun* the external genitals of a cow, sheep, *etc.*

[Scots *birn*, origin unknown.]

birr, borrr, *noun* **1** a whirring noise. **2** bustling activity; confusion, turmoil.

- ◆ *verb* **1** whirr; make a whirring noise. **2** urge on, incite (dogs to fight).
- **birring, birrin** **1** a whirring sound. **2** the noise of flapping wings.

[Scots and Northern English *birr*, onomatopoeic.]

birse *noun* **1** *also in plural* **briss** a bristle, a hair. **2** *specifically, shoemaking* a hair twisted on the end of a thread to provide a stiff leading end when sewing leather. **3** *figuratively, also in plural* hot temper, anger; *thus* **get your birses up**

- **birsely**
- **birsy** *adjective, of hair* bristly, standing on end.

◆ *noun, also* **bursy** a name for (a) a farmer; (b) a country yokel; (c) a person who looks glum or unwell.

[Scots *birse*, from Old English *byrst*.]

birsle *see* bristle.

birt *see* bart.

birteen *noun* a small amount (of hay).

[Irish *beairtin*, from *beart* (*see* **bart**) + diminutive ending *-in*.]

birth: **birth ground** birthplace.

□ **birthy** *of potatoes, etc.* productive, fruitful.

biscake, **bistick**, *noun* a biscuit.

[Southern English *biscake*, a blend of *biscuit* and *cake*.]

biscuit *noun* the root of a wild flower, tormentil *Potentilla tormentilla*, *cf.* brisken.

bishop: **bishop's posy** a wild flower: the ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*; *cf.* espibawn.

□ **bishop weed**, **bishop's weed** goutweed *Aegopodium podagraria*.

bisn't *see* be.

bistick *see* biscake.

bit *see* bud², but¹.

bit¹ *noun* **1** something to eat; *specifically* a schoolchild's packed lunch.

2 *also* **bit of** used as a diminutive (**a**) in disparagement *e.g.* *playing for the bit of a button*; (**b**) as an endearment *e.g.* *wee bit bairn*.

[*Bit of* more widely used than in England.]

□ **bit nor sup** bite nor sup, food nor drink.

□ **he wud tak the bit oot o' yer mooth** said of a very greedy person.

□ **I didn't know a or wan bit of ye** I didn't recognise you at all.

□ **no a bit o it** *idiomatic*.

□ **wee bit 1** *of distance* a little more. **2** *generally* little, small *e.g.* *Many a guid wallet o' siller I hae carried ahint me in the wee bit saddlebags*.

bit²: **come to the bit** reach the crisis, reach the point of action or decision, come to the point *e.g.* *If it comes to the bit, I'll go*.

bitch *noun* a botch, anything spoiled.

□ **bitched** botched, spoiled.

[Northumberland; *cf.* colloquial English "to spoil", which may or may not be related to *bitch* "a female dog".]

bite *verb* "sting" with words, annoy, upset.

□ **an early bite** an early fodder grass.

□ **bite and sup** food and drink.

□ **bitin**, **bitin'**

□ **bitin Billy 1** a wild flower: the sheep's bit scabious *Jasione montana*

[perhaps properly **bitten Billy*: the root has the appearance of having been bitten off]. **2** *also* **bitin stick** a type of sweetie: a very hot sugar-stick.

□ **don't make two bites of a cherry** do the thing at once.

□ **not able to bite your finger, he couldn't bite his wee finger** very drunk.

bitter

□ **as bitther as gall**

□ **bittersweet** a variety of apple.

biz *see* be.

bizz *verb* **1** buzz. **2** *of a liquid* fizz, hiss. **3** spread a rumour; tell tales.

4 fuss about. **5** *of cattle, also* **take the bizz** stampede (*e.g.* to escape from clegs).

◆ *noun* **1** a buzzing noise. **2** *specifically* the buzz of bees. **3** gossip. **4** a fuss. **5** self-importance. **6** a children's pastime: two children join hands and spin each other round as fast as they can.

□ **bizzing** a buzzing noise.

[Scots form.]

blab *verb* tell (a secret).

◆ *noun* a tell-tale, gossip.

blab *see* blob.

blabberin *adjective* chattering, talkative.

□ **blabbermoath** a blabbermouth.

[English dialectal; from Middle English *blaberen* "to babble", onomatopoeic.]

- black**, **bleck** *adjective* **1** black. **2** dark-haired. **3** *Roman Catholic* devoted to the Protestant cause. **4** *Roman Catholic* bigoted, *frequently the black North*; also **black hole** an all-Protestant town.
- ◆ *adverb* extremely, entirely *e.g. black out* said of the tide or a fire.
- ◆ *noun, in plural* a variety of late potato.
- **as black as a boghole** very dark.
- **as black as sin**
- **a scabby sheep will blacken the rest**
- **(beaten) black and blue** badly beaten, black and blue with marks.
- **black annet** a variety of apple.
- **black-avised, black-a-visaged** having a dark complexion [Scots and Northern English *black-avised*; from *black* + French *vis* "face". The *a* element is either French à "at" or *o* (see of)]; *see also* dark², long, red¹, well².
- **black back** a fish: the flounder *Pleuronectes flesus*; *see also* brown.
- **black-bakast** endure a strict fast.
- **black ball** a bottle of stout.
- **black bee** a type of bumble-bee.
- **black bird** (**a**) the razorbill *Alca torda*. *Illustration see* bridle; (**b**) the black guillemot *Cepphus grylle*.
- **black bonnet** a bird: the reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*.
- **black cap** a bird: (**a**) the reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*; (**b**) also **blacky cap** the stonechat *Saxicola torquata*; (**c**) the whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*; (**d**) the wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*.
- **black cattle** unimproved native breeds of cattle; *hence* **black cattle market**.
- **black clap** a manoeuvre in playing the child's game of ball.
- **black clock** a clock, a black beetle.
- **black coat** *jocular* a chimney sweep [in Standard English "a white collar worker"].
- **black diver** a bird: (**a**) the cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*; (**b**) the wigeon *Anas penelope*.
- **black duck** (**a**) the common scoter *Melanitta nigra*; (**b**) the black guillemot *Cepphus grylle*.
- **blacken** infect.
- **blackening, blacknin, blecknin** blackening; *specifically* (**a**) potato blight; (**b**) shoe polish.
- **black eye** the bottom of the glass visible when a drink is nearly finished.
- **black fast** *Roman Catholic* a fast-day, Ash Wednesday or Good Friday, when no meat or dairy products are eaten.
- **black favoured** having a dark complexion.
- **blackfoot** *noun* a go-between, *especially* a matchmaker; a friend who accompanies a young man going courting.
- ◆ *verb* act by proxy.
- **black frost** a hard frost without snow.
- **blackguard** *specifically* a person obscene either in words or actions.
- **black gull** a bird: the Arctic skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*.
- **black hag** a bird: the shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.
- **blackhead 1** a wild flower: (**a**) black knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. *Illustration see* bachelor; (**b**) the bud of cotton-grass *Eriophorum angustifolium*. **2** a bird: (**a**) the reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*; (**b**) the whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*.
- **black-headed bunting** a bird: the reed bunting [in literary English, a different bird, *Emberiza melanocephala*, found in southern Europe].
- **black-headed gull** the common gull.
- **black hen** a bird: the black guillemot *Cepphus grylle*.
- **black hives** a disease: probably typhus.

- **black leg** a disease of cattle: quarter evil.
- **black lough** a sub-species of trout found in Lough Melvin.
- **black lumps** a type of sweetie: clove balls.
- **Black Maria** a prison van.
- **black martin** a bird: the swift *Apus apus*.
- **Black men** members of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth (a Protestant organisation formed in 1797 and only open to members of the Orange Order).
- **black month** November.
- **black-mouth** a Presbyterian.
- **black-neb 1** a black-mouth. **2** a bird: the carrion crow *Corvus corone corone*. *See* neb.
- **black oath** *historical* the oath of allegiance and conformity during the reign of Charles I (1630s) targetted on religious dissenters in Ulster.
- **black oats** an unimproved variety of oats.
- **black Paddy** a bird: the shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.
- **black pollack** the coalfish *Pollachius virens*.
- **black puffin** a bird: the black guillemot *Cepphus grylle*.
- **black sally** a tree: the grey willow *Salix cinerea*; *see* sally.
- **Black Saturday** the last Saturday in August, when the Black men parade.
- **black scart, black shag** a bird: the cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*; *see* scarf.
- **black scoter** a bird: the common scoter.
- **black skull** a bird: the great tit *Parus major*.
- **black spool** *jocular* a bottle of porter.
- **black-toed gull** the Arctic skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*. [ILLUS: black]
- **blackweed** a broad-leaved pondweed, *Potamogeton natans*.
- **black wigeon** a bird: (a) the scaup *Aythya marila*; (b) the common scoter *Melanitta nigra*.
- **black with** crowded with *e.g.* *the road was black with people*.
- **in someone's black looks** "in someone's black books".
- **not so black as you are painted** not so bad.
- **say black was the white of someone's eye** speak ill of someone unjustly.
- **see nothing but black water** anticipate total failure.
- **the Black Art** necromancy.
- **the Black Death** typhus.
- **the black of your nail 1** the least amount. **2** "the skin of your teeth" (in relation to a narrow escape).
- **the griddle calls the pot black bottom** *proverbial; hence call black bottom* "call the kettle black", make accusations that could equally be made against yourself.
- **two blacks dizn't make a white** *proverbial*

See also blake¹.

blad *see* blaud¹, blaud².

bladed *see* blaud¹.

bladdock *see* blaud².

blade, bled *noun* **1** a blade. **2** *usually* **cruck blade, collar-truss blade, etc.** one of the side members of a roof truss. **3** a derogatory term for a woman, *especially* one with a sharp tongue. **4** a young girl. **5** a broad, flat leaf; *specifically* the outer leaf of a cabbage. **6** a measure of soft fruit, sold in a **blade** of cabbage; a cabbage-leaf containing a pint or quart of fruit.
 ◆ *verb* strip the outer leaves off cabbage plants, *etc., thus blade the kale*; *see* kale. [ILLUS: blade]

[Scots form *bled*.]

bladoch, bleddoch *noun* a potato damaged by frost while growing.

blae, blay *adjective* **1** purplish blue, blue-black. **2** *of the skin* blue, livid

(e.g. with cold or a bruise). **3 blay (a)** *obsolete, of linen unbleached; (b) of a horse of a pale yellowish colour.*

- **blaeberry** the bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*.
- **blaeberry Sunday** a Sunday when people gather blaeberries.
- **blae-stane** blue-stone (sulphate of copper), used in spray form to protect potatoes from blight.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *blār* "livid, blue".]

blafum, blafum, bafum *noun* **1** nonsensical talk intended to butter a person up; a hoax, a deception. **2** a pompous, empty person.

[Scots *blafum, blafum*; origin unknown.]

blagh *noun* buttermilk.

blah: **put the blah on** curse, bring bad luck upon (someone or something).

[Origin unknown.]

blaher *see* pleugher.

blaiçh *see* bleach.

blaidit *see* blaud¹.

blain *noun, rare* the mark left by a wound, a scar [in Standard English "a boil or blister"].

blairney *noun* blarney, flattery.

- **Blarney-stone: have kissed the blarney-stone** have the gift of flattery supposedly acquired by kissing this stone.

[Scots form.]

blairt *see* blirt.

blaister¹ *noun* a blister.

blaister² *noun* an untidy, rough person; *see also* plaster.

blake¹ *adjective, of a colour* dark, black.

[Archaic Northern English "dark, livid"; from Old English *blac*, which gives **black**, confused with Old English *blāc* "white", which gives obsolete Standard English *blake*. *See also* blake².]

blake² *adjective* bleak.

[Northern English form. It is possible that Standard English *bleak* is actually an alteration of **blake¹**, and that these words are therefore identical.]

blakes *noun* a machine for (?) batting flax.

blalin *noun* a blister.

blame *verb* attribute to, give credit to [in Standard English, fault is always implied].

- **blame (something) on (a person)** blame (a person) for (something).
- **not to blame** not to be blamed, not blameworthy. cf Standard English 'responsible (for a particular thing)'

blanch-nog *noun* the red bearberry *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*.

Blaney *proper noun* Castleblaney, County Monaghan e.g. *Blaney Fair*.

blaney *adjective* not healthy-looking.

blanket, blenket *noun* a blanket.

- **Blanket Bay** bed e.g. *The children have gone to Blanket Bay*.
- **on the blanket** *slang*

blanter *noun* **1** *also* **blanter oats** a variety of late-ripening oats grown in sandy soil. **2** food, e.g. bread, made from oats.

- ◆ *verb* stir (porridge).

[Rare Scots, origin unknown.]

blare *verb* **1** *usually of small children* cry, weep loudly, roar. **2** speak loudly; shout rudely or angrily. **3** sing raucously.

blarge *verb* **1** do anything noisily and vigorously. **2** **blarge into (a)** blunder into; **(b)** barge into.

- ◆ *noun* **1** a powerful kick; a powerful but clumsy kick; a clumsy blow. **2** a loud rumbling noise.
 - **blarge away** *verb* fire away (with a gun).
 - ◆ *exclamation* "fire away!", go ahead!
- [Possibly a strengthened form of *barge*.]

blash *noun* **1** a splash. **2** the sound of a heavy object falling into water.
3 pointless conversation.

◆ *verb* splash.

□ **blashy** splashy, muddy; sloppy.

[Scots and Northern English, onomatopoeic.]

blast *noun* **1** a smoke, a puff of a pipe. **2** *also* **blaster** a boaster; someone who exaggerates *e.g.* *She's no a blow - she's a constant blast!* **3** a spell of weather, either good or bad.

◆ *verb* boast; inflate with praise.

□ **blastie** *derogatory* **1** a shrivelled, dwarfish person supposedly blasted by some supernatural power. **2** a bad-tempered child.

blastpheme *verb* blaspheme.

[Altered by the influence of **blast**.]

blate *adjective* **1** shy, bashful, timid. **2** *of a person* quiet. **3** simple, innocent, unsophisticated.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

blath *noun* **1** *figuratively* the "flower" *e.g.* *the blath of the family* the best or finest-looking in the family. **2** the fresh appearance of something newly made or bought.

[Irish *bláth*.]

blather *see* blatter.

blather, blether, blither *verb* **1** talk nonsense [general dialectal and Scots; all three forms now adopted in Standard English]. **2** talk indiscreetly; brag; tell tales. **3** talk indistinctly.

◆ *noun* **1** *also in plural* idle chatter; nonsense; indiscreet talk. **2** a talkative, long-winded person; someone who talks nonsense.

◆ *exclamation* **blethers!** nonsense!

□ **blatheration, bletheration, blitheration, blatherie** foolish talk, nonsense.

□ **blathering, bletherin** foolishly talkative; boastful.

□ **blatherskite, bletherskite, blethermaskite, blatherumskite,**

blather-cum-skite *noun* a babbler; someone who talks nonsense.

◆ *verb* talk nonsense. *See* *skite*², *cf.* *whigmaleerie*.

□ **fule's or fool's blether** a sermon or speech not worth listening to.

□ **you're a blether-cum-skite an' the ducks'll get ye**

[From Old Norse *blaðra* "to talk indistinctly". *Blether* is originally the Scots and Northern English form. *Blither* is originally the Midland English form.]

blather: the blether's niver far from yur eyes you're always near to tears.

blathery *noun* riff-raff.

[Scots *blaudry, bladry, blathrie* "ostentation; waste, rubbish", possibly related to *blaud*².]

blatter, blather *verb* **1** beat up, thrash; *see also* *blooter*. **2** beat loudly with sticks, cabbage stalks, *etc.*, on doors after dark and run away: a Hallowe'en custom.

◆ *noun* **1** a sudden heavy shower. **2** a sudden loud noise; *specifically* a peal of thunder, a burst of gunfire. **3** a heavy fall. **4** a heavy blow; *see also* *blooter*. **5** a large quantity (*e.g.* of snow or hay). **6** a spree [confused with *batter*²].

□ **on the blatter** **1** "on the batter", on a drinking spree. **2** never at home; *see* *batter*².

[Scots *blatter* "to rattle, beat with violence; a heavy shower, a loud noise, a shot from a gun, a heavy fall, a blow"; possibly the same word as English *blatter* "speak volubly", from Latin *blaterāre*.]

blaud¹, **blad** *verb*, *also* **blaid** **1** slap, hit with something broad and flat; *of a bird* strike with the wings. **2** *of the wind* buffet. **3** flap, *e.g.* in the wind.

4 make something flap.

◆ *noun* **1** a slap or blow. **2** a wound.

□ **bladded** **1** *also* **blaidit** *of corn in stooks* spoilt. **2** *of standing corn*,

grass, trees, etc. blown down by a storm.

[Scots *blaud, blad* "to spoil, to buffet, to slap; a blow", origin unknown.

See also *blaud*².]

blaud², **blad** *noun* **1** a broad, flat piece; a large portion; a big lump of anything. **2** a useless thing; see also *blathery*.

□ **bladdock** a rough piece.

[Possibly from *blaud*¹ verb.]

blaw see *blow*.

blay see *blae*.

blaze, bleeze *noun, verb* blaze.

□ **blazed** slightly drunk.

□ **blazing** blatant e.g. a *blazing indiscretion*.

□ **like a blaze o' whins** quickly.

[Scots form *bleeze*.]

blazon *verb* praise.

bleach, blaich *verb* **1** beat up, thrash. **2** of rain come down in torrents.

◆ *noun* **1** a blow with a whip, rod, etc. **2** a heavy downpour of rain.

□ **bleaching** a beating, a thrashing.

[Older form in Scots and English *blaich*.]

bleach¹: **bleach-green** a place where linen was bleached.

blear *noun*, in *pl* matter gathering in the eyes.

□ **bleared, bleart, bleert** of a person having sore eyes.

□ **bleary, bleerie** **1** sleepy. **2** of tea weak.

□ **bleerock** a very small hearth-fire.

□ **the divil may be bleert but he's not blin' yet** said by one person to another who is trying to humbug him.

bleather *noun* a bladder.

bleb *verb* blab, talk indiscreetly; tell tales.

◆ *noun* a blab, an indiscreet talker.

bleb see *blob*.

bleck see *black*.

bled see *blade*.

bleed: **bleed-stick** *historical* the stick used for striking the lancet when bleeding cattle or horses.

bleenge, blinge *noun* **1** a badly-aimed kick or blow, frequently **play bleenge at (a person)**; see *play*. **2** a hard blow.

[Cf. Scots *breenge, bringe* "a violent or clumsy rush; a blow"; origin unknown.]

bleerie see *blear*.

bleerie *noun* a bird: the redshank *Tringa totanus*; cf. *kitteryweary*.

bleerock see *blear*.

bleeze see *blaze*.

bleighan *noun* **1** an old woman. **2** a silly, untidy, ignorant woman.

blemhize see *blind*.

blert see *blirt*.

bless, bliss *verb* bless.

□ **blessed: blessed be the Maker** said by a pious person when describing the physical defects of another person.

□ **blessed be the mark**

□ **blessed food made in mouthfuls** taties.

□ **blessing**

□ **the Lord's blessing be about you** a common form in which a beggar acknowledges an alms.

[Old form in Scots and English *bliss*.]

blet *verb* drink tea out of a saucer.

blether see *blather*.

blether *noun* a bladder.

[Scots and English dialectal form.]

bletheration, bletherin, blethermaskite, bletherskite see *blather*.

bleugan *see* bluggin.

bleugher *see* pleugher.

blew *see* blow.

blibber *verb* blubber, cry.

[Scots form.]

blibe *noun* **1** a boil. **2** *in plural* a type of skin rash especially affecting children.

[Scots, probably a form of *bleb* (*see* blob).]

blid *see* blood.

blind, blin', bline *adjective* **1** blind. **2** *of a room* crowded. **3** *of a nut* having no kernel; *cf.* deaf.

◆ *verb* **1** blind. **2** beat, surpass. **3** *in sowing seed* cover up the seed holes by dragging a large bush over the bed; *hence* **blinnin bush** the bush used for this purpose. **4** fill up a gap in (a dyke, *etc.*) with thorns.

◆ *noun* **1** a window blind. **2** *road-building* blinding (gravel, *etc.* spread over the surface).

□ **a blind man's no judge of colour** *proverbial*

□ **as blind as a cleg, as blind as the beetle** very blind.

□ **as blind as a fiddle, as blin as a fiddle** drunk.

□ **as blind as an owl**

□ **as much as would blind a midge** *e.g.* "I heard ye were well on last night." "It's a lie; I hadn't as much as would blind a midge."

□ **blind alley** a cul-de-sac.

□ **blind barnet** a game.

□ **blind Barney** a children's game: (a) blindman's buff; (b) blindman's stan'.

□ **blind beef-steak** herring. **Blue Monday, Sorrowful Tuesday, Long-legged Wednesday, Thursday breaks the heart of the week, Friday we get the blind beef-steak, Sweet Saturday in the afternoon, Sunday for the Tabernacle**

□ **blind boil** a boil that does not come to a head.

□ **blind ditch** **1** a dry sheugh. **2** *also* **blind dyke** an earthen dyke not planted with bushes.

□ **blind-dog** the lesser spotted dogfish *Scyliorhinus canicula*.

□ **blind dyke** a dyke with no passage through.

□ **blind end** a blind alley, a lane blocked at one end.

□ **blinder** *noun* **1** a flicker of light. **2** a sudden loud noise, such as a shot. **3** *in plural, jocular* a woman's veil.

◆ *verb* **blinder along** blind along, travel very fast.

□ **blind eye** a wild flower: the common poppy *Papaver rhoeas*. [ILLUS: blind/e]

□ **blind hedge** a hedge whose leaves prevent the hunter from seeing through it, which makes it hard to know when to jump.

□ **blind hole** **1** a dried-up pool in a moor. **2** a covered-up hole in a peat bank.

□ **blind hoo**, *also* **hoo** an exchange made by holding the thing to be swapped in a closed hand and not allowing it to be seen until the exchange is made [Scots *blin'-hooie*. The second element is unidentified]; *see also* hool.

□ **blind lane** a lane stopped up at one end.

□ **blind lough** a lough with no outlet.

□ **blindman:**

□ **blindman's ba'** a toadstool: a puffball *Lycoperdon spp.*

□ **blindman's buff** **1** a boys' game: blindman's stan'. **2** a toadstool: blindman's ba'.

□ **blindman's holiday** the time between dusk and the lighting of candles, when it was too dark to work.

□ **blindman's stan'** a boys' game: birds' eggs are placed on the ground and a boy is blindfolded. He is turned round, walks ten paces or so away

from the eggs and is again turned. He then has to try to reach and break the eggs with a stick.

- **blind of an eye** blind in one eye.
- **blunhide, blunhize, blemhize** a kind of dogfish [*cf.* Hebridean *blind-hive*. The second element is unidentified.].
- **get on the blind side of a person** take advantage of a person.
- **if Ah'm blin' Ah'm no blunt, as the broken needle said to the tailor when he sat on it** *proverbial* meaning that I am not totally ineffective, or completely dense.
- **put the blind on (a person)** curse, invoke bad luck on (a person).
[Scots form *blin'*, English dialectal form *bline*.]

blinder-blooter *see* blooter.

blinge *see* bleenge.

blinge: **on the blinge** on a binge, on a drinking spree *Co. Antrim*.

[Strengthened form.]

blink *verb* use the powers of the evil eye: **(a)** on a cow or on milk so that it will not churn. The remedy is to tie a red ribbon round the horns of the animal; **(b)** on a person.

◆ **noun** **1** a wink (of sleep). **2** an oil lamp. **3** the effect of being blinked by the evil eye. **4 the blink** an unlucky person to have along.

- **blinker** **1** a person who is blind in one eye. **2** a fighting cock blind in one eye. **3** someone who has the power of the evil eye.

blinnin bush *see* blind.

blirt, blurt, blert, blairt *verb* cry, weep, sob.

◆ **noun** **1 blirt** *jocular* a rendering of a song *e.g.* *Gie us a wee blirt*. **2** a rainy wind. **3 of a person, derogatory** **(a)** a cry-baby; **(b)** a loud-mouth; **(c)** an untrustworthy fellow.

- **blurtd** blown about by the wind.
- **blurtin** *adjective* crying, weeping.

[Scots and Northern English *blirt, blurt* "cry, weep; a gust of wind and rain"; onomatopoeic.]

bliss *see* bless.

blister *noun, figuratively* a troublesome person, someone who is hard to get rid of.

blithe: **blithemeat, blythemeat** **1** the meal traditionally prepared for visitors to celebrate the birth of a child. **2** a gathering of friends at a house to celebrate the birth of a child. *See* meat.

blither, blitheration *see* blather.

blither-lither-lither *exclamation* a call to turkeys.

blitter *see* blooter.

blob, blab, bleb *noun* **1 also water-blab** a bleb, a blister; a bubble. **2 also water-blab** *specifically* the first appearance of the sac when a cow is giving birth. **3** *specifically* a swelling on a tyre or football. **4** a blob, a drop of moisture, *e.g.* a splash of ink, a drop of honey, a drop of spittle.

5 blab of snow a snowflake. **6** a bee's honey-bag. **7 also blobby-wrack** a seaweed: bladderwrack *Fucus vesiculosus*.

◆ **verb** **1 of tears** fall in drops. **2** blot.

[Scots form *blab*. *See also* blibe.]

block *noun* a shoal (of herring).

- **blocked** *slang* very drunk [*cf.* English slang "high on drugs"].
- **it's bad to block the family** said of a younger sister marrying first.

block¹ *noun* a small black beetle.

blockan, blockin *noun* the coalfish *Pollachius virens*; *specifically* a medium-sized coalfish.

[Irish *blocán*; also found in Western Scots and the Isle of Man.]

bloigh, bloigher, bloocher *see* pleugher.

blood, bluid, blid *noun* blood.

- ◆ **verb** bleed *e.g.* *Your nose is bloodin*.
- **a bit of blood** describing a good horse.

- **be well-blooded** have a high colour.
- **blood alley** a marble with red streaks; a kind of marble for playing with, made of white marble streaked with deep red; a marble with red streaks.
- **blood and thunder** *exclamation*:
- **blood bile** a blood-filled boil; *see* **bile**.
- **blood-blister** a small blister containing blood.
- **blood boil** a boil with blood effused in it.
- **blooded** describing a good horse.
- **bloodshed** bloodshot.
- **blood-stone** a variety of haematite.
- **blood-sucker** **1** a sea-anemone: *Anemone sulcata* [from its blood-red colour]. **2** a stinging jelly-fish.
- **bloodweed** a wild flower: **(a)** a kind of knotweed, *Polygonum lapathifolium* [from the blotch on the leaf]; **(b)** herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*.
- **bluidy** bloody.
- **blur-an-ages** a disguised oath [Hiberno-English].
- **you might as well try to get blood from a turnip**
[Scots form *bluid, blid.*]

bloom:

blooming, bloomin: **blooming willow, blooming willie, blooming sally**
a wild flower: the narrow-leaved willow-herb *Epilobium angustifolium*;
see **sally, willow.**

blooster *verb* bluster.

- ◆ **noun** **1 a blooster o a day** a blustery day. **2 in a blooster** of a person in an agitated state.

[Scots, apparently a form of *bluster.*]

blooter, bloother, bluitter, blitter, blutter *noun* **1** the impact of something large falling into water. **2** a heavy blow; *cf.* **blatter**. **3** a big, stupid, clumsy person. **4** a clumsy, ineffective worker, a blunderer. **5** a silly, foolish person. **6** a noisy person. **7 blooter** a mistake in using the English language, *especially* one retold as a funny story.

- ◆ **verb** **1** beat up, thrash; *cf.* **blatter**. **2** work in a bungling, clumsy way. **3** stumble along. **4** talk in a silly way. **5 blooter, blutter** cough violently, cough or splutter disgustingly; *cf.* **pleugher**. **6 vulgar** pass wind.

- **blinder-blooter** a clumsy fellow, an extreme **blooter**.
- **blootered** **1** very tired, exhausted; confused. **2** drunk.
- **blootering, blooterin** **1** clumsy. **2** blubbering, crying.
- **Whisky makes you frisky / An stout makes you shout. / But atin well-cooked peas or beans / Will make you blitter out** *children's rhyme*

[Scots *blooter, bluitter, blitter, blutter*; obsolete Standard English *blutter*; onomatopoeic. Several different words may be involved.]

blooterweep *noun* a bird: the common snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

[*Cf.* Ayrshire *blitter*, form of Scots **heather-bleat**, influenced by **blooter.**]

blorry *noun* a blot.

- ◆ **verb** blot; *also figuratively e.g. Ye hae blorried yer name noo, I warrant ye.*

[Yorkshire *blorry*, formed on *blur.*]

bloss *noun* **1** "blossom", a term of endearment for a young woman. **2** a buxom young woman. **3 derogatory** a woman.

blounder *noun* a heavy blow.

blow, blaw; *past participle* **blowed, blew;** *verb* **1** blow. **2** boast, brag.

- ◆ **noun** **1** a blow. **2** a braggart, a boaster.
- **bla-hole** *place name* a windy corner between two rock scarps on a road.
- **blaw a heid oa hoarns on ye** a mother's threat to a child.
- **blaw doon** a blow-down, a down-draught in a chimney.
- **blawin horn** *literally* a blowing or blown horn: a matter of boast or of

public announcement.

- **blaw-oot** a blow-down.
- **blew out** rejected in love.
- **blower** a boaster.
- **blowhard**, *also* **blow**, *slang* methylated spirits.
- **blow-in** an incomer to a district.
- **blowing** *noun* boasting.
- ◆ *adjective, comparative* **blowiner**, *of the weather* more blowing, more windy.
- **blowing frost** a prolonged spell of very cold, dry weather with an east wind.
- **blowing up** a scolding.
- **blown** out of breath.
- **that's a day wud blaw the horns aff the kye** said of a cold and stormy day.

[Scots and Northern English form *blaw*. Past participle: Southern English *blowed*.]

blow¹ *noun in blow* in blossom, in bloom.

blue, byue *adjective* blue.

- **a blue look-out** a bad prospect.
- **blue-belly** *abusiv* a Protestant Dissenter.
- **blue bird** (**a**) the house sparrow *Passer domesticus*; (**b**) the kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*.
- **blue-bonnet 1** a wild flower: the harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*. **2 a** bird: (**a**) *also* **wee blue bonnet** the blue tit *Parus caeruleus*; (**b**) *also* **cock blue-bonnet, big blue-bonnet** the great tit *Parus major*.
- Illustration see black; (c) the coal tit Parus ater.*
- **bluebottle 1** a maggot. **2** a dragonfly.
- **blue bow, blue bough** the blossom of flax; *see bow*². [ILLUS: blue/bow]
- **blue-bowed** *of flax* in blossom; *see bow*².
- **blue-devils** the DT's.
- **blue-eye** a favourite, a "blue-eyed boy or girl".
- **blue hawk** the sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*.
- **blue heron** the grey heron *Ardea cinerea*.
- **blue month** the period between the end of the old potatoes and the harvesting of the new.
- **blue-mould** *of a boxer* get out of form.
- **blue mouldiness, blue moulding** applied to various fungal or mossy growths [in Standard English, *blue mould* is a fungus that grows on cheese].
- **blue pot** a pot used for dyeing flannel.
- **blue rock** the rock dove.
- **blue rocket** a wild flower: (**a**) the heath spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*; (**b**) the early marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata*.
- **blue rock-pigeon** the stock dove.
- **blue-stone** sulphate of copper, used in spray form to protect potatoes from blight.
- **blue wran** a bird: the dunnock *Prunella modularis*; *see wran*.
- **enough blue in the sky to make a Dutchman's jacket** said of a sky with the clouds breaking up.
- **there'll be two blue moons in the sky an' wan in the dungpit** "that'll be the day".
- **till all is blue** till the end of all things.
- **we have dog's days, hunger and aise, through the blue month**
- **What are you luckin at? A'm luckin at you; ye're sae bonnie an byue!** exchange between children.

[Scots form *byue*. In bird names, possibly influenced by Irish *liagh*, which covers a colour range from grey to dull blue.]

bluffs *noun plural* blinkers for a horse.

[Origin unknown.]

bluggin, bleugan *noun* **1** a blister. **2** a boil.

[Possibly a strengthened form of *buggin*.]

bluid, bluidy *see* blood.

bluit *noun* a fish, a species of skate or thornback.

bluiter *see* blooter.

blunder *noun* a blunderer, a person who is always making mistakes.

blunhide *see* blind.

blunkit¹ *adjective* bleary-eyed.

[*Cf.* Yorkshire *blink* "to blind".]

blunkit² *adjective* faded, washed-out in appearance.

[*Cf.* obsolete Standard English *blunket* "greyish blue", origin unknown.]

blunther *noun* a person of hasty temper and unguarded speech.

blunt: this knife's that blunt, it wouldn't cut butther, and it warm

blurragh *noun* badly-made food, *especially* porridge *Co. Antrim*.

[Origin unknown.]

blurt *see* blirt.

blush: blushin a blister or boil on the hands or feet; *see also* dog.

blutter *see* blooter.

blutterwheet *noun, derogatory* a person of no importance; *cf.*

blooterwheep.

blythameat *see* blithe.

bo *noun* a bogey; one of the fairy folk.

□ **bo-man, baw-man, boo-man** a bogey-man mentioned to frighten children *e.g.* *The bo-man'll catch ye.*

[English dialectal and Scots *bo*, Scots also *boo*; *see* *bogle*.]

boa *exclamation, to a horse* whoa!

boak *see* boke.

board, baird, boord *noun* **1** a board. **2** *specifically* a table.

◆ *verb* **boord** have or get equal scores in games, *especially* in handball; *hence* **boordy five, etc.** five, *etc.* all; *cf.* **aboord**.

□ **board wages** wages without board.

□ **on the boards, also under-board** of a dead body laid out; *hence* **above-board** alive and going about [the corpse was traditionally laid out on a table with a board lying on the breast to hold a prayerbook and snuff for the mourners].

□ **pace-board:**

[Scots form *baird*, Northern English and Scots form *boord*. *See also* *dam²*.]

boast *see* boss¹.

boast, bost *verb* threaten, scold (usually a dog).

[Scots sense and form *bost*.]

boastit *see* boss¹.

boat: his boat is all sail, his sail's as big as the boat he does not look at (or do) things in the proper perspective.

bob, bab *noun* **1** the bob or plummet of a plumb-line; a stone on a string let down a chimney to remove an obstruction. **2** a wee **bab** "forty winks".

3 a small object used as a mark at which to throw coins to start off a game of pitch-and-toss; *hence* **let the bab stand** let an agreement hold.

◆ *verb* bob, bow.

□ **not bob an eye** not sleep at all.

□ **on the bab** equally balanced.

[Scots form *bab*.]

bob¹ *noun* a shilling.

bo-bo *noun, childish* a "pooh-pooh", the emptying of the bowels.

bocaun *see* bacan, bawken.

bocher-man, boher-man *noun* a lame man.

[*Cf.* Irish *bóthar* "a road" (*see* *boreen*). *Cf. also* *baukey*.]

bocht *see* bught¹, bught², buy.

bock *see* balk¹, bauch.

bock *noun* a thump.

bock *see* boke.

bockenbarra, buckinbarra *noun* **1** a poisonous toadstool. **2** *figuratively* a big, lazy, easy-going person.

[Irish *beacán bearaigh, beacán bearach* "a toadstool"; *cf.* bockin.]

bockin *noun* a mushroom.

[Irish *beacán*. *See also* bockenbarra.]

bockle *noun, childish* a common glass container.

bockogue *noun* an armful of turf or peat sods.

bodach, bodagh, buddagh, budda *noun* **1** a churlish, uncouth or dirty man. **2** a miserly man. **3** an old man. **4** a stout, well-to-do, self-satisfied man. **5** a stout boy. **6** *also* **butty** a small, stout man.

[Irish *bodach* "a churl; a well-to-do fellow".]

bodder, boddered *see* bother.

bodkin *noun* a third person squeezed in where there is normally only room for two people.

bodle *noun* originally a small Scottish copper coin: *figuratively* a worthless thing, *usually* **not worth a bodle**

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown. *See also* brodle.]

body, buddy *noun* a person, anyone.

□ **a body's sel** one, a person *e.g.* *If a body's sel could get a bit o' peace, it wouldnae be sae bad.*

□ **body-clothes** clothes for wearing, as opposed to bedclothes.

□ **body-coat** a coat like a dress-coat, cut away in front, so as to leave a narrow pointed tail skirt behind. Usually made of frieze and worn with knee-breeches.

□ **body-lilty, bud-a-liltie** *adverb* **1** bodily. **2** heels over head.

◆ *noun* (the whole) lot.

□ **body-shirt** a man's undervest.

□ **everybody's body, and nobody's bit**

□ **in your body** naked.

□ **ivvery body's body's nobody's body** *proverbial* everybody's pal is nobody's pal.

□ **put over the body** overturn (a cart).

[Scots and occasionally English dialectal form *buddy*.]

body², bawdy *noun* a kind of stays formerly worn by children; a bodice.

bofat *noun* a buffet, *specifically* a corner cupboard for china.

boftly *adjective* untidy, wretched.

bog *verb* work in wet and dirty surroundings.

□ **as soft as buggan**

□ **bog-bailiff** an officer attached to an estate whose duty is to divide bog-land amongst the tenants.

□ **bog-bean, bogbine, bog-trefoil** a plant, the buckbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*.

□ **bog-berry** a wild flower: the marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*.

□ **bog bluiiter** *or* **bumper** a bird: the bittern *Botaurus stellaris* [no longer found in Ireland]; *cf.* blooter, blooterwheep. *Illustration see* mire.

□ **bog-cotton** cotton-grass *Eriophorum spp.*

□ **bog dark** very dark.

□ **bog-deal, bog-fir** a piece of bog-wood burnt for light.

□ **bog-gall, bog-all** the trailing willow *Salix repens* *e.g.* *I've no doubt (from K'Eogh's Botanologia), that this name was erroneously appl. by my informant - it is the old name of "Myrica gale", Dutch myrtle.*

□ **bogged** sunk in a bog or any soft place; *figuratively* stuck.

□ **bogging, boggin** *noun* **1** bog-mould, soil largely composed of peat. **2** a defeat in a contest of wit.

◆ *adjective* **1** dirty, filthy; *also figuratively*. **2** soaked, saturated.

- **bog goat** a bird: the common snipe *Gallinago gallinago*; *cf.* **air**.
- **bog-hole**:
- **bog in** set to vigorously (at work, in a fight *etc.*).
- **bog-Latin** bad, incorrect Latin.
- **bog-moul'** bog-mould, peat.
- **bog ore** iron in an ochreous state.
- **bog-quaw** a quagmire, a quaking bog; *see* **quaw**.
- **bog sorrel** a wild plant: the common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*.
- **bog sparrow** a bird: the reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

Illustration see **black**.

- **bog-trotter** a coarse, ignorant person [in England and Scotland, a derogatory term for an Irishman].
- **bog-wood** the remains of trees, usually fir, dug out of a bog.
[Standard English *bog* is from Irish *bog* "soft; a soft place".]

bog bluite *see* **bog**.

bogey *see* **bogie**.

bogey: **bogey hole** the hole aimed at in playing marbles.

- **boogie-man 1** *also* **bokey-man**, **boggyman** a bogey-man. **2** a scarecrow.
- **O, the wind an the rain / Brings me daddy home again / Keep away from the windy, boggyman** children's song.
[Shropshire form *boogy*, Shetland form *bokey*; *see* **bogle**.]

bogey¹ *noun* a bouquet.

boggle *verb* **boggle along** move unsteadily and hesitantly.

boggyman *see* **bogey**.

boghal *see* **bachle**, **bouchal**.

boghle *see* **bachle**.

boght *see* **bought**.

bogie, **bogey**, **buggie** *noun* a low vehicle for moving hay [*bogie* adopted in Standard English as a railway term].

[English dialectal.] [ILLUS: **bogie**]

bogle, **buggle** *noun* a bogle, a bogey-man, an object of terror [*bogle* also adopted in Standard English].

◆ *verb, of a horse* boggle, shy.

- **boggle-bo** a ghost.
- **boggler 1** a horse given to stumbling. **2** a bungler.
- **make a bogle 1** *of a horse* boggle, shy. **2** *of a person* boggle, bungle something.

[The group of words consisting of *bogle*, its originally Northern English form *boggle*, **bo** and **bogey** are probably all related. There are parallels in other Germanic languages (*e.g.* German *bögge*, *boggel-man*) and in the Celtic languages (*e.g.* Welsh *bwg*, *bygel nos*).]

boglus *noun* a wild flower: the bristly ox-tongue *Helminthia echinoides*.

boglus bwee *noun* a wild flower: the ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*.

[*Cf.* Irish *buachalán buí* "ragwort" and Irish *boglus* "ox-tongue". *See also* **bohlan**.]

bogue *noun* the throwing of a marble.

bohereen *see* **boreen**.

boher-man *see* **bocher-man**.

bohil *see* **bouchal**.

bohlan *noun* a wild flower: the ragwort.

[Hiberno-English *boliaun*, from Irish *buachalán buí*. *See also* **boglus bwee**, **yellow boy**.]

bohog *noun* a simple shed under which a priest said Mass during the Penal times.

boil *verb* **boiled upon** boiled in (a liquid).

- **boiled milk 1** porridge made of oatmeal and milk; *see also* **bailmilk**.
- 2** bread and milk.
- **boiling**

□ **it's boilin more rain, it's boilin for more rain** there is more rain brewing.

□ **the best of the boilin** the best of the bunch.

boilaghs *noun plural* fields.

boisterous *adjective* rough, savage, violent.

boke, boak, bock *verb* **1** retch, try unsuccessfully to vomit. **2** vomit. **3** belch.

□ **boky** inclined to vomit.

□ **dry boke, dry bokin** **1** retching. **2** a belching of wind.

[Scots and English dialectal, probably onomatopoeic.]

bokey *see* booky.

bokey-man *see* bogey.

boky *see* bawken.

bolaira, bolara *see* valaira.

bold, bowld, bould, bowl', boul', bauld, baul' *adjective* **1** bold, brave.

2 *specifically, of a boy or girl* bold, forward, impudent. **3** unconcerned, nonchalant. **4** *of a child* naughty, fractious, but not necessarily forward or spirited. **5** *of wind, weather* severe, harsh.

[Scots forms *bauld, baul'*; English dialectal *bowld, bould*.]

bole *noun* **1** a small recess in a wall, usually on either side of the fire-place, for holding small objects; a small cupboard in a wall. **2** an air-hole in the wall of a byre.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

boletree *see* bourtree.

boley *see* booley.

bolgam *noun* a mouthful.

[Irish *bolgam*.]

boll, bool, bow *noun* a measure of grain.

□ **boll of malt** *figuratively* a glass of whiskey.

[Scots and Northern English *boll*, Scots also *bow*. *Boll* is an older form of English *bowl*.]

bollier *noun* trouble, aggravation.

bolster, bowster *noun* **1** a bolster. **2** **bolster** a single thole-pin to which the oar is attached on a rowing boat.

[Scots and Northern English form *bowster*. *See also* booster.]

boltheen *noun* the short arm of a flail.

boludrim *noun* nonsense.

bonam *see* bonham.

bonaught *noun* a bunnog, an oatcake baked on a griddle.

bone, bane *noun* **1** a bone. **2** the hard fibre, the **shows**, of flax. **3** a hard centre in a parboiled potato [this makes the food appear to go further].

4 soil shovelled from between ridges and spread over potatoes [from the idea that this is the "marrow" or goodness of the soil].

◆ *verb, also* **bone hault of "bone"**, catch, seize; *hence* **(the) devil bane ye**; *see* hold.

□ **bane me if I (do etc.)** *emphaticnegative* a disguised oath.

□ **bone-cake** a kind of barley or oatmeal cake.

□ **bonefire** a bonfire. Frequently written in this older spelling

[Standard English has altered this to *bonfire* as if from French *bon* "good"]

□ **bonefire night** *Roman Catholic* the night of June 23rd, St. John's Eve [Protestants have bonfires on July 11th].

□ **bone-food** ? food rich in calcium that helps to build children's bones.

□ **bone-naked** completely naked.

□ **don't let the bone go with the dog** stand up for your rights.

□ **he'll not give (or throw) his bone to the dogs, catch him throwin' his bone to the dogs** he'll take care of himself.

□ **I have a bone in my arm** *or* **leg** an excuse given to children by a person unwilling to do what has been asked of him.

- **keep the bone green** *literally* keep the sore open: meaning don't settle the question in dispute yet.
- **know how many banes (bones) make five**
- **love the bones of someone** *e.g. I love the bones of the wee fella, but....*
- **make great bones about something** magnify the importance of any matter and talk as if it was a great affair.
- **saft words breaks no bones**
- **that which grows in the bone is hard to drive out in the flesh** *proverbial*
- **there's not an old bone in his body, barring his hair** *jocular* a comment on someone's youthfulness.
[Scots and Northern English form *bane*.]
- boneen** *noun* a young pig.
[Irish *bainbhín*, from *banbh* (which gives *bonive*) + diminutive ending *-ín*.]
- Boney** *see* Bonyparte.
- bonham, bonam, banam, bonyon** *noun* a young pig; *cf.* banafan.
- bonive, banniv** *noun* **1** a young pig. **2** a runt, the weakest in a litter.
[Hiberno-English, from Irish *banbh*. *See also* banafan, boneen.]
- bonnans** *noun* a wild flower, hemlock.
- bonnety** *noun* **1** an odd-looking person. **2** a bush left untrimmed in a hedge.
[Apparently formed on *bonnet*.]
- bonnock** *see* bannock.
- bonny** *adjective* fine, handsome, pretty.
 - **bonny folk an' ragged folk are aye easy caught**
 - **I'll buy you a bonny new naethin an a whistle on the end of it** a promise made to a child by an adult going to a market or fair.
[Archaic in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), origin unknown.]
- bonny¹: bunyrawey** very sour milk.
- bonny clabber** *noun* thick, sour milk.
[Hiberno-English, from Irish *bainne clabair*, itself from *bainne* "milk" + *clabar* "thick, sour milk".]
- bonribbagh** *noun* a boil.
- bonyon** *see* bonham.
- Bonyparte** *noun, also Oul' Boney* a bogey-man: Napoleon Bonaparte; *see* old.
 - **Bony, Boney** Napoleon Bonaparte.
- boo** *see* bow¹.
- boo¹, baw** *noun* a louse.
[Scots and English dialectal *boo*, probably from French *pou*. *See also* boody, booky.]
- boo²** *noun* the bow of a boat *Co. Antrim*.
[Confused with Scots *boo* form of bow¹.]
- booch** *see* boogh.
- boodle** *noun* a glass marble.
- boody** *noun* a louse; a bug; *cf.* boo¹.
- boogh, booch** *noun* a slap, a punch; a thump, a heavy blow.
[Onomatopoeic.]
- boogie-man** *see* bogey.
- booie** *see* bow¹.
- book, beuk** *noun* a book.
 - **know your book** be well-informed.
 - **talkin' like a haepenny/penny/tuppenny book**
[Scots and Northern English form *beuk*.]
- bookit, bouked** *adjective* -sized, in size, *thus* **big-** or **wee-bookit**
[Scots; partly from Old English *būc* "the belly", partly Scots form of

bulk¹.]

booky, bawkie, bokey *noun* a louse; *cf.* boo¹.

bool *see* boll, bowl².

bool¹ *noun* **1** the curved handle of a bucket, pot, griddle, *etc.* **2 (a)** the circular top of a key; **(b)** one of the finger holes of a pair of scissors; **(c)** the loop on a griddle to which the handle is attached. **3** the bowl of a spoon. **4** *in plural* pot-hooks for hanging a pot over an open fire. **5** a three-legged support for a bread-iron. [ILLUS: bool]

□ **booldy** club-footed; splay-footed.

□ **booled oars** *historical* a kind of oar used by the fishermen of the Scotch quarter of Carrickfergus [*cf.* Northumberland *bool* "a rounded staple for working on the thole pin; an iron plate attached to the oar with a round eye in the centre through which the thole pin passes"].

□ **boolie**:

□ **boolie-legged** bow-legged.

[Scots and Northern English, from Middle Dutch *boghel* "a hoop, a ring".]

bool² *noun, usually derogatory* a man, a fellow.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

booldy *see* bool¹.

booler *see* bowl².

booley, boley *noun, historical* summer pastures and the temporary dwellings associated with them. Usually spelled *boley* in place-names.

◆ *verb* herd cows on summer pastures.

□ **booleying** the practice of transhumance (*i.e.* moving with the flocks to summer pastures).

□ **even a booley with a full in it is better than an empty booley** *proverbial*

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *buaille*.]

boolia-botha, bullia-bottha, beelybatter *noun, also batterbolyay* a row, a commotion, an uproar.

[Possibly from Irish *buille bata* "a blow with a stick" or *bualadh bata(i)* "the striking of (a) stick(s)". Some forms are apparently influenced by English *batter*.]

booltyin *noun* the swipple of a flail. *Illustration see* soople².

[Irish *buaitín*.]

boom: boom-out position (the sails of a boat) to make the most of a light wind.

boo-man *see* bo.

boon, bone *Co. Monaghan, noun* a band of workers *e.g.* at reaping, shearing or peat-cutting.

[Scots and Northern English *boon* "voluntary help given to a farmer by his neighbours"; possibly reinforced by Irish *buidhean*, Monaghan Irish *bodhan* "a company".]

boord *see* board.

boor'd *adjective* bored.

boordy *see* board.

boortree *see* bourtree.

boose *see* boss¹.

boose *noun* **1** a stall for a horse or cow. **2** *figuratively, frequently* a snug boose a lucrative post.

□ **randy-boose**:

[Scots and Northern English, from Old English **bōs*.]

boost *see* boss¹.

booster *noun* a bolster, one of the supports of a cart, resting on the axle; *cf.* bolster.

boot¹ *noun* money given to equalise a barter *e.g.* *How much of boot will you give?*; *see also* aboot², butty.

boot², buit *noun* a boot.

- **better to wear out boots nor sheets** *said of a child.*
- **booter** a hard kick given to another person.
- **boot-mouth** *noun* the opening of a boot where the tongue meets the uppers.
- **put the boots on someone** overcome someone in an argument *etc.*
- **the boot is on the other leg** "the boot is on the other foot", the case is otherwise.

[Scots and Northern English form *buit.*]

Boosterstown:

boother brogue *noun* a game resembling "hunt the slipper".

boothie *see* bothy.

bootian *noun* food for hens, made by pouring boiling water over maize meal *Co. Fermanagh.*

[Origin unknown.]

booze: **booze** drunk.

- **boozy** drunken, fond of alcohol.

borach, boragh *see* bourach¹.

borborygmi *noun* the sound of rumbling in the stomach.

bord *see* bird¹.

bore *verb, of a horse* rush straight on with the head down and the bit between its teeth. *hence* **borer** a horse that does this.

boreen, bohereen, boren *noun* a narrow lane; a byroad.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *bóthairín* "a lane", itself from *bóthar* "a road" (*cf.* *batter*²) + diminutive suffix *-ín.*]

boren *see* boreen.

boretree *see* bourtree.

borey hole *noun* down-dwelling.

borgeegle *noun* **1** a mistake that spoils a piece of work. **2** a mess, an unappetising plate of food.

[Origin unknown.]

borl *see* birl.

born *see* burn¹.

born *adjective* used as an intensifier *e.g.* *a born shame* a great shame.

- **all your born days** all your life since birth.
- **born image** someone who closely resembles another.

boron *see* bowraun.

borr *see* bother, brother.

borra *see* barrow¹, barrow².

borradugh *see* barradugh.

borrow *see* barrow¹, barrow², bourach¹.

borrow, borra, barra *verb* borrow.

- **borrowing days** the last three days of March in the old calendar, now the first three days in April. It is said that the weather will not improve until after the borrowing days, because April lends these days to March to skin Branny, the brindled cow; *hence, proverbial* **when the borrowing days are past, the old cow laughs**; *see also* reevogue.

- **it's borrowing days with him or her seven days out of every week** *pun* said of someone who is always borrowing.

- **one word borrowed another until they fell out** they scolded one another, until they fell out.

[Scots and English dialectal form *borra*, Hiberno-English form *barra.*]

borrowing *noun* a group doing communal farm work such as threshing or potato planting; *cf.* borrow, morrow.

bose *see* boss¹.

bosom *noun* **1** *also* **buzzom** the bosom. **2** the middle part of a salmon-fishing net, made of finer mesh.

[Scots and English dialectal form *buzzom.*]

boss¹, bose, boose, bost, boast, boost *adjective* **1** hollow. **2** *specifically* referring to a goose, because of the lack of breast meat. **3** *of a potato, etc.*

decayed, empty inside.

□ **as bose as a barrel**

□ **boastit** *of a surface* hollow behind or underneath.

□ **the goose is a bonny bird if it was not so bose, it's a pity it's so boast, a goose is a poast bird - too much for wan (one), too little for two**

[Scots *boss*, *bose* "hollow, empty"; origin unknown.]

boss² *noun* **1** a bass, a hassock. **2** a large block of dried peat used as a seat.

3 a tussock of grass.

□ **as dry as a boss**

□ **bass-bag** a carpenter's tool-basket.

□ **bass-mat** a straw mat.

□ **bossag** **1** a stool made of straw. **2** a tussock of grass.

[*Boss* + Irish diminutive ending *-óg*.] [ILLUS: bossag]

[Hiberno-English and Scots form of *bass*, influenced by English *boss* "a rounded protuberance".]

boss³: **bossing taw** a large taw used in playing marbles.

boss⁴ *noun* a fair-sized stone.

bossock, **bussock** *noun*, also **buzzacker** a blow, *especially* on the ear.

[Irish *bosóg*, from *bos* "the palm of the hand" + diminutive ending *-óg*.]

boast *see* boast, boss¹.

bostoon, **bosthoon**, **bossoon** *noun* an awkward boy; a big, awkward fellow; a stupid, tactless fellow.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *bastún*.]

botch, **bodge** *verb* botch, do (a piece of work) clumsily.

□ **botcher** a cobbler.

□ **the botched job and the botcher are well matched**

[Altered form *bodge* obsolete in Standard English.]

both, **baith** *adjective*, frequently **the both** both.

[Scots and Northern English form *baith*.]

bother, **borr** *verb* **1** bother [*bother* also adopted in Standard English].

2 also **bodder** deafen, confuse with incessant noise. **3** give trouble (in the doing of something) *e.g.* *The doctor says it'll bother him to recover.*

□ **botheration** *noun* bother, annoyance; confusion, noise. *of a child*, affectionate a nuisance.

□ **bothered** **1** also **boddered** deaf. **2** **bothered in the mind** mentally disturbed.

□ **bothersome** *adjective* troublesome, irritating.

[*Bother* originally Hiberno-English; apparently from Middle Irish *búaidred*, *buadram* (Modern Irish *buaireamh*) "to disturb, to trouble" or Middle Irish *bodrugad* (Modern Irish *bodhrú*) "to deafen". If so, the word must have been borrowed before the thirteenth century. English *puther*, *pudder* (now altered to *pother*), of unknown origin, has also been suggested.]

bothie *see* bothy.

bothog, **bohog** *noun* a poor-looking, dirty, ruined hovel, generally used for sheep, ducks or geese.

bothom *noun* a bottom, the bottom.

[Old form, still general dialectal and Scots. *See also* bottom.]

bothy, **bothie**, **boothie** *noun* **1** a rough lodging, such as a shed, for a labourer, provided by the employer. **2** an outside toilet.

[Scots "a rough lodging", from Scottish Gaelic *both* "a hut" (corresponding to Irish *both*).]

bottle¹, **battle**, **baddle** *noun* **1** a bottle (of straw, hay, *etc.*), an armful of hay or straw tied, with its own strands, into a compact bundle; a ton of straw compressed into an oblong shape and tied with wire [archaic in Standard English]. **2** a small amount (of hay, snow, *etc.*).

◆ *verb* make (hay) into bottles.

□ **bottle of colours** a wild flower, the corn bluebottle *Centaurea cyanus*.

- **gathering strows** *or* **straes** *or* **straws** and **losing battles** *or* **bottles** paying unnecessary attention to details and losing sight of a greater objective.
- **Joy be with you and a bottle of moss:/ If you don't come back, you'll be no great loss** *rhyme*
- **jump over battles to lift straws, jump over bottles an' lift sthroes** **1** *proverbial* neglect good opportunities in favour of bad ones. **2** **he jumps over bottles an' lifts sthroes** "he strains at a gnat and swallows a camel".
- **look for a needle in a bottle of hay** *or* **straw** *proverbial* "look for a needle in a haystack".
- **Two men thrashin'/ A wee bird pickin'/ An' an owl' man bottlin' straw** a child's play formed with the fingers.
[Hiberno-English forms *battle*, *baddle*; *battle* also Western and South-Western Scots.]
- bottle², battle** *noun* a bottle.
 - **a bottle by the neck** a drink of alcohol to be served in the bottle, rather than in a glass.
 - **bottle-night, bottle-drink** (**a**) the stag-night, the night before the wedding-day; (**b**) the night after the wedding day.
 - **bottle of smoke** nothing.
 - **bottle-shouldered** round-shouldered.
 - **lik a bottle** *of a road surface* slippery, like glass.
- bottom** *noun* a reel on which thread is wound.
 - **bottom-peat** peat from a lowland bog.
 - **have no bottom** *of a plan, rumour, etc.* have no foundation, be unreliable.
 - **not be able to bottom something** not be able to "get to the bottom of" something, not be able to fully understand something.
See also bothom.
- botýn** *noun* a small stick.
- bouch** ["ch" pronounced like "gh" in "lough"] *noun* the loud grunt made by a pig when surprised.
 - ◆ *verb* cough noisily.
[Scots "a bark; bark, cough", onomatopoeic.]
- bouchal, boghal, bohil** *noun* **1** a boy, a youth, a young man. **2** a timid man who does not put up a fight. **3** a younger son. **4** a playboy, a wild young man.
[Irish *buachaill*.]
- bouchaleen** *noun* a little boy. used familiarly in affection or contempt
- bought** *see* buy.
- bought, boucht, boght** *noun* a curve or bend, *especially* the hollow or curve of the elbow or knee.
 - **bought-legged** bandy-legged.
[*Bought* obsolete in Standard English (latterly Scots, with *ch* pronounced, and Northern English); possibly from Middle Low German *bucht*, or an alteration of English *bight*.]
- bouked** *see* bookit.
- boul** *see* bowl¹.
- boul', bould** *see* bold.
- boult** *verb* bolt.
 - ◆ *noun, verb* bolt.
 - **bolter** a rough, pointed, poor quality seed potato.
[Scots and Northern English form.]
- boun'** *see* bind.
- boun** *adjective* **1** ready, prepared. **2** determined, resolved.
[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and Northern English); from Old Norse *búinn* "prepared". Now altered to *bound* in Standard English, as in *outward bound*.]

bounce *noun* a bossy person.

□ **bouncing, bouncin** *noun* loud talking, bragging.

◆ *adjective* romping, boisterous; strong, robust, large; fine of its kind.

boundary *noun* the game of rounders.

bounty *noun* some kind of payment made to a scutcher.

bourach¹, borach, boragh, borrow, barrough, beerach *noun* **1** a straw rope used to tether a cow or calf in the byre. **2** a band put round the front or hind-legs of a cow to prevent her kicking while being milked; *cf.* illustration at langle.

◆ *verb* tie up (a cow).

□ **bourach ring** the ring to which the bourach is attached.

[Irish *buarach*, also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *buarach*.]

bourach² *noun* **1** a hovel, a small, dilapidated house. **2** a rabbit burrow.

[Scots "a mound; a humble dwelling"; possibly formed on Scots *bour* form of *bower*.]

bourtree, boortree, boretree, boletree *noun, also boortree bush* the elder *Sambucus nigra*.

□ **bourtree gun** a popgun made of elder-wood.

[Scots and Northern English *bourtree, boortree, boretree*. The later form *boretree* may have been influenced by the idea of boring out the young branches to make popguns. The Scots form *bour* of *bower* has been suggested; *cf.* *bourach²*.]

bout¹ *noun* **1** a pleasant or successful time, *e.g.* an outing. **2** a short, severe attack of illness. **3** a quantity of thread, *etc.*, wound in one direction onto a clew. **4** threads of the warp taken from the edge of a web of yarn, and used as cord.

bout² *exclamation* **bout horse** a command to a horse to (a) go about, move round; (b) lift its foot.

[Colloquial English 'bout, shortened form of *about*. *Cf.* *about¹*.]

boutie *noun* **1** bread boiled with milk. **2** *in plural, childish* porridge.

[*Cf.* Scots *bout, boot*; form of *bolt, bould* "to sift (meal)".]

'**bout ye** *see* how, what.

bow *see* boll.

bow¹, boo *noun* **1** a bow, a curve. **2** an attachment to a scythe, made from wire and calico or other materials, to prevent the cut stalks from falling backwards.

◆ *verb* bow, curve. [ILLUS: bow]

□ **booie: boo-leggit, also booie-legged** splay-footed.

□ **bow and brads** a pair of scales, a balance; *see* brads, *cf.* beam.

□ **bowe-legit** bow-legged.

□ **bowt** bowed, bent, crooked; bandy-legged.

[Rhymes with "cow" in Scots. Scots form also *boo*.]

bow² *noun* **1** the seed boll of flax; *see also* blue. *Illustration see* blue.

2 the seed-capsules of a wild flower, purging flax *Linum catharticum*.

[Scots form.]

bowl' *see* bold.

bowl¹, boul *noun* a bowl.

□ **he niver forgot the bowl he was baked in** said of a man who always remembered his native village. **forget the bowl you were baked in** put on airs.

□ **not a bowl in the dresser** totally toothless.

[Scots pronunciation rhyming with "owl".]

bowl², bool *noun* **1** the ball used in the game of hurling. **2** *also* **boolie, booler** a large glass marble.

□ **lang bowls, also road bowls; usually the lang bowls, etc.** the game of bullets; *see* long.

[Scots form *bool*.]

bowld *see* bold.

bownd *noun* a porridge bowl.

[Scots *boyne, bowen* "a shallow tub"; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian *bûna*.]

bowraun, bawraun, boron *noun* **1** a shallow, single-headed drum. **2** a hoop with a skin stretched over it, used for winnowing or carrying corn.

*Illustration see weight*². **3** a stupid person. [ILLUS: bowraun]

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *bodhrán* literally "little deafener".]

bowster *see* bolster.

bowt *see* bow¹.

box¹ *noun* **1** *also* **boxing, boxin** the moveable upper boards of the casing of a cart. *Illustration see wing*¹. **2** the reproductive organs of a cow or mare.

□ **box and bud (potatoes)** grow (potatoes) in boxes, so as to bud them before setting them in the fields.

□ **box-barra** **1** a handbarrow. **2** a wheel-barrow.

□ **box-bed** **1** a bed in the form of a large box with sliding panels for doors. **2** a bed that folds up into a box.

□ **box-pulpit** an old-fashioned type of pulpit.

□ **box-snail** a garden snail.

□ **box-walking, box-walker** a horse that wears itself out walking round and round its box.

□ **box wrack, boxie-wrack** a seaweed: bladderwrack *Fucus vesiculosus* [from the air capsules]; *see wrack*¹.

□ **put or keep someone in their box** bring or keep someone under control.

box² *noun* a blow, not necessarily on the head.

□ **box your brains** "cudgel your brains", think hard to remember something.

□ **looking for boxing** trying to pick a quarrel.

box³: **green box** box-wood; an evergreen put up at Christmas.

boxty, buxty *noun* **1** *also* **boxty-bread** a kind of stodgy, but filling, potato bread made from grated raw potatoes mixed with mashed cooked potatoes and oatmeal or flour, and baked, usually on a griddle. **2** fried potatoes and leftovers.

□ **Boxty on the griddle / Boxty on the pan / If you don't eat boxty / You'll never get a man** *rhyme*

[Hiberno-English, also in Irish as *bocstai, bacstai*; origin unknown.]

boy, bhoi *noun* **1** a man of any age, *especially* if unmarried [outside Ireland, this would be a playful or derogatory use of the word]. **2** as a term of address, implying masculine camaraderie [*cf. old boy* in England]; *cf. girl*. **3** a male friend who accompanies a man when formally asking for a woman's hand in marriage; *at a wedding* the best man. **4** *in exclamations* someone remarkable, good or bad *e.g. They are the boys!* [also used in expressions of encouragement or admiration in Standard English]. **5** *derogatory* a high-spirited or forward woman. **6** anything extreme, whether good or bad *e.g. It's a boy when ye hae tae dae a' yoursel*; *see also lad*. **7** **the boy** *euphemism* an infectious disease such as cold or flu.

□ **boyo** **1** a lively, fun-loving fellow. **2** *derogatory* a fellow, a lad. **3** a country fellow. **4** a troublesome fellow; *figuratively e.g. That's the boyo of a day*.

[Hiberno-English, strengthened form.]

□ **boys a boys!, boys oh boys, boys alive!, boys a dear!, boys dear!, boy oh!, boys oh!, o boys oh!** *exclamation s* expressing surprise; *cf. man*¹.

□ **oul' boy** **1** an old bachelor. **2** **the oul' boy, the Old Boy himself** the devil.

□ **that's a new boy for you** *i.e.* you'll get a new boyfriend; said to a girl whom you have accidentally addressed by the wrong name.

□ **the boy wi the peg in his hat** *euphemism* death.

bra *see* braw.

bra¹ *noun* a quern, a handmill.

brablach, brabloch *noun* refuse, leavings.

[Irish *brablach* "refuse, leavings; a rabble". *See also* brablins.]

brablins *noun plural* crowds *e.g.* of children; a rabble; *cf.* brablach.

brace *noun* **1** *also* chimney-brace a bressumer, a beam supporting a chimney canopy. **2** *loosely* (a) a chimney canopy, usually one made of wattle and clay. *Illustration see* chimney; (b) a fireplace in general.

brach *see* brough.

brachan *see* brochan.

brachin *see* braighum.

brachle *verb* burst through with a tearing sound, *e.g.* of an animal bursting through a hedge.

[Scots "move noisily", onomatopoeic.]

brack *see* break.

bracken¹, **brecken, brakem, breckem**, *also incorrectly* breakin; *plural also; incorrectly* breakings; *noun, usu in plural* **1** a fern: bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*. **2** larger species of fern in general. **3** *in plural* a piece of ground covered with bracken [*cf.* the confusion in Standard English between *brake* "bracken" and *brake* "a thicket"].

□ **brackney** consisting of bracken *e.g.* brackney roans.

[Scots and Northern English form *brecken*. *Breaking(s)* is possibly influenced by *brake*.]

bracken²: **bracken-cloth** *noun, historical* a home-made tartan plaid.

[Irish *breacán* "a plaid", from *breac* "speckled" (*cf.* bracky²) + diminutive ending *-án*.]

brackfist *see* break.

brackle *verb* break, crumble to pieces.

[Midland English, form of bruckle. *Cf.* break.]

bracky¹ *adjective, of water* brackish.

[Old form, still English dialectal.]

bracky² *adjective* **1** *of animals or birds* speckled. **2** *of bread* having dried fruit in it; *see also* barnbrack.

◆ *noun, in plural* mountain sheep; *cf.* brocked.

[Apparently from Irish *breac* "speckled". *Cf.* bracken², brockach, brocked.]

brad *noun* an awl.

bradden *noun* a salmon.

brade *noun* a snowflake.

brads, breds *noun plural* flat boards, taking the place of scale pans, on which things are placed to be weighed.

[Scots *bred* "a board", from Old English *bred*. *See also* beam, bow¹.]

brae *noun* **1** *also* braeside a hillside, a steep bank. **2** a stretch of road with a steep gradient. **3** *also* brae-head the top of a hill. **4** a hill, a hillock.

□ **brae face** the slope of a hill.

□ **doon the räd brae** down the throat.

[Scots and Northern English; from Old Norse *brá* "an eyelid", hence presumably "an eyebrow" and thus "the brow of a hill".]

brag *verb* defy, challenge.

◆ *adjective* excellent, very good.

braggot *noun* part of a cart, ? a bracket.

braich *noun* breach.

braid *see* broad.

braighin *see* braighum.

braighlin *see* brallion.

braighum, brechem, braighin, brachin, brehan *noun* **1** (a) *also* back braighum a straw pad protecting the back of a donkey or horse on either side of the straddle. *Illustration see* bardock; (b) *also* neck braighum a straw pad to protect a horse's neck from the horse collar. **2** a straw rope

supporting the panniers on a pack-horse.

[Scots and Northern English *bargham*, *brechem*; Scots also *braichum*, *brachin* "a horse collar"; apparently from Old English *beorgan* "to protect", + Old English *hama* "a covering".]

brain *noun* the sprouting of corn when the green shoots appear.

◆ *verb*, of corn appear above ground.

braird *see* breard.

braithlin *see* brallion.

brak *see* break.

brake, **braik** *noun* **1** a double harrow, drawn by two horses. **2 braik** a mallet formerly used for bruising flax to prepare it for scutching at home.

brake¹ *noun* the common bracken *Pteris aquilis*.

brakem *see* bracken¹.

brakit, **brakwish** *see* break.

brallaghan *noun* a sturdy boy.

brallion *see* breallan.

brallion *noun* a shellfish: **(a)** also **braighlin**, **braithlin** a trough shell, *Spisula elliptica*, Co. Donegal; **(b)** the common sand gaper *Mya arenaria*.

[*Cf.* Galloway *brallion* "an unwieldy creature", from Scottish Gaelic **breilleán*, Irish *breallán* (*see* breallan).]

brallions *noun plural* old clothes.

brally *noun* **1** a loud noise. **2** a string of oaths.

[*Cf.* *brall*, obsolete form of English *brawl*.]

bramble, **brammle** *noun* **1** a shrub: the bramble. **2** brushwood, twigs and broken branches.

□ **brambled**, **brammelly** bow-legged; knock-kneed.

□ **there's allus as much brammle roun a house as'll born it** everyone has faults if you look for them.

[Scots and Northern English form *brammle*. *See also* brummel.]

bramish *see* brannish.

brammelah, **bramlah** *noun* garden rubbish; *cf* bramble.

brammelly, **brammle** *see* bramble.

bran *see* brochan.

bran *noun*, also **bran-pig** a boar.

[Scots form of English dialectal and Southern Scots *brawn* "a boar" (in Standard English "the flesh of the boar").]

branded, **brannit** *adjective*, of an animal brindled, having streaks or bands of colour.

□ **branny 1** branded. **2 Branny** a name for a brindled cow.

[Northern form *branded* of archaic English *brinded* "brindled"; possibly influenced by Scandinavian, *cf.* Norwegian *brandet*. Scots forms *brannit*, *branny*. Probably related to *brent* (*see* *brent-new*) and English *brand*.]

brander, **brandher**, **branner** *noun* a gridiron for cooking over an open fire. *Illustration see* griddle.

□ **as thin as a brander**

[Scots and Northern English *brander*, Scots also *branner*; shortened form either of obsolete Standard English *brandreth* (from Old Norse *brand-reið* literally "a burning stand") or obsolete Standard English *brandiron* "a gridiron".]

brandize *verb* brandish; *see also* brannish.

brandreth *noun* an iron framework, placed over or before the fire, on which to rest utensils in cooking.

brank-new *adjective* brand-new.

[Scots form. *See also* *brent-new*.]

branks *noun plural* used as a singular **1** a martingale, a leather strap to prevent a horse throwing up its head. **2** a halter. **3** a wooden head-piece for a cow to which a tether is attached.

[Scots "a kind of halter or bridle", origin unknown.]

branks¹: **branks and pranks** frivolity, horseplay.

branner *see* brander.

brannish, brennish, bramish, bremmish *noun* **1** a dash, a furious rush or blow. **2** a feint, a move as if to strike someone *e.g.* *He made a bremmish at me.* **3** an act of pretension, showing-off. **4** a seemingly advantageous offer.

◆ *verb* rush at anything; make an ostentatious start on a piece of work, *etc.*

[Scots form *brannish*, East Anglian form *bramish*, of English *brandish*.

See also wampish.]

brannit, Branny, branny *see* branded.

branny-faced *adjective* freckle-faced.

[East Anglian *brans* "freckles", *branny* "freckled"; from French *brande Iudas* "freckles".]

brash *noun* **1** a spell of work, *especially* a turn at churning. **2** a short, severe attack of illness; *also* **the weaning brash, the teething brash, etc.** **3** a rash on the skin. **4** a sudden shower, *especially* of hail.

◆ *verb* churn.

□ **brashins** the froth raised by churning.

□ **brashy** delicate, sickly, subject to brashes.

□ **water-brash** a feeling of sickness, accompanied by a watery eructation from a sour stomach.

[Scots and English dialectal, onomatopoeic. *See also* sprash.]

brasna *see* broсна.

brasted, brust, brist *adjective* burst.

[Old forms *brast, brust*; Northern English *brist* "to burst". *See also* burst.]

brat¹ *noun* **1** an apron. **2** a child's pinafore. **3** the cape forming part of a girl's Irish dancing costume. **4** a rag, an old cloth. **5** a rug, a coarse cloth. **6** a light covering of snow.

□ **brat-rope** a rope used to adjust the mouth and tail of a coghel net.

[Scots and English dialectal "an apron; a rag"; from Celtic sources, and in some senses from the corresponding Irish *brat* "a cloak; a covering of snow". *See also* brattag.]

brat²: brat-walloper *jocular* a teacher.

brattag, brattock *noun* **1** a rag. **2** *specifically* a red rag tied to the leg of a cow as a protection against the evil eye. **3** *usually in plural* ragged clothes. **4** a snowflake.

[Irish *bratóg* "a rag; a garment; a ragged quilt", Donegal Irish "a snowflake"; from *brat* (*see* brat¹) + diminutive ending *-óg*.]

brattle *noun* **1** a loud noise resembling thunder. **2** *also* **thunder-brattle** a peal (of thunder); the sound of thunder.

◆ *verb* hurry.

[Scots and Northern English, onomatopoeic.]

brattock *see* brattag.

brave *adjective* **1** said of anything fine or good of its kind [archaic in Standard English]. **2** *specifically, of a person* bold, unconcerned, nonchalant *e.g.* *Afterwards, I meets my brave Andy walkin down the street.* **3** in good health, improved in health. **4** before another adjective to intensify its sense: very *e.g.* *She's a brave tidy maid; cf. and.*

◆ *adverb* **1** very well. **2** *of number, amount* great, considerable, *thus e.g.*

a brave clatter, a brave drap, a brave few, a brave lock, a brave when; *see* clatter, drap, lock², when.

□ **A'm doin' bravely, like the bread on the griddle, the longer the harder**

□ **brave-looking** fine-looking, handsome.

□ **bravely** *adverb* **1** very well. **2** greatly, to a large extent.

◆ *adjective* in good health; *of health* good, improved *e.g.* *How's your health? Bravely;* *see also* bad.

□ **he has tuk a brave taste** he is partly intoxicated.

See also brow.

braw, bra *adjective* **1** fine, pleasing. **2** *specifically, of a person* well-dressed; handsome. **3** *of the weather* fine, fair.

□ **a haw year is a braw year** *proverbial*

□ **brawly** *adverb* very well.

◆ *adjective* **1** in good spirits. **2** fine, good *e.g. a brawlie child.*

□ **every day bra makes Sunday a da, every day braw maks Sunday a daw, a'days braw an' on Sundays a daw** *proverbial*

[Scots forms of brave.]

brawn *see* brochan.

bray *see* bree.

bray *noun* a crumbly type of stone.

[Scots *brie(-stone)* "sandstone, etc. pounded down for rubbing on doorsteps"; from English *bray* "to pound", itself from Old French *breier*.]

brazen *noun* a kind of fish; ? brazer.

brazier, brazier, brazy *noun* a fish: **(a)** the red sea-bream *Pagellus bogaraveo*; **(b)** the pout *Trisopterus luscus*; **(c)** the poor-cod *Trisopterus minutus*.

[*Cf.* Scots *braze* "the roach; the minnow", origin unknown.]

bread, breed, breid *noun* bread.

□ **bread and butter, and tith, thith, thith** a child is asked to repeat this, and when he gets to the last syllable the tongue gets to between the teeth, and when someone gives him an unexpected blow under the chin, of course the tongue gets bitten.

□ **bread and cheese** the leaf-buds of the hawthorn.

□ **bread-iron** a gridiron. *Illustration see* griddle.

□ **breadsnapper** *jocular* a child, *especially* a growing child who eats a lot.

□ **bread-stick** a support for an oatcake being hardened off in front of an open fire; *cf.* madgie-aran. [ILLUS: bread-st]

□ **like the bread on the griddle, the longer, the harder** a reply by an old person to the question "How are you?".

□ **Who dare say bread? Bread! Now then pull three hairs out of his head!** an exchange of words used in starting a fight between boys; *cf.* buff³.

[Scots and Northern English form *breed, breid*.]

break, brack, brak, breck; *past tense and past participle broke, brok, bruck, brak*; *past participle also brakit*; *verb* **1** break. **2** have (a person) dismissed from his or her job. **3** ruffle (someone's temper). **4** embarrass and hurt. **5** *of milk* crack, begin to clot, curdle.

◆ *noun* a break.

□ **brackfist, breksfast, breakwist, breckwist, brakwish, buckwhist, breakwus, brekwuss** breakfast.

□ **break bread** *usually negative* eat.

□ **break by kind** be different in habits, disposition, etc. from your parents.

□ **break-ditch** a cow that is given to breaking out of the field.

□ **break fence** *of sheep or cattle* break out, stray.

□ **breaking: breakin out** a skin rash.

□ **break out fine** *of the weather* become fine.

□ **break someone's face** break the skin of someone's face.

□ **break up** *of the weather* clear up.

□ **broken, broke, bruck** **1** broken. **2** *of milk* **(a)** cracked, curdled; **(b)** soured. **3** disappointed, broken, crushed in spirit; insulted, ignored, extremely embarrassed, *thus* **broke dead, broke to the bone.**

□ **broken bridges** a children's game: Oranges and Lemons.

□ **broken-down tradesman** a boys' game.

□ **like a broken-down fence** said of someone with missing teeth.

□ **not a broken bit** *of a person* in good condition.

□ **not to break your discourse** an introductory remark said when interrupting a conversation.

□ **take the break off** create a distraction to lessen the embarrassment of (a

situation).

[Present tense: Scots *brack*, *brak*; Scots and Northern English *breck*.

Past tense: Yorkshire *brok*, Scots and English dialectal *bruck*, Scots and Northern English *brack*. Past participle: general dialectal and Scots *broke*, Scots and English dialectal *bruck*, Scots *brack*. Cf. *brock*?.]

breakings *see* bracken¹.

breallan, brallion *noun* **1** a foolish-looking person. **2** a good-for-nothing, a lazy person.

[Irish *breallán* "a foolish fellow", *see also* brallion.]

breard, braird, brerd *noun* **1** the first shoots of young corn showing above ground. **2** the sprouting of corn or other plants when the green shoots appear.

◆ *verb* **1** *of a growing plant* sprout, appear. **2** fill a gap in a hedge with cut branches.

[Scots *breard*, *braird*; from Old English *brerd* "a border, a surface". *See also* abraird.]

breast, breest *noun* the breast.

◆ *verb* **1** breast, mount (a horse, wall, *etc.*) by jumping up and levering with the chest against it. **2** cut (peat) horizontally, exerting your strength through the chest and upper arms.

□ **breast-cutting** the cutting of peat horizontally.

□ **breast-spade** **1** a breast-slane (*see* slane), a type of spade used for cutting horizontally into a peat-bank. *Illustration see* slane. **2** a flaughter. *Illustration see* flaughter.

□ **high it hangs on leather strings / It's all men's mate an no-one ates it riddle.**

[Scots and English dialectal *breest*; *see also* abreest. Standard English has altered the vowel.]

breath: **change your breath** *euphemism* drink alcohol.

brech *noun* a badger.

brechem *see* braighum.

breck *see* break.

breckem, brecken *see* bracken¹.

breckwist *see* break.

breeds *see* brads.

bree, Bray *noun* **1** broth, stock; soup. **2** the water in which potatoes, turnips, *etc.* have been boiled.

□ **potato bree** water in which potatoes have been boiled.

[Scots and Northern English, from Middle English *brē*.]

breece-barrel *noun* a carpenter's brace.

breed *see* bread.

breed: **bred and born** born and bred.

□ **breed a trade** start a row, make a scene.

□ **breedin is sometimes betther nor pasture**

□ **breed someone for** bring someone up to be (*e.g.* a doctor).

breednig *noun* breeding.

breedyeen, bregan *noun* a bird: the oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. *Illustration see* pyot.

[Cf. Scottish Gaelic *bridean* literally "Bridget's bird". *See also* saint.]

breek *noun* a brick.

□ **Are ye talkin' ti' me or chewin' a breek?** said in anger when you don't like the tone of someone's voice.

□ **breek-layer** a brick-layer.

□ **have a brick in your hat** be tipsy.

[Lancashire form *breek*, apparently retaining the original vowel of Old French *brique*.]

breeks *noun plural* breeches, trousers.

□ **the more ye hev got new breeches, don't forget yer oul' throwers**

□ **wear the breeks** *of a woman* "wear the trousers" in a marriage.

- **ye caanae tack breeks aaf a heelan maan**
- **you'll either get a wife, or a bigger pair of breeks**
[Scots and Northern English form. *Cf.* britchin.]
- breemin** *adjective* brimming, full to the brim *Co. Antrim.*
- breeenge, brindge** *verb* barge in, enter a place noisily.
[Scots *breeenge*, Western Scots also *brindge* "rush forward recklessly"; origin unknown.]
- breer** *see* briar.
- breest** *see* breast.
- breeste** *adjective* huge, unstinted.
- breeze** *noun* a quarrel.
◆ *verb* "blow your own horn", brag.
- breeze**² *noun* **1** small coal, fine coke. **2** *collectively* bricks.
- bregan** *see* breedyeen.
- brehan** *see* braighum.
- breid** *see* bread.
- breksfast, brekwuss** *see* break.
- bremmish** *see* brannish.
- brength** *see* brenth.
- breish** *noun* a branch.
- breinth, brength** *noun* breadth.
□ **breinth** broad.
[English dialectal and Scots *breinth*, influenced by *length*.]
- brent-new** *adjective* brand-new.
□ **brent** brand- *thus* **brent-clean** absolutely clean.
[Scots *brent-new* literally "burned new", as if fresh from the forge. *See also* brank-new.]
- breird** *see* breard.
- bress** *noun* brass.
□ **brass farthin, bress ferdin, brass fardin'**: **brass monkey** an inanimate object.
□ **brass neck, bress nawk** a brass neck.
□ **I wudnae gie twa brass farthins fer him**
□ **that wud make a brass monkey laugh**
[Scots form.]
- brew** *see* broo², broo⁴, broo⁵.
- brei** [vowel as in "bright"] *verb* bray *Co. Antrim.*
- brian braw** *noun* the purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*.
- brianoge, brinoge** *noun* **1** an idle play-boy; a fun-loving young man; a dashing young man. **2** a fool.
[Irish *brín óg* "a fun-loving bachelor".]
- briar, breer** *noun* a shrub: **(a)** the briar, the wild rose; **(b)** the bramble *Rubus fruticosus*.
□ **briar bunting** a bird: the corn bunting *Miliaria calandra*.
□ **hasty as a briar**
□ **out of the briar bush into the blackthorn** *proverbial* "out of the frying pan into the fire".
[Older form (still Scots and English dialectal) *breer*.]
- briar-bot** *noun* the angler fish *Lophius piscatorius*, also sometimes known as the monkfish.
[Irish *bráthair* "a monk; the angler fish" + an unknown element, possibly *bocht* "poor". *Cf.* friar.]
- bricht** *adjective* bright.
□ **brightify** brighten, cheer (something) up.
[Scots form.]
- bride**: **a bonny bride is soon buskit, a bonny bride is easy dressed, a purty bride's aisy busked** *proverbial*; *see also* dish.
□ **bride's part** the morning of the day of a wedding. Good weather is believed to be a sign of a happy future, bad weather of an unhappy one.

bridge *noun* the laggin of a wooden churn, *etc.*; *see also* brig. *Illustration see* laggin.

bridle: **bridle neb** a bird: (a) the puffin *Fratercula arctica*; (b) the razorbill *Alca torda*. *See* neb. [ILLUS: bridle/n]

brieulagh *noun* a squabble.

brig *noun* a bridge.

[Scots, Northern and Midland English form; from Old Norse *bryggja* "gangway" with the sense, however, of Old English *brycg*, which gives bridge.]

brilliant *see* brulyie.

brills *noun plural* spectacles, *especially* folding ones.

[From Dutch *brillen* "spectacles", also in Scots as *breels*.]

brim *verb*, *of a sow* be in season.

brime¹ *noun* brine.

[Scots form.]

brime² *noun* a fish: the bream *Co. Armagh*.

brimsy brown *noun* an undecided colour; *see also* dimps.

brindge *see* breenge.

brindly, brinly *adjective*, *of a cow, etc.* brindled in colouring.

bring; *past tense and past participle* **brung, brocht**; *verb* **1** bring. **2** take *e.g.* *Will you bring me with you?*; *cf.* fetch¹.

□ **bring-'m-near** a spy-glass, a small telescope.

[Past tense and past participle: Hiberno-English and English dialectal *brung*, Scots *brocht*.]

brinly *see* brindly.

brinoge *see* brianoge.

brioscar *noun* crumbs.

brisby *noun* a piece of oatcake.

brish *noun* broken fragments, such as small sticks.

brishy, brushy *adjective*, *of the hands or feet* chapped *Co. Donegal*.

[Possibly related to Irish *brus* "a fragment".]

brisk

□ **as brisk as a bee**

□ **brisken 1** refresh. **2** become refreshed, more lively, animated.

brisken *noun* a wild flower: silverweed *Potentilla anserina*.

[Irish *brioscán*, form of *briosclán*. *See also* biscuit, griskin.]

briskie: **break a briskie** announce something important.

brisler, brisley *see* bristle.

briss *see* birse.

brist *see* brasted, burst.

bristle, brissle, birsle *verb* **1** frizzle, roast; toast (potatoes boiled in their skins) until crisp; scorch *e.g.* *Don't be brissling your shins over the fire.*

2 *of something cooking or burning* crackle.

□ **brisler** a potato cooked amongst the embers.

□ **brisley** *adjective*, *especially of potatoes* frizzled, toasted, scorched.

◆ *noun* a name for a person susceptible to cold, a cauldribe person.

□ **brissled** roasted.

[Northern English and Scots *bristle, brissle*; Scots also *birsle*; origin unknown.]

britament *noun* a great amount.

britches: **cross britches**:

britchin, britching *noun* the breeching, part of a horse's harness.

[Scots and English dialectal form. *Cf.* breeks.]

brither *see* brother.

British: **British three-goer** *historical* a measure of whiskey: threepence worth; *cf.* three.

broach *noun* a rod used. (a) to hold down straw in thatching. (b) to hold down ropes on a haystack.

broad, braid *adjective* broad.

- **as braed as yer buit** *of dialect speech.*
- **as broad as a griddle**
- **as broad as he's long** stout and squat in figure.
- **braid feet** large peats, cut with a garden spade.
- **braid Scots** Scots, Lallans, the language or dialect of Lowland Scotland and parts of Ulster.
- **broadband** spread out (beats of flax) to dry after retting.
- **broad in the beam** having big hips.
- **broad spade** a garden spade (as distinct from a slane).
- **it's as braid as it's lang, like Paddy's blanket** it does not matter which of two ways a thing is done.
- **the broad of the** or **your back** the wide part of the back *e.g. I slid on the ice, an fell on the broad o my back.*
- **the Broad Stone** a cromlech in the parish of Finvoy, County Antrim.
[Scots and Northern English form *braid*.]

broadawl *noun* a bradawl.

broad-cast *verb, of seed* sow, scatter by hand.

- ◆ *adverb* sown by hand.

broch *see* brough.

brochan, broghan, broughan, brohan, brachan, brawn, bran *noun*

1 porridge, *frequently* treated as plural, *cf.* porridge **2** oatmeal gruel.

3 oatmeal mixed with water. **4** gruel fed to livestock. **5** scraps fed to pigs; *cf.* brock².

- **brachan dish, brohan dish, broughin bowl, brochan bowl** a porridge bowl.
- **brochan-house** *literally* porridge house: a place where maize meal, or porridge made from it, was given out during the Famine.
- **brochan pandy** a porridge bowl; *see* pandy².
- **brochan-ray, brochan-roy** gruel, thin porridge.
- **never bless brochan** *saying* meaning that brochan is not worth saying grace for, and comes as a right.
- **spill the brochan** doze off.
- **the butter will come out in the brochan** said of someone who gives himself or herself airs.
- **yellow brochan** porridge made with maize meal.
[Irish *brochán, brachán* "porridge"; also Scots "gruel", from the corresponding Scottish Gaelic *brochan* "gruel".]

brocht *see* bring.

brock *see* brocked.

brock¹ *noun* **1** a badger. **2** a dirty, smelly person. **3** a foolish person. **4** a sullen, ill-natured person.

- **half and between, like Hunt the brock's mother** *proverbial*
- **sweeting like a brock**
[Hiberno-English, from Irish *broc* "a badger", also in Scots and English dialects from Celtic sources. *See also* brocked.]

brock² *noun* **1** crumbs. **2** scraps fed to pigs; *cf.* brochan. **3** small, damaged or rotten potatoes.

- ◆ *verb* spoil, handle carelessly or unskillfully.
- **brockman** a man collecting food scraps for pigs.
- **brocky** crisp, rough.
[Scots and English dialectal, from Old English *zebrocc* "a fragment".
Related to Old English *brecan*, which gives **break**.]

brockach, brocka *adjective* **1** speckled. **2** pock-marked.

[Irish *brocach*. *Cf.* bracky².]

brocked, brockit *adjective* **1** *of animals or birds* (a) speckled; *cf.* bracky²; (b) having a dark mark on the face [perhaps like a badger, *cf.* brock¹]. **2** *of a person* (a) freckled; (b) pock-marked; *cf.* brockach; (c) unkempt; *cf.* brock¹.

- **brockie wether, brokie wether** a castrated ram.

- **brockit ground** or **land** a mixture of clay soil and peat.
- **brocky** *adjective* pock-marked; *cf.* **brockach**.
- ◆ **noun** **1** *nickname, also brock* a person with a pock-marked face *e.g. Brocky Thompson*. **2** a black-faced sheep; *hence figuratively* a pound sterling [formerly the price of a brocky]; *see also* **bracky**². **3** a young seagull.
- **brooky** speckled; *cf.* **bracky**².
[Scots *brockit, brocked* "having black and white stripes or spots; streaked with dirt, disfigured"; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian *brokutt*, Swedish *brokt* "flecked, variegated". Some of the senses may have been influenced by **brock**¹, and by **bracky**².]
- brockle** *see* **bruckle**.
- brocky** *see* **brocked**.
- brod** *noun* a thorn.
[Older Scots; from Old Norse *broddr* "a spike", which is probably also the source of Irish and Scottish Gaelic *brod* "a thorn".]
- brodle** *noun* a two pence piece *Co. Fermanagh*; *cf.* **bodle**.
- brof** *noun* a heavy swell in the sea.
- brog** *noun* an awl.
◆ *verb* sniggle, fish for eels by sticking a baited hook into holes.
□ **brogger** a cobbler.
[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown. *See also* **prog**.]
- brogged** *see* **brooghle**.
- broghan** *see* **brochan**.
- broghle** *see* **brooghle**.
- brogue** *noun* **1** a kind of rough shoe, usually made of untanned hide, stitched with leather thongs. **2** a boot, *especially* a strong, heavy one. **3** a strong Irish accent [from the idea of having a shoe on your tongue].
□ **again they'll get the sole of the brogue on the top of the foot, they'll know** said of people when those with whom they consort for a political purpose and who are beneath them socially, finally turn against them.
□ **as vulgar as a clash o' brogues**
□ **brogue-leather** *figuratively* an inferior kind of cheese made from skimmed milk.
□ **brogue maker** cobbler.
□ **buckles on brogues** an obviously fake posh accent.
□ **knocked about like brogues in a barrack**
[Hiberno-English, from Irish *bróg* "a shoe".]
- brohan** *see* **brochan**.
- broided** *adjective* embroidered.
[Obsolete Standard English *broid*, a blend of *braid* and (*em*)*broider*.]
- broigh** *verb* pant and sweat profusely.
◆ *noun* a state of perspiration.
Cf. **brose**, **broth**².
- brok, broke, broken** *see* **break**.
- brole** *verb* "broil", be very hot and sweaty *Co. Antrim*.
- bronical** *adjective* bronchial.
- broo**¹ *noun* a witch who can turn into a hare *Co. Donegal*.
[Origin unknown.]
- broo**², **brew** *noun* **1** **broo of** good opinion or expectation of; inclination, taste for. **2** **broo with** dealings with.
[Scots, possibly the same word as **broo**³.]
- broo**³ *noun* the brow, the forehead.
[Scots and Northern English form. *See also* **broo**², **broo**⁴.]
- broo**⁴, **brew, bru, brough** *noun* **1** the brow of a hill. **2** the edge of a potato ridge, dyke, *etc.* **3** *also* **water-broo** the bank of a river, lough, flax-dam, *etc.* **4** an over-hanging bank; an over-hanging edge where peat has been cut away. **5** a raised bank of earth. **6** a patch of vegetation on the face of a bank or cliff.

- **broo-land** steep ground.
- **he always swims near the brew** said of a man who is cautious and who does not go into the middle of the stream, but who watches out for himself (can take care of himself).
[Partly from *bruach*, partly from *broo*³. *See also broo*⁷.]
- broo**⁵, **brew** *noun* **1** broth. **2** water, half-melted snow; *see also snow*.
[Scots, probably from Old French *breu* "soup".]
- broo**⁶, **buoo** *noun* **1** the employment exchange. **2** unemployment benefit.
□ **on the broo** claiming unemployment benefit.
[Scots, shortened form of *bureau*.]
- broo**⁷ *noun* a halo round the moon; *cf. broo*⁴.
- brood**: **brooder** a broody hen.
□ **broodin hen** broody hen.
□ **broody** broody hen.
- brooghle, broghle, brougle** *verb* bungle, spoil, botch.
◆ *noun, also broogle* an unskilful person; a clumsy workman.
□ **brooghled, broggled** badly done, spoiled.
[Apparently forms of Southern Scots *broogle* "spoil", origin unknown]
- brook** *noun* an ulcerated abscess.
[Scots and Northern English "a boil"; probably of Scandinavian origin, *cf. Old Norse brúk* "a heap" and Icelandic *brúk* "the rising of yeast".]
- broom**: **a new broom sweeps clean, but an old one knows the corners best** old servants are best.
- broon, broonie** *see* brown.
- brooteen, brutheen, bruityeen, brutshen** *noun* **1** *also in plural, also brudgy* mashed potatoes, *champ*, with butter, and possibly onions, meat, *etc.* **2** *figuratively* disorder, confusion.
[Hiberno-English *brootheen*, from Irish *brúitín*.]
- brose** *noun* **1** oatmeal mixed with water. **2** a special Shrove Tuesday dish, made by pouring chicken stock on oatmeal. **3** a warm mixture of fresh and sour milk. **4** a meal in general. **5** a mess, a job badly done [influenced by the borrowing of *brose* into Irish as *bróis* "a mixture, a mess"].
□ **brose bowl** porridge bowl.
□ **broisie-faced** fat and flabby in the face.
□ **broisy, broisie** *adjective* plump and healthy-looking.
◆ *noun* **1** a fat, lazy person. **2** a plump baby or child.
□ **in a brose of sweat** bathed in perspiration; *cf. broth*².
[Scots "a dish based on oatmeal and boiling water", origin unknown.]
- broсна, broсны, brasna, brusney, Brustna, brosnach, brushnugs** *noun* a faggot of firewood; kindling, broken branches used for firewood.
[Hiberno-English, from Irish *broсна, brosnach*.]
- broth**¹ *noun* treated as plural *e.g. They're very salt the day*.
□ **the broth of a boy** the essence of manhood, a thoroughly good, capable fellow.
□ **too much cookery spoils the broth**
- broth**² *noun* a broigh.
[Scots; either an alteration of *broigh*, or the same word as *broth*¹, or a combination of both.]
- brother, brither, borr** *noun* a brother.
□ **brother's son** formerly used in preference to the less specific term *nephew*; *cf. sister*.
[Scots and South-Western English form *brither*.]
- brough** *see* *broo*⁴.
- brough, broch, brugh, brach** *noun* a halo round the moon, believed to be a sign of a coming storm *e.g. Brough near, far storm; brough far, near storm*.
[Scots *brough, broch, brugh*; literally "a prehistoric round tower", the same word as *burgh*.]
- broughan** *see* *brochan*.

brougle *see* brooghle.

browit *adjective*, of a pig, calf or puppy deformed or bowed in the legs.

[Apparently a strengthened form of Scots *bowlt* "crooked"; from Middle Dutch *boghelen* "to curve", *cf.* *bool*¹.]

Brown: **Brown's cows**, **Broon's coos**:

- **like Brown's cows** not in line.
- **we're goin home like Brown's cows - all in a row, we're goin home like Brown's cows - all in a lump, all together like Brown's cows, all in a lump like Brown's cows**

brown, **broon** *adjective* brown.

- **broon barney** a type of bread baked with treacle; *cf.* barnbrack.
- **brown back** a fish: the flounder *Pleuronectes flesus*; *see also* black.
[ILLUS: brown/bk]
- **brown bog** an upland bog.
- **brown gull** the Arctic skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*.
- **brownhead** a bird: the pochard *Aythya ferina*.
- **brownie**, **broonie** a useful but mischievous fairy that attaches itself to a household [*brownie* now also adopted in Standard English].
- **brown money** coppers.
- **brown owl** the long-eared owl.
[Scots and Northern English form *broon*.]

brownkitus, **brownkittlies**, **brownkittens** *noun* bronchitis.

[English dialectal *brownkitus*, *brownkitties*; altered forms. The forms *brownkittlies* and *brownkittens* have been influenced by *kitling* and *kitten*.]

broy *noun* an instrument for removing a blockage such as a turnip from a cow's throat.

[Origin unknown.]

broychle *noun* a cough.

bru *see* broo⁴.

bruach *noun* a riverbank.

[Irish *bruach*. *See also* broo⁴.]

bruchle¹ *verb* wrap a person up in clothes, *especially* round the neck.

[North-Eastern Scots, origin unknown.]

bruchle², **brunchle** *noun* a good handful.

[Origin unknown.]

bruck *see* break.

bruckle, **brockle** *adjective* **1** brittle, easily broken. **2** of the soil holding together well in a furrow slice. **3** uncertain *e.g.* *Flax is a bruckle crop*.

4 of the weather changeable, variable. **5** of the sea rough, frequently **brockle water**.

◆ *verb*, of frost break up (the soil); *cf.* brackle.

- **bruck-bread** a brittle type of oatcake, made with fat.
- **bruckly**, **brucklagh** of ground stony, broken [the form *brucklagh* apparently contains the Irish ending *-ach*].

[Scots and English dialectal *bruckle*, from Old English *brucol* "unstable".]

brudgy *see* brooteen.

bruff, **brumf** *adjective* **1** bluff, curt, blunt in manner. **2** proud, self-important.

[English dialectal *bruff*, apparently an altered form of *bluff*.]

bruggage *noun* useless junk.

[*Cf.* *brock*² and English *luggage*.]

brugh *see* brough.

bruillment *see* brulyie.

bruise: **bruised** of clothes crumpled, creased.

- **bruiser** a large potato fit only for pig-food.
- **bruisey** *also in plural* bruised (*i.e.* mashed) potatoes.

bruiteen *noun* houseleek.

bruityeen *see* brooteen.

brulyie *noun* a broil, a commotion, a noisy scuffle.

- **brulyement, brulliment, bruillment, brilliamment 1** a brulyie. **2** a storm.
[Scots form of *broil*, from Old French *brouiller* "put into disorder".]

brumf *see* bruff.

brummack *noun* a fat, unwieldy person; an awkward person.

[Irish *bromach* "a strong rough man", literally "a colt".]

brummel *verb* bungle.

- ◆ *noun* a badly-done job; a mismanaged affair.

[Cf. Norfolk *brumble-handed* "awkward", literally "bramble-handed", *see* *bramble*.]

brung *see* bring.

brungle *verb* bungle, do poor work.

[Strengthened form.]

brunt: the brunt of the pile the best pickle, the pickle next the wind.

brush: brush sweet Willie a wild flower: the early marsh orchid

Dactylorhiza incarnata.

- **on the brush** *Post Office* on night shift [jocular, as if going out on a road-sweeping cart].

brushnugs *see* broсна.

brushy *see* brishy.

brusney *see* broсна.

bruss *noun* dry, dusty hay *usually as dry as bruss*.

[Irish *brus*.]

brust *see* brasted.

brust, brusted *see* burst.

brustna *see* broсна.

brutheen, brutshen *see* brooteen.

bubberlin *noun* someone who cries easily, a cry-baby *Co. Donegal*.

[Cf. *blubber*, and Scots *bubble* "to cry".]

bubble: bubbliiser a stammerer, a hesitant speaker.

- **bubbly** *noun* a turkey-cock.
- ◆ *exclamation* a call to turkeys.
- **bubbly-Jock** *childish* a turkey-cock.
- **everyone has their own bubbly-Jock** everyone has their own trouble.
- **I didn't come up the Bann in a bubble** meaning that I am not naive.

bubble¹ *verb* babble, talk foolishly.

bubby *noun* a woman's breast.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots); the original form of *boob(y)*, from German *bübbi*.]

buccaugh *noun* a lame beggar.

bucht:

bucht *see* bught¹, bught².

- **bucht oot!** get out!

buck *see* India.

buck¹ *noun* four sheaves of corn placed on end together *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

buck² *noun, also buckie* a young man [archaic Standard English *buck* "a dashing young fellow"].

- ◆ *verb* **buck (a person) out** throw (a person) out.
- **as gay as a Cavan buck** happy, contented in mind.
- **big buck** a "big bug", an important man; *see also* buckeen.
- **Buck Aleck** a local character in Belfast, whose name figures in proverbial comparisons and as a nickname. Alec Robinson, a Belfast streetfighter, who kept circus animals and paraded them in the streets. He kept a lion with rubber teeth in his backyard in York Street.
- **buck eediot** *literally* a male idiot: a wild unpredictable person; *see* eediot.
- **buck lep** *noun* a sudden leap.
- ◆ *verb, only buck-leppin* of a person jumping about; *see* leap.

- **buck mad** frantic.
- **buck nyay** *derogatory* a dandy.
- **buck stupid** very stupid.
- **buck thistle** the spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*.

buck³ *noun* cheek, backchat.

buck⁴: **buck-house** *historical* a wash-house for preparing linen.

buckawn *noun* an L-shaped hinge for a door or gate.

buck-breer *see* buckie².

buckeen *noun* **1** a young dandy. **2** a well-to-do farmer.

[Hiberno-English; from Irish *boicín* "a dandy; an influential man", literally "a little he-goat"; from *boc* "he-goat" + diminutive ending *-ín*.

Irish *boc* and English buck² are ultimately the same Indo-European word.]

bucker *noun* a large marble for playing dab at the hole.

buckered up confused.

bucket

- **a bucket of water struck by lightning** description of thin porridge.
- **hingin on till his arm like a bucket of brock**

buckie¹ *noun* **1** a shellfish: (a) the common whelk *Buccinum undatum*; (b) *Neptunea antiqua*; (c) the periwinkle *Littorina littorea*; (d) any whorled shell. **2** *figuratively* a worthless thing *e.g.* *I wouldn't give a buckie for it.*

- **buckie-gelder** *historical, abusive* applied to people who lived in the Scotch quarter of Carrickfergus and were associated with the mussel industry.
- **to there grow buckies on you** *lit* until whelks grow on you, expressing a long time.

[Scots, from Latin *buccinum* "a type of shellfish".]

buckie² *noun* **1** a wild rosehip. **2** *also* **buckie briar, buckie bush, buck-breer** the wild rose; a wild rose bush.

- **buckie berry** **1** a wild rosehip. **2** *incorrectly* a haw, the berry of the hawthorn.

[Scots "a wild rosehip", origin unknown.]

buckie³ *noun* a cobbler.

buckin' *adjective* a minced oath.

buckinbarra *see* bockenbarra.

buckings *see* back.

buckle *noun* a curl, a ringlet.

- ◆ *verb* **buckle in** buckle to, set to work.

- **buckled** married (**to**).
- **buckle-the-beggars, buckle-beggar** *historical* a person who performed irregular marriage ceremonies.

bucklin bwee *noun, also bucklin* a wild flower: the ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*.

[Irish *buachalán buí*; *see also* bohlan, yellow.]

bucky wire *noun* barbed wire; *cf.* buckie².

bud¹ *verb* set to energetically *e.g.* *Go home an bud yer supper.*

[Cheshire *bud in*, origin unknown.]

bud²: **bud to, but to, bit to, beed to, beet to, beeta**, *now usually be to*

must, have to: expressing (a) moral necessity or external pressure *e.g.* *You'd be to go if you were bid*; (b) logical necessity *e.g.* *The dog be to have got a quare bleaching.*

[Scots, shortened forms of *behooved to*. The *be to* form is possibly influenced by obsolete Standard English usage as in "I am to thank you" i.e. "I must thank you".]

bud³: **budfinch** a bird: the bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* [from its habit of eating buds].

bud-a-liltie *see* body.

bud-an-age *exclamation* a disguised oath.

[The first element is probably a disguised form of blood.]

budda, buddagh *see* bodach.

budda *see* buddagh¹, buddagh².

buddagh¹, bodagh, budda *noun* a fish: **(a)** a medium-sized cod *Gradus morhua*; **(b)** a sub-species of trout: *Salmo ferrox*.

[Irish *bodach* "a codling".]

buddagh², budda *noun* the stem of a seaweed, *Saccorhiza bulbosa*, *Co. Donegal*.

□ **buddagh liagh** a seaweed, *Laminaria digitata* *Laminaria bulbosa*.

[*Cf.* Donegal Irish *bodóg* "a short, thick stem of seaweed".]

buddie *see* bundie.

buddley-ruath *noun* a small reddish fish *Co. Donegal*.

buddy *see* body.

budge: **make a budge** budge, move.

Budgen Hook *noun* the Buncrana train.

budget *noun* a bag, usually leather; *specifically* **(a)** a bag in which a tinker keeps the tools of his trade; **(b)** a tramp's bag; **(c)** a workman's bag.

□ **as lazy as the tinker that laid down his budget to laugh**

["A leather bag" obsolete in Standard English, where the surviving senses of *budget* relate to the contents of the bag carried by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Original sense latterly Scots and English dialectal. *See also* bulgam.]

budion *noun* an insignificant little man.

budley *noun* **1** a fat person. **2** a sausage. **3** an insignificant little man.

[Irish *bodlach*. *Cf.* *bodach*.]

buff¹; *past tense and past participle* **bufft, buffed**; *verb* **1** strike a blow, biff. **2** roughly beat the shows out of flax in the process of scutching; *cf.* illustration at targe.

□ **buffer 1** an implement for buffing flax. **2** one of two scutchers working in pairs: the buffer gave the strick of flax a first rough scutching and the second man finished it off; *cf.* illustration at targe. **3** a boxer; someone who uses his fists freely.

□ **the best of it is buffed** *figuratively 1* the best of something is used up [from the practice of *buffing* sheaves of grain, *i.e.* partly threshing them so that some grain is left with the straw as animal feed]. **2** the important part of any work is finished.

["A buffet; to buffet" obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), from Old French *buffe* "a blow".]

buff² *Co. Antrim, verb* dodge work.

□ **buffer** a person who dodges work.

[Origin unknown.]

buff³: **no one dare or can say buff to my blanket** *literally* no one can say boo to my banner: no one can say anything against me.

□ **Who says buff? Buff! Hit him a cuff! or Best man says buff, hit the other a cuff** an exchange of words used in starting a fight between boys. The one who says "Buff!" first gets to strike the first blow; *cf.* bread.

[Scots and English dialectal, onomatopoeic.]

buff⁴ *verb* joke *e.g.* *He's only buffing*.

[Scots noun "silly talk", onomatopoeic.]

buff⁵: **buff turf** soft, light turf cut from the surface of a bog.

[Possibly the same word as Standard English *buff* (the colour), but *cf.* English dialectal "a tuft of grass" (origin unknown).]

buff⁶ *noun* the bare skin. *frequently in his or her (bare) buff*

buff⁷ *noun*, *Post Office* overtime.

bufft *see* buff¹.

bugger: **buggery**:

□ **play buggery with** play havoc with.

□ **that be buggered** "that be damned"; considered a mild way of swearing.

□ **to buggery with** considered a mild way of swearing.

buggie *see* bogie.

buggin *noun* **1** a large blister. **2** a raised tussock in pasture land.
[Possibly Irish **bogán*, from *bog* "soft" + diminutive ending *-án*. See also bluggin.]

buggle *see* bogle.

bught¹, bucht, bocht *noun* **1** a bend; *specifically* the curved end of a hurley-stick. *Illustration see* hurl. **2** a bight, a coil. **3** *in plural* the roots or stumps of the bushes forming a hedge.

[Scots form *bught, bucht* of obsolete Standard English *bought* "a bend, a bight", from Middle Low German *bucht*.]

bught², bucht, bocht *noun* a sheepfold.

◆ *verb* drive into a corner.

[Scots *bught, bucht*; from Flemish *bocht, bucht* "a fold for animals".]

bugle *verb, figuratively* cry loudly, blare.

□ **silly bugle** a person who does something stupid.

buh *exclamation* bo, boo.

[Onomatopoeic.]

build: builder *noun* the man who tramps the hay into a ruck or rick.

□ **built cock** the medial hay-heap.

buist *verb* impress the owner's initials on a lamb with tar.

buit *see* boot².

buldered *adjective* angered, annoyed *Co. Antrim*.

[Origin unknown.]

buldiot *Co. Antrim, noun* a noisy quarrel.

◆ *verb* quarrel noisily.

[Origin unknown.]

buldography *noun, slang* general, unspecialised work *Co. Antrim*.

[A mock-learned word.]

buldy *see* bull.

bulgam *noun* **1** a clumsy fold, an untidy pucker, a bumfle. **2** an untidy bundle.

[*Cf.* Scots *bullgit* "a large shapeless bundle", a form of budget.]

bulge *noun* a fat, greedy person.

bulk¹ *noun* the trunk of the body *e.g. Ye have a great bulk wi ye; see also* bookit.

□ **bulky** a policeman.

□ **not the bulk of a mud turf** a comment on a person's size.

bulk², baulk *verb* **1** play (marbles) *e.g. I'll bulk you a game of marbles.*

2 shoot (a marble) by flicking the thumb over the forefinger.

□ **bulking** *noun* a term in the game of marbles.

[Origin unknown; *see also* bunk¹.]

bull, bill *noun* a bull.

□ **as far as you could throw a bill by the tail** not far.

□ **buldy** a young bull [*bull* + intrusive *d* + diminutive *-ie*].

□ **bull-bait** *literally* an event where a bull is baited with dogs: a scene where everyone is shouting at once.

□ **bulldog:**

□ **bull-dose** a large quantity, fit for a bull.

□ **bulled** *of a cow* served by the bull.

□ **bullfinch** a bird: the bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*; *see* finch.

□ **bull-headed wigeon** a bird: the pochard *Aythya ferina*.

□ **bullie** the bullfinch.

□ **bulling-heifer** *noun* a young cow that has not had a calf.

□ **bullman** an officer of the bovine artificial insemination service; *also*

woman bullman

□ **bullock:**

□ **bullockeen** a bullock [*bullock* + Irish diminutive ending *-in*].

□ **bull rout** a fish: the short-spined sea scorpion *Myoxocephalus scorpius*.

□ **bull runtie** *in a shipyard* the lowest grade of foreman.

□ **bull's eye, also bullie** a type of toy marble made from china clay,

covered with small nicks.

□ **bull's lick** a cow lick, a lock of hair that will not lie flat; *see also* COW¹.

□ **bull's milk 1** a liquid resembling whey made by steeping the husks of grain in hot water, used when cow's milk was scarce. **2** oatmeal mixed with water.

□ **bull's pease** a wild flower: the yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*.

□ **bull-wire** fencing wire of about a quarter-inch diameter (0.64 centimetre).

□ **bull work** rough, unnecessary force at any work.

□ **He wuz comin aat me wae 'is heid doon lik a stickin b□ll**

□ **it's not ivvery day that Manus kills a bullock**

□ **leap the bullock or bullocks, lepp at the bullick, jump the bullocks** a game: leapfrog; *see* leap.

□ **you can't make a bulldog out of a pointer** *proverbial*

[Scots forms *bull* (with vowel as in "cup"), *bill*. *See also* bulwhutterick.]

bull² *noun* one of the bars of wood in a harrow into which the teeth are set.

hence **six-bull harrow, eight-bull harrow**:

bullaster *noun* the bullace, the wild plum.

[Scots, possibly a shortened form of *bullace + tree*.]

bullet *noun 1* *in plural. also* **throwing the bullet** a traditional game (still played in Co. Armagh and Co. Mayo) whose object is to complete a distance on the roadway in the least number of throws. **2** a home-made bowl used in this game.

□ **bullet-eened** having bullet eyes.

□ **bullet eyes** sleepless, staring eyes.

bullia-bottha *see* boolia-botha.

bullie *see* bull.

bully *adjective* fine; large; splendid.

◆ *noun* a term of endearment to a fine child.

bullyore *see* billore.

bullyrag, ballyrag *verb* scold in a bullying and noisy way; verbally abuse; tease, annoy.

◆ *noun 1* loud abusive talk. **2** a loud abusive bully.

□ **bullyraggin 1** a fierce scolding. **2** bluster, verbal abuse.

[General dialectal and Scots, also colloquial, *bullyrag*; Hiberno-English and English dialectal also *ballyrag*; origin unknown.]

bulter *noun* a long line.

bulwhutterick *noun* a foolish person.

[Possibly *bull + whutterick* (*see* whitrat).]

bulyor *see* balyor.

bum¹, bam *verb 1* **bum** *of bees, etc.* buzz. **2** boast, brag, *frequently* **bum and blow**.

◆ *noun* a boaster, a braggart.

□ **bumbee, bumly-bee** the bumble-bee.

□ **bumbee-wark** nonsense; *see* work.

□ **bum-clock** probably the dor-beetle *Geotrupes stercorarius*; *see* clock².

[ILLUS: bum-clk]

□ **bummer** a child's toy: a small, serrated disc with two holes in the centre through which a cord is passed, twisted and pulled to produce a humming sound.

[Obsolete in Standard English, still Scots and English dialectal; onomatopoeic.]

bum², bam *verb* cart (peat) to market.

□ **bummer** a hawker.

[Origin unknown.]

bum³: bum-baily a bum-bailiff, a sheriff's officer; *see* bailie.

bum⁴, past tense and past participle bum, bumt; *noun, verb* bomb.

□ **bombed out** suddenly dropped by a sweetheart *slang*.

□ **bummin** *noun* bombing.

- **Did ye year about Nellie? She was arrested for carrying a bum up her clothes** punning joke.
- bumble-bee** a large black beetle.
- bumfle, bumphle** *noun* **1** a bulge in clothing that has bunched up around the wearer. **2** an untidy bundle. **3** *figuratively* a big, misshapen child.
 - ◆ *verb* pucker, cause to go into an untidy bulge.
 - **bumfly** bulging out untidily.
 - [Scots, probably an extended form of South-Western Scots *bumph* "a bundle", itself an altered form of *bump*.]
- bumly-bee** *see* **bum**¹.
- bummack, bummuck** *noun* a wild flower: the bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, *Co. Donegal*.
 - [Origin unknown.]
- bummadeer** *see* **head**.
- bump** *verb* **1** sound (a car horn). **2** jump (a queue).
 - ◆ *noun* a toot on a car horn.
 - **bumper** *usually in plural* the part of the shafts of a cart that sticks out behind. *Illustration see* **tram**¹.
- bumphle** *see* **bumfle**.
- bumt** *see* **bum**⁴.
- bun'** *see* **bind**.
- bun**¹ *noun* **1** the tail of a hare or rabbit. **2** *vulgar* the human backside; *cf.* **bundie**. **3** a rabbit.
 - ◆ *exclamation* **bun-bun** a call to a pet rabbit.
- bun**² *noun* a round loaf of bread, not necessarily sweet.
 - **bun-worry** *noun, slang* a feast.
- bunce, bunse** *noun, slang, specifically* **1** a commission given to a person who brings together buyer and seller at a flax market. **2** a bonus paid to scutchers.
 - ◆ *verb* divide (money).
 - **bunce up** pool your resources (for a present, meal out, *etc.*).
 - [English slang "a bonus, extra profit or gain", possibly a form of *bonus*.]
- bunch**¹ *verb, of a cow butt, dunsh.*
 - [English dialectal, onomatopoeic.]
- bunch**² *noun* a stout, sturdy calf *Co. Donegal*.
 - [Applied in Western Scots to a tubby girl.]
- bunch**³ *noun*
 - **buncher** the beginning hay-heap.
 - **bunchy** *of a person* irregularly shaped, awkward-looking; short and stout; *specifically, of a woman* wearing plenty of clothes.
- Buncrana, Burncranny** *proper noun* Buncranna.
 - **what goes into Buncrana a bee comes out a wasp** *proverbial*
- bundhoon** *noun* an ignorant fellow.
- bundie, buddie** *noun* a child's backside; *cf.* **bun**¹.
- bundle, bunnle** *noun* **1** a bundle. **2** a measure of straw, about 40 lbs (18.14 kilogrammes). **3** a large, fat woman.
 - [Scots, Northern English and South-Western English form *bunnle*.]
- bungay** *noun* a small, plump person.
 - [South-Western English, origin unknown.]
- bungie** *noun* a useless person.
 - [Scots and English dialectal, *bung* "a worthless person" + diminutive ending *-ie*.]
- bunk**¹ *verb* shoot (a marble); *cf.* **bulk**².
- bunk**² *verb* cough lightly but repeatedly *Co. Antrim*.
 - [Origin unknown.]
- bunk**³: **bunk-up** a ride given to a second person on a one-seater bicycle.
- bunker** *noun* **1** a mound in a field used as a seat. **2** a large heap of stones, soil, *etc.* **3** the bank along the side of a road. **4** a roadside channel.
 - **bunkergrass, bunkerhay, also bunkers, bunker** roadside hay.

bunkin *noun* a pimple.

bunnele *see* bundle.

bunnock *see* bannock.

bunnog *noun* **1** a bannock, an oatcake baked on a griddle. **2** a light, packed lunch.

[Irish *bonnóg* "a home-baked cake".]

bunse *see* bunce.

bunt *see* bunty¹.

bunt *verb* run away; hurry away *Co. Antrim, Co. Down; cf. bun*¹.

buntling *noun* a bird: the corn bunting *Miliaria calandra*.

[Scots, altered form as if **bunt* + diminutive ending *-ling*.]

bunty¹ *adjective* **1** short-tailed; *of a tail* short. **2** short, stocky; undersized.

◆ *noun* **1** a short tail. **2** a cow with a short tail. **3** an undersized, thickset animal. **4** *also* **bunt** a short, plump person.

□ **as full as Bunty** very drunk.

[Rare Scots and English dialectal; possibly a form of *banty*, short for *bantam* but *cf. bun*¹.]

bunty² *adjective* short-tempered.

[Perhaps an altered form of *banty* (*see* *bantam*). Bantam fowl are aggressive.]

bunyell *noun, historical, also in plural* a woman's flannel head-dress.

[*Cf. Scots banyel* "a bundle", possibly an alteration of French *ballon*.]

burch get out.

burd *see* bird¹.

burden, burthen *noun* **1** a burden. **2** a measure: the amount a person can carry at one time [now only applied to ships in Standard English].

□ **burden-rope** a short rope for binding things carried on the back.

Illustration see arm.

□ **lazy man's burden** too many things in one armful, to save the trouble of going twice, so that some articles might fall and be broken.

[The older form *burthen* is now archaic in Standard English.]

burial *see* bury.

Burke: how ye, Burke? nothing doing?

burl *see* birl.

burling-iron *noun* an instrument used in giving cloth a gloss.

burn¹, **born** *verb* **1** burn. **2** *in playing games such as bowls* touch.

□ **burn daylight** sit up late at night and then lie in bed in the morning; light candles before they are required; *loosely* waste time.

□ **burned of potatoes** blighted [in Standard English applied to grain affected by fungus].

□ **burnie to a child** very hot and not to be touched.

□ **burn-shin-da-Eve** a woman who is fond of crouching over a fire.

□ **burnt:**

□ **burn-the-gully** a bungler, an incompetent workman who will nevertheless take on any job; *see* gully².

□ **burn yerself an sit on the blister** **1** "make your bed and lie in it".

2 "cut off your nose to spite your face".

□ **don't burn me an' blow me** don't run me down, and then praise me up.

□ **it's a folly t' burn yer fingers iv ye yev tongs, ye needn't burn yer fingers if ye hev tongs**

[Northern English form *born*. *See also* birn¹.]

burn² *noun* a stream, a brook.

□ **burn-brae** a slope at the foot of which a burn runs; *see* brae.

□ **burn broo** a riverbank; *see* broo⁴.

□ **burn-side** the bank of a burn.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *burn*.]

Burndoran *proper noun* Bundoran.

buroo *see* broo⁶.

burr *noun* a fir-cone.

burr *see* butter.

burragh [as 'bourach'] *noun* a wheelbarrow.

burrian *noun* a bird: the red-throated diver *Gavia stellata*, *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*.

[Origin unknown, also found in Ayrshire.]

burroe *noun* **1** a seaweed: tangle *Laminaria digitata*. **2 derogatory** a tall, shapeless person.

[*Cf.* Orkney and Shetland *burrow*, *burra* "a plant: the heath rush"; from Norn.]

burrough duck *noun* the burrow duck, the sheldrake.

burst, brust, brist; *past tense and past participle* **bursted, brusted, bust, busted, brust**; *past participle also* **bursen**; *verb* **1** burst. **2 specifically** split (a log of wood) [in Standard English, now only applied to things that can rupture and spill their contents].

□ **burster** a plough-share. *Illustration see* plough.

□ **busty buttons** *nickname* a fat person.

□ **give hunger a brust** have a hearty meal.

□ **on the burst** drunk.

[Present tense: Scots, Northern and Midland English *brust*; Northern English also *brist*. Past tense: Scots and English dialectal *bursted*; Scots also *brusted*; Northern English also *brust*; English dialectal also *bust, busted*. Past participle: Scots and English dialectal *bursted*; Northern English also *brust, brusted*; English dialectal also *bust, busted*; Scots also *bursen*. From Old English *berstan*. The forms beginning with *br* are influenced by Old Norse *bresta*. *See also* brasted.]

bursy *see* birse.

burthen *see* burden.

bury: **burial, berril, birl** a burial, a funeral.

□ **burial-house** the house where a body lies awaiting burial.

□ **burying, berryin, berrin** a funeral.

□ **burying ground** a graveyard, a cemetery.

□ **burying hole** a grave.

□ **I wud go and bury myself if I were you** said to someone in disgrace.

[Scots form *biry*.]

bush¹ *noun* **1** *loosely* a tree. **2** a mass of growing seaweed exposed at low water.

□ **not go round the bush** not "beat about the bush", come to the point at once.

□ **put clothes on the bush, put clothes in the bush** dry clothes in the open air.

□ **put the bush in the gap!** *jocular* close the door! [from the idea of filling a gap in a hedge with cut foliage, *etc.*]; *cf* bush³.

bush² *noun* the cross-bar on which the two uprights rest that support the heck in a spinning-wheel *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.] [ILLUS: bush]

bush³ *verb* fill up (gaps in dykes or hedges).

[Probably obsolete Standard English "to stop a hole", from French *boucher*, but *cf.* bush¹.]

bushel: **measure every man by your own bushel, you needn't measure my corn in your bushel, you needn't weigh my bushel in your scales** *proverbial*

Bushmills: **Bushmills-Green-Label** a spade made in Bushmills.

busk *verb* dress up, deck (yourself) out.

□ **all busked up and nowhere to go**

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *búask* "prepare yourself".]

buskin *noun*, *also* **buskin-boot** a type of man's boot.

busom *see* besom.

bussock *see* bosssock.

bust, busted *see* burst.

busy: as busy as the devil, as busy as a nailer, as busy as an old woman at a fair

but *see* bud².

but¹, **bit** *conjunction* but.

◆ *adverb* **1 but just this minute** only this minute, just a minute ago.

2 used at the end of an utterance in recognition of the hearer's actual or potential doubts *e.g. It is but!*

□ **but an if** but if.

□ **but if** unless.

[The conjunction developed in English out of the adverb and preposition but². Scots form *bit*.]

but² *adverb* out, outside.

◆ *noun* the outer room in a two-roomed house.

□ **but and ben** *noun* a two-roomed house.

◆ *adverb* throughout, in all parts. *See* ben.

[Scots, originally the same word as but¹.]

butcher *noun* **1** the shore crab *Carcinus maenas*. **2** a type of striped wild bee [from the idea of a butcher's striped apron]; *cf.* baker.

□ **butcher bird** the mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus* [in England applied to the shrike *Lanius*, a bird that is not found in Ireland]. *Illustration see* shriek.

[Scots pronunciation with vowel as in "cut".]

butt¹ *verb* **butt at** hint at; make half-concealed references to (a person who is present).

[Probably the same word as Standard English *butt* "to strike, to shove".]

butt² *noun* **1** the mark or boundary line from which players start in playing marbles, running races, jumping, *etc.* **2** a stroke in hand-ball that places the ball right at the base of the alley.

□ **he or she won't come to butt** he or she won't take the necessary step.

butt³ *noun* **1 specifically** a narrow, deep tub holding twenty-eight pounds of butter (12.70 kilogrammes). **2 wee butt of a girl, man, etc.** a small, stout girl, man, *etc.*

□ **he jumped from a butt**

butt⁴ *noun* **1** the base of a haystack. **2** the lobe (of the ear).

□ **butt pocket** a pocket in a man's suit used for small change, cigarette butts *etc.*

butter, burr *noun* butter.

□ **a cut or pop above buttermilk** a "cut above" ordinary people.

□ **butter and eggs trot** a slow, lazy pace such as that of a market woman carrying butter and eggs.

□ **butter cooler** a small dish of water in which butter is placed on the table.

□ **butter fingers, buttery fingers** a clumsy, awkward person, *especially* one who lets things fall.

□ **butter goes mad twice in the year** in summer it runs away, in winter it is too hard and dear as well.

□ **buttermilk:**

□ **buttermilk bathers** *nickname* summer trippers from Derry, because they spent so little money. They were said to live on buttermilk and periwinkles.

□ **butter-money** "pin money" that a farmer's wife makes from the sale of butter, eggs, *etc.*

□ **butter-mouthed** sweet-talking, treacherous.

□ **he'll not go to market and cry dirty butter of his own** he'll not sell his hen on a rainy day.

□ **I didn't get it all for ating (eating) butter** I had to work - anyone can eat butter.

□ **I'm too oul' a hare to be caught in butther** kitten with buttered feet.

□ **weigh butter** a children's game. **I owe my Mother a poun' o' butther,!**

I'll churn the day and pay her the morra/ For it's weigh the butther and mix the salt

butterfly: **butterfly's cage** a construction made by children out of green rushes to hold a butterfly or other similar insect.

button

- **button boot**: here comes Paddy from Cork with his coat buttoned behind *i.e.* looking a fool.
- **it's buttoning up for a shower** meaning that it's going to rain.
- **make buttons** be in a state of dread, fear.
- **shoot for buttons** a game.
- **you've a quare leg for a button boot** a compliment.

butty *see* bodach.

butty *noun* a "buddy", a fellow-workman, a mate.

[English dialectal and Scots, possibly related to **boot**¹ through the sense of sharing.]

buxty *see* boxty.

buy; *past tense and past participle bocht*

- **dear bought, an' far-fetched, and only fit for ladies** describing anything for which too much has been paid.
- **dear buy** incur trouble, hardship or inconvenience as a result of (something desired) *e.g.* *You'll dear buy it; also dear bought.*
- **get out of all buyin** become prohibitively expensive.
- **he cud buy ye at yin en' o' the toon, an' sell ye at the ithir** said to a person who is supposed to have a small supply of sense.
- **them buys him for a fool 'ill have a wise pennorth**

[Past tense and past participle: Scots form *bocht*.]

buzz *noun* a toy that makes a buzzing noise.

buzzacker *see* bossock.

buzzom *see* bosom.

by, *be preposition* **1** *by*. **2** *in oaths* **(a) begob**

[Hiberno-English]; **(b) by Goh, begorra**

[Hiberno-English form of general dialectal and Scots *begor*, Somerset *begorras*, Scots *begorrie*]; **(c) by Gommany, by Gommies**

[*cf.* slang *by gum*]; **(d) by Gox**

[Northern English and Southern Scots]; **(e) begoxyty**

[Hiberno-English]; **(f) by Gubbs (g) by heaventers; (h) by jing**

[Scots and Northern English form of *jingo*]; **(i) by jinkers**

[Northumberland]; **(j) bejorrah; (k) be sowl** *see* soul. **3 (a)** in

comparison with *e.g.* *It's a nice day by what we had last week*; **(b) know one thing by another** be able to distinguish one thing from another. **4 by** beyond, more than *e.g.* *It is by all that ever I heard*. **5 by yourself** beyond yourself, distraught; *also* **put by yourself** upset. **far bye himself or herself of a person** very ill and weak. **6 by** with stress on the following noun or pronoun: except, beside *e.g.* *By me she wouldn't sell it to anyone*.

7 (a) by the time that *e.g.* *I'll have it ready by ye come back*; **(b) by this year** within the year, by the end of this year. **8 by now** just now.

◆ *adverb, also* **bye of time** over, past. *See also* down, over, up.

- **benorth, besouth, etc.** to the north, south, *etc.* of.
- **be the byie** "by the by".
- **betoken**:
- **by-boy** an illegitimate son.
- **by-chap** an illegitimate child.
- **by-common, by-ordinary, by orner** extraordinary, out of the ordinary.
- **bye-child** an illegitimate child.
- **by-name** a nickname.
- **by-pass, bye-pass** an arrangement of pipes and taps for lowering or raising gaslights without extinguishing them.
- **by that** by that time, by then.
- **by this and by that** *euphemism* in reporting someone else's swearing.

- **by-wash 1** a weir. **2** a mill-race; a waterway supplying a mill-wheel.
- **by-wipe, bye-wipe** a piece of indirect sarcasm, an insinuation.
- **by-word, bye-word 1** a catch-phrase, saying, proverb. **2** *of a person* in a bad sense, a well-known example.
- **do something by the way** pretend to do something.
- **far by** far past (a place), beyond.
- **have something by you** have money saved.
[General dialectal and Scots form *be*.]
- by¹, bye** *adjective* lonely, retired, away from the main road *e.g. a by(e) place, a by(e) station*; a station in a lonely place where trains don't often stop.
- byan, byin** *noun* a fish: a species of wrasse, probably the ballan wrasse *Labrus bergylta, Co. Donegal*.
[Probably a form of English *ballan*.]
- byaw** *noun* an empty grate.
- bye** *see* by.
- byke** *see* bike.
- byle** *see* bile.
- byre** *noun* a cow-house [also accepted in Standard English].
 - **A byrefull an a barnfull / An ye couldn't get an armful. What's that? Smoke riddle.**
 - **byre-dwelling** *folk-life* a one-storey dwelling that housed people at one end and cattle at the other without any partition between the quarters.
 - **byre-man** the man who attends to the cattle on a farm.
[Hiberno-English, Scots and Northern English; from Old English *bȳre*.]
- byue** *see* blue.
- ca** *see* kay¹.
- ca'** *see* call.
- ca'** *verb* calve.
[Scots form.]
- caak** *see* caulk.
- caam** *see* caum.
- caapish** *noun* a crime.
- caarpender** *noun* a carpenter.
- cab** *see* cob.
- cabbage, cabbitch** *noun* cabbage, a cabbage.
 - **he or she has had a canter round a cabbage** he or she has travelled widely.
 - **I don't boil my cabbage twice** said when refusing to repeat yourself.
 - **salt someone's cabbage** punish someone.
 - **ye're no sae green as ye're cabbage-looking** said of someone who merely looks naive.
[Scots and Northern English form *cabbitch*.]
- cabber** *noun* a tide-mark, a ring of dirt around the neck *Co. Tyrone*.
[*Cf.* South-Western English *cab* "clog with dirt".]
- cabweb** *see* cobwab.
- cack, ca-ca** *childish, noun* human excrement.
 - ◆ *adjective ca-ca* dirty, filthy.
 - **cacky** dirty, filthy.
See also keegh.
- cacker** *see* calk.
- cackle, keckle** *noun, verb* cackle.
 - **cackler: cackler's plum** *jocular* a hen's egg.
 - **cacklin, keckling 1** chuckling. **2** gossiping.
 - **cut your cackle or cacklin!** stop talking!
[Scots and Northern English form *keckle*.]
- cad** *noun* a game similar to cricket, but played with holes instead of a wicket.
[Lancashire "a game similar to hockey", origin unknown.]

cadder *noun* a smelly old man.

[*Cj.* North Midland English *codder* "a leather worker". Leather tanning is a very smelly process.]

caddie, caudy, coddy *noun* **1** a boy hired as a servant. **2** *generally* a boy. **3** **coddy** a youngster, a child; *cf.* *cutty* (*see* *cut*). **4** a shrewd, crafty boy; a sharp-witted fellow.

[Scots *caddie, cawdy*; from French *cadet* "a younger son". The *t* of Standard English *cadet* is pronounced under the influence of the spelling.]

caddis, keddiss *noun* **1** rags. **2** a wad of cloth stuck into an ink bottle.

[Scots *caddis*, from Old French *cadas* "the waste of silk".]

caddle *noun* confusion, disorder.

[English dialectal form and sense of *caudle* "an infant food based on gruel".]

caddow, cadda *noun* **1** a quilt, a coverlet. **2** a cloak. **3** a cloth put on a horse's back under the saddle.

[*Caddow* "a rough woollen covering" obsolete in Standard English (latterly Northern English), origin unknown.]

caddy *noun* a children's game played with a small stick pointed at both ends and another stick to strike it with *Co. Antrim*; *cf.* *catty*.

caddy¹ *noun* a block for sawing wood on.

cadge *verb* **1** peddle, hawk goods. **2** *figuratively* carry (something) in the manner of a pedlar. **3** *figuratively* **cadge a girl around of a man** take a girl out and parade her around with no intention of settling down with her. **4** go about begging. **5** beg, sponge (something).

◆ *noun* the act of carrying something for a distance *e.g.* *Ye have had a long cadge of it.*

□ **cadger** **1** a pedlar, a hawker. **2** *also* **fish-cadger** a man who travels through the countryside selling fish. **3** a carrier. **4** a beggar, a tramp; a layabout; a petty thief.

□ **the king comes the cadger's road, the king may go the cadger's way, the king may come to the cadger** *proverbial, literally* a beggar may chance to make friends with a king, meaning that you should keep all your friends no matter how humble.

See also *codger*.

cadge¹ *noun* a cage.

cadger *see* *codger*.

cadgy, caigey, kedgy *adjective* **1** cheerful, in good spirits, playful.

2 brisk, active.

[Scots and Northern English; possibly of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Danish *kaad* "wanton".]

caed *noun* an orphan lamb brought up by hand.

caff, caffinch, cafflinch *see* *chaff*.

cag *verb* vex, annoy.

[English dialectal, also Orkney and Shetland; origin unknown.]

cahee *verb* laugh loudly.

[Northern English, onomatopoeic.]

cahill *see* *coghel*.

caigey *see* *cadgy*.

cailey *see* *ceili*.

cailin *see* *colleen*.

cailleach, calliagh, calyagh, collioch, collough, caillya *noun* **1** an old woman; *also* as a term of address or endearment. **2** the last sheaf cut at harvest, plaited together and brought home as part of the harvest festivities; *see also* *carling, dress, granny, hag*². *Illustration see* *churn*².

3 a bundle of hay or straw ropes used in tying down thatch. **4** *also* **callugher** the seed potato still attached to the plant when it is dug up. **5** an old fir-root or stump in a bog; *cf.* *illustration at moss*. **6** a worthless thing or person.

□ **cailleached** *of potatoes* wrinkled, tough, out of season.

- **caillya-load** the last load of the harvest.
[Irish *cailleach*.]
- cair** *verb*, usually **caired** covered.
[Scots form *cure* (*cf.* the *abane* form of *abune*). *Cf.* *kiver*.]
- caird**, **card** *noun* **1** a travelling tinker; a tramp. **2** a tricky person.
[Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *ceàrd* "a tinker".]
- cairn** *noun* a loose heap of stones placed on a hill or mountain top as a landmark.
[Scots, also adopted in Standard English, from Scottish Gaelic *càrn* (corresponding to Ulster Irish *carn*).]
- caishla** [cashla] *adjective* difficult; uncertain; intricate.
[*Cf.* Irish *cas* "twisted; complicated".]
- caivil** *see* kevel.
- caivle** *see* cavil.
- cake** *noun* **1** a round of oatcake or other baking done on a griddle. **2** a biscuit.
□ **oul' cake** a middle-aged woman.
- cald** *see* cold.
- caldera**, **caldra** *noun* **1** a silly, talkative person; a rude, boorish person. **2** a lazy person. **3** a foolish, cowardly person.
[Irish *cealdrach*.]
- caldy**, **cauld** *adjective*, also **call-handed** left-handed.
[Origin unknown.]
- caleery** *adjective* frivolous, vain, full of mischief.
◆ *noun* **1** a frivolous, vain person. **2** a giddy, hysterical person.
□ **caleeried** scatter-brained, irresponsible; giddy, hysterical.
□ **caleeriness** frivolity, mischief.
[Hiberno-English *caleer* "caper, jump about", origin unknown.]
- calf**, **cawf**, **cav**, **cauve**; *plural calfs*; *noun* **1** a calf. **2** a heifer.
◆ *verb* **cav** behave like a "calf" (*i.e.* a big softie), give up (in a race, *etc.*).
□ **as big a fool as the cawf that ate the wig, as big a fool as the cawf that ate the Whig**
□ **calf lick**, **calf's lick** a cow lick, a lock of hair on the head that turns up and back as if a calf had licked it, and will not lie flat; *see also* **bull**, **cow**¹.
□ **calf-love** teenage love.
□ **calf-ward** an enclosure for calves.
□ **cyavie** a coward.
□ **silly calf** *contemptuous* a stupid, silly person, an idiot.
[Scots and English dialectal forms *cawf*, *cauve*; Scots and Somerset form *cav*. Plural: *calfs* obsolete in Standard English (still South-Western English and in Scottish English).]
- calk**: **calker**, **cocker**, **cacker** a calkin (the turned down heel of a horse-shoe which gives extra traction in icy conditions).
See also **corkin pin**. [ILLUS: *calker*]
- call**, **ca'** *verb* **1** call. **2** name. **3** consider (someone) to be *e.g.* *She's called a good doctor*. **4** drive (animals).
◆ *noun* a call.
□ **call (a child) for** name (a child) after.
□ **call cousins** regard one another, perhaps loosely, as cousins.
□ **call for someone** collect someone.
□ **call name** the form of his or her Christian name by which a person is known.
□ **call on** visit.
□ **call out** *of a woman in labour* be in need of a midwife.
□ **call shame on someone** cry shame on someone, try to make someone feel ashamed of something.
□ **call someone out of his** or **her name** verbally abuse, scold someone; call someone abusive names.
□ **call with** call on, visit.

- **no call** no right, need or occasion *e.g. Ye had nae ca' tae dae it., There's nae call for ye here.*
- **have the call** have the right to nominate the next singer.
- **what do they call ye?** what is your name?
[Scots form *ca'*.]
- callant, callan** *noun* a boy; a young man.
[Scots and Northern English, from Middle Dutch *calant* "a customer, a chap".]
- caller** *adjective* fresh.
[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]
- call-handed** *see* caldy.
- calliagh** *see* cailleach.
- callig, calligaleen** *see* colligoleen.
- callugher** *see* cailleach.
- caluragh, caldragh** [the 'gh' is silent] *noun* a burial place for children who die before being baptised.
- calve** *noun* the calf (of the leg).
[Old form in Scots and English.]
- calyagh** *see* cailleach.
- cam** *see* come¹.
- cam¹, kam, caum** *noun* **1** a mould, *especially* one for casting bullets or melting metal for coins. **2** a small iron pan or ladle for melting lard, resin, tallow for rush lights, *etc.* [ILLUS: cam]
□ **make money as if you had a cam on the fire** "coin" money.
[Scots, origin unknown.]
- cam²** *adjective* crooked.
□ **cam tails** a seaweed: a species of *Laminaria spp.*
[Irish *cam*; also in West Midland English from Celtic sources (Modern Welsh *cam*). *See also* *caman, camogie, camschach, cawmeen.*]
- caman, kamman, common, commons** *noun* **1** the stick used in the game of *caman* or hurling, similar to a hockey stick. *Illustration see* *hurl*. **2** the game of hurling, played *especially* at Christmas, originally between two districts or parishes without any fixed number to a side. *Illustration see* *hurl*.
□ **caman day** St Stephen's Day, 26th December, when the game was often played.
[Hiberno-English *common*, Irish *camán* "hurling stick", itself from *cam* (*see* *cam²*) + *-án*.]
- cambered** *adjective*, *of a floor or ceiling* slightly arched, bent.
- camisther** *adjective* easy-going.
- camogie** *noun* a game: ladies' hurling.
[Irish *camógai* "a woman hurler", from *camóg* "a hurling stick" (itself from *cam*, *see* *cam²*, + diminutive ending *-óg*) + agent ending *-ái*.]
- camp, kemp** *verb* **1** compete, *especially* in cooperative labour such as spinning, scutching, or harvesting. **2** challenge, compete with (someone). **3** help to bring in someone's hay harvest. **4** work against time. **5** play any game.
◆ *noun* **1** *also* **camping** competition amongst workers; a competition at work. **2** a team of people gathered for cooperative labour. **3** a meeting of girls to do sewing, knitting, *etc.*, together, ending with a dance. **4** **kemps** a superior variety of potatoes.
□ **camp-ball** a traditional game similar to football.
□ **camping-match, kemping match** a contest among flax-pullers, potato-diggers, *etc.*
□ **try a kemp** compete.
[Scots and Northern English *kemp*, Southern Scots also *camp*; from Middle Dutch *kempen* "to fight, to contend".]
- camshach** *adjective* **1** distorted. **2** ill-natured, bad tempered.
[Scots; origin unknown, but possibly containing Scottish Gaelic *cam*

"crooked" (*cf.* *cam*².)]

camstone *noun* steatite, soapstone.

[Scots "a type of limestone", origin unknown.]

can; *negative*; **canna**, **canny**, **cannae**, **cawney**; *auxiliary verb* *can*, frequently in the sense of permission *e.g.* *Ye cannot do it* you are not allowed to do it.

◆ *verb* be able to *e.g.* *I'll no can go.*

□ **as like as can be** bearing a close resemblance to someone.

□ **as like as like can be** very likely.

□ **not can** cannot, not be able to *e.g.* *You'll not can do it, He not can do it.*

[West Midland form *con*. Scots, also West Midland, negative form *canna*; Scots also *canny*, *cannae* (*see* *no*²). *See also* *could*, *canny*.]

can¹

□ **go to the cans** become poor.

canant [*canant*] *noun* a to-do, a fuss *Co. Antrim*.

[Origin unknown.]

canaptious *see* *carnaptious*.

canary *noun*, *figuratively* a humbug, a person who imposes on others with a pretence of goodwill.

canat, **kanat**, **cannot** *noun* **1** a miserly person. **2** an ill-natured person.

3 an upsetting, cheeky person. **4** a conceited person who imagines himself or herself to be very shrewd.

[Hiberno-English "a sharp, wily fellow", origin unknown.]

canavan *noun* cotton-grass *Eriophorum spp.*

[*Cj.* Irish *ceannbhán*.]

canawl, **canaul** *noun* a canal.

cancel *verb* disgrace, humiliate, put (a person) to shame.

candaray *noun*, *ploughing* a boy who leads the horses.

[Irish *ceannaire* "a leader".]

candle, **cannle**, **kennle** *noun* a candle.

□ **burn the candle at both ends** over-work.

□ **Candlemas: Candlemas cross** *Roman Catholic* a St. Bridget's cross (a little cross woven of straw, made on St. Bridget's day, February 1st, and blessed on Candlemas, February 2nd). [ILLUS: *Candlem+*]

□ **candlestick** **1** the child who stands or sits in the middle of a seesaw to balance it. **2** *in plural* drips of snot hanging from a child's nostrils.

□ **candle-waster** someone who sits up late at night.

□ **he etc. could not hold a candle to (a person)** he *etc.* is vastly inferior to (a person). The person who held a candle for a workman was a mere attendant.

□ **If Candlemiss Day is fair and clear, / The half o' the winter's t'come that year** *rhyme*

□ **light a kennil at both ens an it soon burns**

□ **(On) Candlemas day, Candlemas day, throw candles and candlesticks away** *rhyme*

□ **you've burned the candle, burn the inch** meaning that you might as well finish a job, "you might as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb".

[Scots, Northern English and South-Western English, form *cannle*; South-Western English also *kendle*.]

candy: candyman a ragman who gives out sweeties in exchange for old clothes.

canelle *noun* spice.

[Obsolete Standard English (latterly Scots) "cinnamon", from Old French *canelle* and Medieval Latin *canella*.]

canale *verb* quarrel, argue, bicker.

[Scots; apparently of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian *kjangle*.]

canker: cankered *adjective* bad-tempered, surly, contrary.

□ **cankersome** **1** festering. **2** *of a person* short-tempered, irritable; bad-tempered.

See also chancer.

canna, cannae *see* can.

cannle *see* candle.

cannot *see* canat.

canny *see* can.

canny, cawney, conny, kenny *adjective* **1** shrewd, knowing; wise.

2 cautious, thrifty; mean, stingy. **3** skilful, handy; *see also* canty. **4** gentle, careful. **5** normal, natural.

◆ *adverb* gently, carefully.

□ **canny-going** easy-going, placid.

□ **conny-go-aisy** a slow-moving person; an easy-going person; *see* ease.

□ **constant an' canny goes far in the day** *proverbial*

□ **If ye caanae be caany be as caany as ye caan**

[Scots and Northern English *canny, cawney, conny*; probably can + adjectival suffix -y. *See also* uncanny.]

canonicals *noun plural, jocular* uniform and accoutrements, not necessarily of a clergyman.

cant¹, kent *noun* an auction; *especially* a sale of old clothes by "Dutch auction".

◆ *verb* sell by auction.

□ **cant-man** a market trader.

□ **cantmaster, cantedent** an auctioneer.

[Mainly Hiberno-English and Northern English, from Old French *encant* *noun*.]

cant² *noun* a jerk, a push.

□ **canted** tilted, sloping.

□ **cant-hook** a handspike with a hook, used for turning over large pieces of timber.

□ **take a cant** swerve, turn, incline to one side.

[The same word as Standard English *cant* "a tilt, a slope".]

cant³, kent *noun* a stick, staff, cudgel.

[*Cf.* nautical English "a piece of wood fixed to the deck of a vessel", U.S.A. "a squared log". Scots form *kent*.]

cantle *noun* a piece, a fragment.

□ **cantlet** a small piece.

canty *adjective* **1** of a person pleasant, cheerful, lively, confident, in good form. **2** of an old person active. **3** small and neat. **4** expert, skilful; *cf.* canny.

[Scots and Northern English; from Scots and Northern English *cant* "brisk, lively" (itself from Low German *kant* "lively, cheerful") + -y, or directly from Low German *kantig* "lively, cheery".]

caorragh aittyean *noun* the dwarf juniper *Juniperus nana*.

caorran *noun* the rowan tree *Pyrus aucuparia*.

cap, cop *verb, slang* "cop", capture, catch, arrest.

cap *see* kep.

cap¹, caup, cop *noun* a small wooden bowl, often left floating in the churn, for skimming the milk.

□ **capper** a person who makes wooden bowls.

□ **caup pig, cappy-pig, also caup, cop cappie, caupy, cobby** a piglet brought up by hand and fed out of a cap; a runt, the smallest or weakest of a brood or litter.

[Scots "a shallow wooden bowl", from Old Northumbrian *copp* and Old Norse *koppr*. *See also* coppen.]

cap², kep *noun* **1** a cap (for the head). **2** a whip-round, a sum of money collected for a worthy object.

□ **cap-ball** a boys' game. The aim is to throw a ball into a school cap. The loser has to stand and be hit by the other boys; *see* doosey; *see also* kep.

□ **far up in your cap** socially superior.

□ **lucky cap** a caul (a membrane sometimes covering the head of a baby

when it is born).

[Scots, also South-Western English, form *kep*.]

cap³ *verb*, of wood warp or curve from the heat of the sun.

◆ *noun* **1** the warping of unseasoned timber. **2** a warp, a knot in wood.

□ **capped**, **capt** **1** warped, curved. **2** round-shouldered.

[Scots, possibly a figurative use of **cap**².]

cap-ball *see* *kep*.

cappany *see* *copney*.

cappel *noun* a mare.

□ **coppul-hurrish** the game of seesaw [the second element is possibly Irish *thairis* "over it"].

[Irish *capall* "a horse", Ulster Irish "a mare".]

cappen *see* *coppen*.

capper, **kepper** *noun* a thick slice of buttered bread; a piece of oatcake with butter.

□ **capped** spread with butter.

□ **earn the capper** be successful, *especially* **did you earn the capper?**

asked euphemistically of someone who has taken a cow to the bull [from the old custom of giving a **capper** to the person in charge of the cow].

[Hiberno-English *kepper*, from Irish *ceapaire* "a piece of bread and butter".]

capt *see* **cap**³.

car¹, **cyar** *noun* a horse-drawn passenger vehicle. [ILLUS: *car*]

□ **block car** a wheel-car.

□ **car-road**, **carrod** a track through fields or a bog.

□ **cart-car** a cart with the body of a wheel-car and cart-wheels.

□ **clog-wheel car** **1** a wheel-car. **2** an awkward, inexperienced-looking person.

□ **covered car**, **cover car** a car with a roof.

□ **hack-car**:

□ **inside car** a car where the passenger seats are inside the wheels, an inside jaunting car.

□ **jaunting car**:

□ **long car** a type of four-wheeled car with long seats parallel to the shafts.

□ **outside car** a car where the passenger seats are outside the wheels, an outside jaunting car.

□ **post-car**:

□ **slide-car** a simple horse-drawn sledge, a *slipe-car*.

□ **wheel car** a type of cart with solid wheels that move together with the axle.

car², **carr**, **kyar**, **core** *noun* an ill-natured grimace; a grimace of pain, contempt, bad temper, *etc.*

◆ *verb* grimace with pain, disgust, *etc.*; make faces.

[Irish *cár* "a set of teeth; to show the teeth", *cf.* *cargary*.]

car³, **carr** *adjective* awkward.

[Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *ceàrr* "left-handed". *See also* *cowie*.]

caran, **cairn** *noun* **1** a strip of moorland used for peat-cutting. **2** a rocky place.

caravancery *noun* anything strange, whose name is not known.

carawan *noun* a piece *or* pieces of broken peat.

carcage, **carkage** *noun* **1** a carcass. **2** the body.

[Scots; from Medieval Latin *carcagium*, a variant of *carcosium* (which gives French *carcasse*, hence Standard English *carcass*).]

card *see* *caird*.

card: **carders** *historical* rebels who tortured their victims by driving a card (a comb for dressing wool) into their backs and dragging it down the spine.

cardiah **1** friendship, a friendly welcome. **2** an extension of the time for

paying a debt.

cardies *noun* a wild flower: the field scabious *Knautia arvensis*; *cf.* curl.

care *noun* family, household for which you have responsibility *usually in the question how's all the or your care?*

[more commonly used in Ireland than elsewhere]

careen *verb* misbehave, carry on.

carey *adjective*, of a boy always winking and luring. *thus a carey boy*

carf *see* carp.

carf *noun* **1** a groove cut in a piece of wood. **2** a trench, a channel cut to drain a bog.

[Obsolete Standard English (still English dialectal and Southern Scots)

"a cutting, a cut", related to the verb *carve*.]

carfuffle, kerfuffle, curfuffle, corfuffle, kififle, cuffuffle *noun* **1** disorder, commotion [*kerfuffle* also adopted in colloquial English]. **2** a trifling job.

♦ **verb** **1** confuse, mix up, disarrange. **2** of a man courting a girl handle roughly, ruffle. **3** toss, shake up (straw, *etc.*).

□ **curfufflin, kurfufflin** the ruffling of a person's clothes or hair in a rough, playful way.

□ **curfufflit** **1** mixed up, confused. **2** muffled up.

[Scots *carfuffle, curfuffle, corfuffle*; from *car-* (either from Scottish Gaelic *car* "a twist", or as in *curcuddoch, etc.*) + *fuffle*.]

cargary: put your **cargary on you** laugh.

[Irish *cár gáire* "showing of the teeth in laughter", *see car*².]

caris chreesta *noun* gossip, sponsor.

cark *noun* trouble, anxiety *usually neither cark nor care*

[Archaic in Standard English, from Anglo-Norman *kark* "a burden".

Charge is from the corresponding Central French form.]

carkage *see* carcage.

carl, cyarl *noun* **1** a carl, a man from the countryside. **2** a reckless good-for-nothing. **3** a man, a fellow. **4** an old man. **5** a boy.

See also carling.

carl-doddy *see* curl.

carley *noun* the last handful of corn cut in the harvest field; *cf.* carling, quirlie. *Illustration see* churn².

carling, carlin *noun* **1** an old woman, *especially* an aggressive old woman. **2** a witch. **3** the last handful of corn cut in the harvest field; *cf.* cailleach; *see also* carley. *Illustration see* churn².

[Scots and Northern English; from Old Norse *kerling* "a woman, especially an old woman", feminine form of *carl*.]

carlique *see* curl.

carmeliagh, carnmeliagh, cornmeliagh, cornmeliagh *noun* a wild flower: the bitter vetchling *Lathyrus montanus*.

[Donegal Irish *carra meille* (Standard Irish *carra mhilis*) "the root of wild liquorice". The bitter vetchling is a more common plant of the same family, also with edible roots.]

carnaptious, cyarnaptious, curnaptious, cornaptious, canaptious, corsnoptious *adjective* irritable, touchy, bad-tempered; cantankerous, quarrelsome, always finding fault.

[Scots *carnaptious, curnaptious*; intensifying prefix *car-*, *cur-* (as in *curcuddoch*) + *knap*¹ (in the sense "to bite, to snap") + *-tious* as in loan words from Latin.]

Caroline: **caroline-hat** a kind of black hat. [ILLUS: caroln/h]

carp, corp, carf *noun* a fish: the red sea-bream *Pagellus bogaraveo*.

carper *noun* a person who catches the herrings that break from the nets when they are drawn on shore *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*; *cf.* kep.

carpuckle *noun* a "pickle", a difficult or embarrassing situation.

[Apparently *car-* (as in *curcuddoch*) + *pickle*.]

carr *see* car², car³.

carrarfufflies *noun plural* the hinged bottoms of donkey creels. *Illustration*

see bardock.

[The first element is apparently the Scots intensifying prefix *carry-* (*cf.* curymushy).]

carrageen, carrigeen *noun*, also **carrageen moss** a seaweed: Irish moss *Chondrus crispus*.

[Hiberno-English, from the place-name. There is a large number of places called Carrageen around Ireland: Carrageen in Co. Wexford has been suggested. Also adopted in Standard English.]

carrick-a-sthola *noun* a standing stone.

carrion *noun*, *abusive*, a person.

□ **a carrion won't poison a crow** *proverbial* meaning that there are some people who can eat anything.

carrod *see* car¹.

carron *noun* a badly-made dish of food.

carrow *noun*, *obsolete* a professional gambler.

[Probably from Irish *cearrbhach* "a gambler, a card-player".]

carry, kerry *verb* **1** take (a person) along with you. **2** lead or drive (an animal).

◆ *noun*, also **the carry of the sky 1** movement, drift (of the clouds).

2 quick-flying clouds.

□ **carried 1** conceited, vain, puffed up. **2** giddy, foolish, light-headed, carried away.

□ **carryin** *slang 1* having surplus money on you. **2** armed.

□ **carry my lady to London** a game. Two children grasp each other by the wrists, forming a seat on which another child sits and is carried about.

□ **carry on** *verb 1* play act, behave unnaturally *e.g.* *What are you carrying on like that for?* hence **carrying-on** behaviour, proceedings; foolish, irresponsible playacting. **2** scold.

◆ *noun* an unpleasant affair *etc.*

□ **carry on with** flirt, have an affair with.

□ **carry someone on** persuade, coax, deceive someone *e.g.* *He carried her on till she didn't know where she was.*

□ **I'll carry the heid o ye** a threat to knock someone's head off; *see* head.

□ **in a carry** excited, in a bustle.

□ **no carried story** the actual experience, not second-hand, of the person telling it.

[Scots and Northern English form *kerry*.]

carse *noun* land that was formerly under the sea.

[Scots "fertile alluvial land next to a river"; possibly a plural of English dialectal *carr* "a marsh", itself from Old Norse, *cf.* Norwegian *kjær*.]

carses *see* well¹.

carshear, cashier *noun* a sudden swerve.

[Possibly Irish *cor* "a twist" + *siar* "back".]

cart, kyart, kert, cairt *noun, verb* cart.

□ **cart-wheel** *noun 1* a crown piece, five shillings. **2** a large copper coin of George III.

[Scots forms *cairt, kert*.]

cartan, carthan *noun* a sheep tick.

carthallagh *noun* an angry discussion or argument.

carvey *noun*, also **chervy, carvey seed** caraway seed, *frequently* carvy cake.

[Scots and English dialectal *carvey*, from French *carvi*. Caraway is closer to the original Arabic form *al-karawiyā*.]

casan, cashin *noun* a path.

[Ulster Irish *casán* (Standard Irish *cosán*) "a path", from *cos* "a foot" + diminutive ending *-án*.]

case: case equal all the same, "as broad as it's long".

case¹: case of pistols *jocular* a person's bottom.

caseogue, ceisoge *noun* a young sow having her first litter.

cash *see* kesh.

casharawan, gasharwan *noun* the dandelion.

casheevlin *noun* a tossing, rough handling.

[Possibly contains *car-* as in *carfuffle*.]

cashel *noun* a castle.

cashier *see* carshear.

cashier *verb, in a game* beat, *usually* **cashiered** beaten.

cashin *see* casan.

cas: **a seasoned cas never leaks** *proverbial*

caslagh *noun* low lying rough ground, *especially* near the sea.

cassel *see* castle.

cassey *see* causey.

cast, cyast, kest *verb* **1** cast. **2** reject (goods), throw (something) away as faulty. **3** **cast off** throw off (*e.g.* a cold). **4** lose naturally, shed (hair, teeth, *etc.*); *of an animal or bird* moult [archaic in Standard English]. **5** *of colour* fade.

◆ *noun* **1** the yield of crops. **2** a warp in wood as it dries out. **3** an attack (of illness).

□ **cast 1** rejected, discarded. **2** *of a sheep* fallen on its back and unable to get up.

□ **castaway** an old worn-out horse.

□ **cast clothes** worn out clothing.

□ **cast out 1** quarrel, fall out; *hence* **casting out** a falling out. **2** *of colours* cast, fade.

□ **cast the creels** quarrel, fall out; *see* creel.

□ **cast up** *verb* **1** vomit, throw up. **2** "rake up", remind a person of (past faults); *hence* **casting-match** a quarrel.

◆ *noun* a taunt, a reproach.

□ **kest-aff** cast-off.

See also side.

castle, cassel *noun* a stack of ten or a dozen peats placed crossways in pairs to dry.

◆ *verb* stack (peats) in this way.

□ **castles fall and dunghills rise** *proverbial* a sneer at people who put on airs or seem to be trying to climb socially.

[Influenced in sense by Irish *caiseal* which means both "a castle" and "a stack of peat".]

cat¹, caut, ket, kyet *noun* a cat.

□ **a cat of a kind** another similar and equally objectionable person.

□ **all piss and wind like a young cat**

□ **cat and kitten** a children's game.

□ **cat arr** a hare-lip; *see* arr.

□ **cat fish 1** the sea wolf or sea cat *Anarrhichas lupus*. **2** a cuttlefish, *Sepia officinalis*.

□ **cat's cradle** a game in which a little cage made of green rushes is used.

□ **cat's fur, did ye iver see it on a dog?** sarcastic reply to the question, "What for?"; *see* for.

□ **cat's hair** thin streamers of cloud, a sign of wind.

□ **cat's lick** a cat-lick, a wipe in place of washing yourself properly.

□ **cat's tails** hare's tail cotton-grass *Eriophorum vaginatum*.

□ **cat's valerian** a wild flower: common valerian *Valeriana officinalis*.

□ **does a cat like milk?** said in reply to the question whether you like something, meaning that you do very much, of course.

□ **he's better than he looks, like a singed cat** *proverbial*

□ **it's as bad to draw as a cat out of a stocking** *proverbial*

□ **make yourself a mouse and the cat'll eat you** *proverbial*

□ **tip-cat** a game.

□ **too old a cat to be fooled by a kitten** *proverbial*

□ **while the cat's a baste** for a very long time to come, indefinitely.

- [South-Eastern English form *ket*, North Midland form *kyat*. *See also* *catty*.]
- cat²** *noun* a mass of plant roots in a bog; the plant roots that bind peat together.
- **cat and clay** chopped straw and clay mixed together, used to make mud walls.
 - **ketty** *of peat* spongy, fibrous.
[Scots "straw, as used in *cat and clay*", possibly from Anglo-French *cot* (see *cotther*).]
- cat³** *adjective*, *also* **cat melodium**, **cat malodyin** terrible, catastrophic.
[Origin unknown, also found in Highland English.]
- catapult** *noun* a caterpillar; *cf.* *catherpillar*.
- catbrack** *noun* **1** a Bible-reader, a proselytising agent. **2** a form of proselytism. The proselytising agent, often a fiddler, gathered the people into his house to dance and then entered them into his book as converts.
[Irish *cat breac* "a turncoat", literally "a speckled cat".]
- catch, ketch**; *past tense* **catched, ketched**; *past participle* **cotch** *verb* catch.
- **catch a hold** catch hold.
 - **catch it** receive a scolding, punishment; be in trouble.
 - **catch yourself on!** "get a grip of yourself".
 - **she'll catch it for bidin'** said of someone who lived to a ripe old age.
 - **sue a beggar and ketch a louse**
[English dialectal form *ketch*. Past tense: general dialectal and Scots form *catched*, Southern English form *ketched*. Past participle: Worcestershire, Oxfordshire and Hampshire form *cotch*.]
- catechise** *verb* reprimand, correct (a person).
◆ *noun* a catechism.
- category** *noun* an argument.
- catergully** *noun* a confused row, a noisy dispute.
[*Cf.* Scots *cattiewurrie*, *catterbatter*, *etc.* The first element is the same as in English *caterwaul* and may be the Dutch *kater* "a tom cat". For the second element, *cf.* *gully*¹.]
- cathag** ["th" pronounced like "tt" in "matter"] *noun* a spherical wickerwork basket *Co. Donegal*.
[Appears to contain the Irish diminutive ending *-óg*.]
- catherpillar, cattypuller** *noun* a catapult; *cf.* *catapult*.
- Catholic** *adjective* **1** *Protestant* untidy, rough and ready.
2 Catholic-looking *Roman Catholic* clean, respectable-looking [in conscious response to *Protestant-looking*].
- catridge, catteridge** *noun* a cartridge.
- cattalow** *noun* a ferret *Co. Donegal*.
[Origin unknown.]
- cattered** *adjective* unhealthy-looking.
[*Cf.* Scots *cuiter* "to pamper because of ill health".]
- catteridge** *see* *catridge*.
- catty** *noun* a game: rounders.
[*Cf.* English and Scots dialectal "a piece of wood used as a ball in various games", from *cat*¹. *See also* *caddy*.]
- cattypuller** *see* *catherpillar*.
- caubeen** *noun* a man's woollen hat, a cap.
[Hiberno-English, from Irish *cáibín* "old cap", itself from *cába* "cape" + diminutive ending *-ín*]
- caudy** *see* *caddie*.
- caugh, cawk, couch, coch** *verb, noun* cough.
[Scots form *caugh*, *couch*, *coch*.]
- caul'** *see* *cold*.
- caulcannon** *see* *colcannon*.
- cauld, cauldribe** *see* *cold*.

cauldy *see* caldy.

caulk, cock, caak *verb*, also **caulk over** faint, swoon away.

[Nautical slang *caulk* "to sleep", from the idea of stopping something up.]

caum *see* cam¹.

caum, caulm, caam *adjective* calm.

◆ *noun* a calm, a lull.

[English dialectal form *caum*, Scots form *caulm*.]

Caunadaw, Kenada *noun* Canada.

caup *see* cap¹.

cause *conjunction* because.

□ **cause for why?** why?

□ **cause why** because.

causey, cossy, cassey *noun* **1** a causeway; a ford, a paved river crossing; stepping stones; a raised track across a bog [archaic in Standard English]. **2** a lane leading from the road to a house; a passage between houses. **3** the paved or hard-beaten yard in front of a cottage or farmhouse, the farmyard; any similar paved place.

□ **crown of the causey** the centre of the road.

□ **king of the causey** **1** the fowl or domestic animal that is able to beat all the others of its kind. **2** a game: "king of the castle".

[Scots, also South-Western English, form *cassey*; from Anglo-Norman *cauciée* "an embankment, a dam". Generally replaced in Standard English by *causeway*, from *causey* + *way*.]

caut *see* cat¹.

caution *noun* an extraordinary thing or person; *specifically* (**a**) a person who is clever, capable, or skilful at any kind of work; (**b**) a tease.

cautious *adjective* **1** kind, obliging. **2** quiet, *usually in a command to children be cautious.*

cauve, cav *see* calf.

cave¹ *verb, of cattle* push with the horns, toss the head.

[Scots and Northern English; probably of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Old Norse *kaf* "a plunge".]

cave² *verb* clean or separate by tossing; (**a**) corn from broken straw or chaff. *Illustration see weight*²; (**b**) soil from weeds.

□ **caving** a beating, a thrashing.

[Scots and Northern English *cave*; either the same as **cave**¹, from the action of shaking the straw; or related to the *caff* form of **chaff**.]

cavie *noun* a hen coop.

[Scots, from obsolete Flemish *kavie* "a cage for birds".]

cavil:

cavil, caivle, kevel *verb, especially of a horse, also, figuratively, of a person* **1** toss the head. **2** paw the ground. **3** move restlessly; leap about.

□ **caveley-headed** shaking the head.

cavish *noun, also cavishen* a headstall heavily loaded with iron, used in horse-breaking.

[Origin unknown.]

cawf *see* calf.

cawk *see* caught.

cawmeen *noun* the bent part of a stick or handle.

[Irish *caimín* "a shepherd's crook", from *cam* (*see cam*²) + diminutive ending *-ín*.]

cawney *see* can, canny.

cayforth, kayferth *noun, abusive, of a man* a careless fool.

cayley *see* ceili.

ceama *noun* a person with an untidy way of doing things.

cearc fraoigh *noun* the hen grouse.

ceili, ceilidh, cailey, cayley, kaley, kailye *noun* **1** a friendly visit to a neighbour's house, usually in the evening. **2** a friendly chat. **3** a social

event, a dance.

◆ **verb 1** go visiting. **2** chat, gossip.

□ **cayleyin** night visiting.

□ **make a ceili, make your ceilidh** pay a visit.

□ **on your ceili** out visiting.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *céili*; also Scots (usually spelled *ceilidh*) from Scottish Gaelic *cèilidh*.]

cement: cementing a beating, a thrashing.

ceo-boy *see* keo.

certain; sarten *adjective* certain.

□ **certainly; sartenly** certainly.

□ **sartin sure** absolutely sure.

[Scots form *certain*, old form (not in Scots) *sarten*.]

certes [serts] *exclamation* certainly [archaic in Standard English, where it is pronounced with two syllables].

cess¹ *noun 1* a local tax; *specifically* the assessment for rates on property [still sometimes used for what are called *rates* elsewhere in the U.K.].

2 *historical* the obligation to supply government troops with food and accommodation; military exactions of any kind.

◆ **verb, historical cess (soldiers, etc.) upon the country** force the people living in an area to provide food and accommodation for (soldiers, etc.).

□ **plot the cess 1** fix the amount of the tax. **2** *figuratively* said of people who seem to be talking secretly together *e.g.* *What are them wans doing? They're plotting the cess.*

[Shortened form of *assess*.]

cess²: bad cess bad luck, *usually* **bad cess to or till (a person, animal, or thing)**.

[Hiberno-English. May be related to **cess¹** or to *success*.]

cess³ *verb, of water on an oily surface* separate into drops.

[Lincolnshire, origin unknown.]

cess⁴ *noun* a window sill *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

cettle *noun plural* cattle *Mid Ulster*.

chack¹, check *noun* a snack; a working person's mid-day meal.

[Scots *chack*, Ayrshire also *check*; from Scots *chack* "to bite, to snap", onomatopoeic.]

chack² *noun* a wheel-rut.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

chaff, caff *noun* chaff.

□ **caff bed** a chaff-filled mattress.

□ **caffy: caffy-waffy** a worthless fellow.

□ **chaffinch, caffinch, caffinch, also chaffy, chaff** a bird: the chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*; *see* flinch. [ILLUS: chaff'ch]

□ **chaff shillin's** the bristles of barley.

[Scots and Northern English form *caff*.]

chaghy *adjective, of the throat* blocked, unable to be cleared by coughing.

[Probably onomatopoeic.]

chain *noun* the warp of a piece of cloth being woven.

chainey *see* chiny.

chaise: them pair might run - in a chaise their marriage will last so long as the money endures.

□ **Them that plaises / May ride in chaises** *rhyme*

cham *see* tam.

chamber, chammer, chaumer *noun* an upper room, either in a house or outbuilding [*chamber* more commonly used than in Standard English].

[Scots and English dialectal form *chammer*, Scots and Northern English also *chaumer*.]

chaminging *adjective* complaining, fretful.

champ *verb* mash (*especially* potatoes).

- ◆ **noun 1** also **potato champ** mashed boiled potatoes, mixed with milk, butter, onions, parsley, *etc*; also **bean champ**, **nettle champ**, *etc*. **2** a mixture of bread and tea.
- **as cool as champ**
- **bean-champ** stelk, thump.
- chance** *verb* bet, wager.
- **chanceable** changeable, subject to chance [archaic in Standard English].
- **chancy** *of a woman* attractive; *cf.* mischancy, unchancy, wanchancy.
- chancer** *noun* cancer.
[The same word as English *chancre* "a type of ulcer" from French *chancre* "cancer". *See also* canker.]
- chan-chan** *exclamation* a call to cows.
- chander** *see* channer¹.
- chandery dang** *noun* a shandrydan, a ramshackle vehicle; *cf.* channer¹.
- chandler**, **chanler** *noun 1* a candlestick. **2** a Chandler, a retailer.
- **it's just by way of a sloap, the way the chandler cuts the soap**
[Scots form *chanler*.]
- chandry**, **chandther** *see* channer².
- change**: **changedale** *historical* the rundale system of land holding.
- **changeling** a child supposed to have been swapped by the fairies; an idiot.
- **change yerself** change your clothes.
- **change your feet** change your shoes and socks.
- **hardly change one word with someone** hardly talk to someone.
- chanler** *see* chandler.
- channel** *noun 1* the bed, the solid bottom of a bog; *see also* kennel. **2** a hard pan beneath the topsoil.
See also channer².
- channer¹**, **chander**, **chanter** *verb 1* chunter, grumble, mutter. **2** also **chunner** chunter, nag, scold in a complaining, fault-finding way.
3 stammer.
- ◆ **noun** someone who is always finding fault.
- **chandery**: **channering** complaining, fretful.
[Scots *channer*; Scots, Northern English and slang *chunner*; Shropshire and Warwickshire also *chunder*; Northern and Midland English also *chunter*. *Chunter* also adopted in Standard English. Onomatopoeic. *See also* chandery dang, channer², janner.]
- channer²**, **chandther** *noun 1* gravel from the bed of a river. **2** a bed of pebbles in cultivated ground.
- **channery**, **chandry** *of ground* gravelly; stony.
[Scots *channer* "gravel", a form of **channel**, possibly influenced by **channer¹**. *See also* chatther.]
- chanter** *see* channer¹.
- chanty** *noun* a chamber-pot.
[Scots, possibly a shortened form.]
- chap¹**, **chap** *verb 1* rap, tap, knock. **2** "knock down" an article at an auction.
- ◆ **noun 1** a blow or knock with the fist. **2** an accidental blow, a knock. **3** a spell of work.
- **chappy** *of soil* light and stony.
[Scots and Northern English *chap*, Scots also *chaup*; from Middle English *chap*, a form of **chop¹**.]
- chap²**: **chap an change** "chop and change".
[*Chap* "to buy and sell" obsolete in Standard English, altered to *chop* in *chop and change*. From Middle English *chapien*; Old English *cēapian*, whose normal development is **cheap**. *Chap* also Hiberno-English form of *chop*.]
- chap³**

chap⁴: **chapfallen** very hungry indeed.

chape *see* cheap.

- **Chape John from the Moy** *nickname* a penny-pincher; a cheapskate, a bargain-hunter.

characthar *noun* a "character".

charge *verb* prime (a pump).

- ◆ *noun* **1** a large amount of food and drink. **2** an idle, uncouth fellow. **3** a targe, a loud-mouthed woman.
- **heavy charge** a heavy burden or trial.

See also cark.

charity *noun* an object of charity, a beggar.

Charlie *adjective* **1** a breed of cattle: Charolais. **2** also applied to sheep and goats with the same honey colouring and curly hair.

Charlie¹: **it's long o' comin', like Royal Charlie** said of a thing long expected.

charm: **have the charm** have the art of healing a particular ailment by a traditional folk practice. The healer himself or herself would, however, use the term *cure*.

- **he would charm the heart of a wheel-barrow or of a beggar-man's crutch** *derogatory* describing a person singing or whistling badly.

chase: **chase-grace** *noun* a scapegrace, a rascal.

chat:

chat *see* chit.

- **that's the chat** meaning that someone has said the right thing.

chate *verb* cheat.

- **cheatery**
- **cheetry chin will never win a pin**
[Older form in Scots and English.]

chatter¹: **chatter-bag** a chatterbox.

chatter² *verb* shatter.

- **chattered** bruised.
[Scots and Northern English, altered form of *shatter*. *See also* chatther.]

chatther *noun* a bed of pebbles in cultivated ground.

[*Cf.* Lancashire and Derbyshire *chatter* "broken stone used for surfacing footpaths etc.", possibly the same word as *chatter*². *Cf.* *channer*².]

chaup *see* chap¹.

chavel *verb* chew (something) without swallowing it, *e.g.* of a pig chewing chaff.

chaw *see* chew¹.

chawl, chow *noun, only cheek by chawl, cheek by chow, cheek for chow* cheek by jowl, side by side, in close contact, in confidential conversation.

[Older form (still English dialectal) *chawl*, Scots form *chow*. *See also* chollers.]

chay, t'chay, chee, chey, chegh *exclamation* **1** a call to a cow to come and be milked. **2** *also* **chay lady** said to quieten a cow. **3** said to quieten a threatening dog.

See also chet, chew².

chay² *noun* a chaise, a type of carriage. *hence* **Post-Office chay** *etc.*

cheap, chape *adjective* cheap.

- ◆ *verb* bargain; *see also* chap².

- **chapman: chapman gill** *historical* a toll of one shilling levied annually by the sheriffs of Carrickfergus from each vessel trading to the port. This was to pay the cost of burying the bodies of sailors and others cast on shore.

- **cheap John from the Moy, chape John from Tandragee, etc.** a "cheapskate", a person trying to get a bargain.

- **it's as chape sittin' as standin'** an invitation to sit down.

[Older form in Scots and English *chape*. *See also* cobble², coft.]

check *see* chack¹.

check *verb* sprain (a muscle).

check¹ *noun* ? the wheatear.

check²: **he has neither money, marvels nor check to make a ring**

checkers *see* chequer.

checkle-weed *noun* ? common polypody *Polypodium vulgare*.

chee *see* chay.

cheek, chick *noun* cheek, impudence.

- **put something in your cheek** think it over.

[Cornwall form *chick*.]

cheel *see* chiel.

cheeny *see* chiny.

cheep *verb* **1** of birds chirp. **2** figuratively, of a person, especially a child make a sound.

- ◆ **noun 1** a chirp, the cry of a young bird. **2** figuratively a word, a sound e.g. *No a cheep oot o your heids, i.e. don't make a sound; see head.*

- ◆ **exclamation cheep cheep** a call to guinea fowl.

- **cheeper** a young bird, especially a young grouse.
- **daren't give a cheep** said of someone who is tyrannised by another person.

- **spoke too late, little bird! as Pat said when he sucked an egg and the bird began to cheep** proverbial

[Scots and Northern English, onomatopoeic.]

cheepuck *see* moss.

cheer *verb* shout in a disorderly way.

cheer, chire *noun* a chair.

- **if you bring your own chair, there's always welcome for you** said of a man who comes to see friends and who has a bottle with him.

[Scots form *cheer*; Scots, also Wiltshire, form *chire*.]

cheese *noun* treated as plural *cf.* porridge.

- **cheese rennet** a wild flower, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, so called because it curdles milk.

- **cheesers** thick army-style socks.

- **he thinks he is the big cheese, when he's only the smell**

cheeser *noun 1* a chestnut, a conker. **2** in plural the game of conkers.

cheevy *noun* a chevy: (a) a hunt; (b) a children's game.

- ◆ *verb* chivvy, chase, harass.

[North-Eastern Scots form.]

chegh *see* chay.

che-ho, che-o *verb* "crow" over something, express self-satisfaction *Co. Antrim*.

[Probably onomatopoeic.]

che-o *see* che-ho.

chequer *noun, in plural, also checkers* the game of draughts.

- **as cross as a yeard of chequer cloth** very cross.

- **chequer-board** a draught-board.

chert: chert your tongue bite your tongue.

[A form of chirt.]

chet *see* chit.

chet *exclamation* a call to cows *Co. Antrim; cf. chay*.

cheuch *see* teugh.

chew¹, **chaw, chow** *verb* chew.

- ◆ **noun chaw** an abusive term for a woman.

- **chaw over or upon** "chew over", think over, ponder.

- **chew the rag** become angry and give vent to your feelings.

- **go and chaw mou'** said dismissively to a person making a foolish remark or suggestion.

- **not worth a knife to cut a chow o' tobacco**

[*Chaw* obsolete in Standard English (still general dialectal and Scots),

general dialectal form *chow*.]

chew², choo *exclamation* **1** said to silence or call off a dog. **2** a call to cows; *cf.* *chay*.

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

chey *see* *chay*.

chick:

chick *see* *cheek*.

□ **have neither chick nor child** be childless.

chicken: **chicken-weed** a wild flower: common chickweed *Stellaria media*.

□ **nivver count yer chickens afore they're clocked, bekase some of them might be ducks**

chief: **chiefry** *historical* legal power over land, including the cutting of trees, *etc.*

chiel, cheel *noun* **1** a child, a boy or girl. **2** a young man, a youth.

[Scots, also South-Western English, form of *child*.]

chilcorn *see* *shilcorn*.

child, chile; *plural* **childer, childers;** *noun* **1** a child. **2** *specifically* a baby girl *e.g.* *Is it a boy or a child?*

□ **childre and chickens is always a picking** *proverbial*

[North-Eastern Scots form *chile*. Plural: general dialectal and Scots form *childer*. *See also* *chiel*.]

chillers *see* *chollers*.

chillock *noun* a fish: the pout *Trisopterus luscus* *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

chime *verb* *sing.*

chimney, chimley, chimbley *noun* a chimney; *loosely* the fireplace, the hearth.

□ **chimley-boord** a mantelpiece; *see* *board*.

□ **chimney brace** a brace.

□ **chimney lug** one of a pair of supports beneath the **brace** of a chimney; *see* *lug*. [ILLUS: *chimny/l*]

□ **chimney neuk** the chimney corner, the space under the canopy of an old-fashioned chimney; *see* *neuk*¹.

[Scots and English dialectal forms *chimley, chimbley*.]

chin: **chinstrap** *jocular* a tide-mark, a ring of dirt around the neck.

□ **chinwhack** *noun* **1** chinwag, talk; talkativeness. **2** cheek, back-chat.

chincough *noun* **1** the whooping cough. **2** a sudden spasm of crying or laughing.

[Hiberno-English, from English dialectal *chink* (from Old English **cincian*, corresponding to *kink*) + *cough*.]

chiney *noun* an insect: the daddy-long-legs. *Illustration see* *Tom*.

[Origin unknown.]

chingle, jingle *noun* shingle, gravel.

□ **jingly** **1** shingly, pebbly. **2** *of land* having a thin layer of soil on a rock bottom.

[Scots, also East Anglian, *chingle*; probably the original form of Standard English *shingle*. Scots also *jingle*.]

chink *noun* a bird: the reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*. *Illustration see* *black*.

[Scots; onomatopoeic, from the sound of its call.]

chiny, cheeny, chany, chainey *noun* **1** china, pottery. **2** a china marble.

3 *in plural* broken pieces of china used by children playing shops.

□ **Meg Delaney as white as chainey, All the way from Castleblaney** *rhyme*

[Forms obsolete in Standard English (*cheeny* still general dialectal and Scots; *chany, chainey* English dialectal).]

chip *verb, of seeds* germinate, sprout; *of buds* open.

□ **chip and change**

- **chipped** chapped by the cold.
- **he's a chip in porridge - little good - little ill**
- chire** *see* cheer.
- chirm** *verb* **1** sing, hum. **2** complain, grumble; fret, cry. **3** *of shoe leather* creak.
- **chirm in** "chip in" to a conversation.
- chirp** *verb* foam, froth.
- chirt** *verb* **1** squeeze tightly. **2** twist sharply.
- ◆ *noun* a sharp twist.
- [Scots, onomatopoeic. *See also* chert.]
- chist** *noun* a chest, a wooden storage box.
- [Northern English and Scots form. *See also* kist.]
- chit, chat** *noun* **1** a chit, a child. **2** a small slice or chip of anything. **3** a trifle, a trivial thing. **4** *also* **chet** a small, inferior potato. **5** a bird: the wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. *Illustration see* tit².
- **chitty, also chitty wren, chitwren** the wren; *see also* kitty. *Illustration see* tit².
- [Scots and English dialectal form *chat*.]
- chitter, chither** *verb* **1** talk incessantly; mutter; grumble, complain constantly. **2** *of the teeth* chatter. **3** shiver.
- **chitterareery** a songbird, *especially* the yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*.
- **chitterling** **1** chattering, the noise that swallows make. **2** the swallow *Hirundo rustica*. **3** a weakling.
- [Scots and English dialectal, onomatopoeic.]
- chittle** *verb* nibble, eat in small pieces.
- **chittlins** tiny pieces chewed up *e.g.* by mice.
- **mice chittlin's** little pieces bitten off by mice.
- [Scots, onomatopoeic.]
- chittywink** *noun* a bird: the kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, *Co. Antrim*.
- chiver** *verb* shiver.
- [Scots form.]
- choke** *noun, in plural* the jowls, the flesh covering the lower jaw of a person or animal.
- **choke-band** a strap fastening a horse's bridle around its jaws.
- [Scots *chowk, choke*; probably from Old Norse *kjálki* "a jawbone".]
- cholders** *see* chollers.
- chollers, chullers, chillers, cholders, chuldher** *noun* **1** the jowls, the flesh covering the lower jaw of a person or animal, *especially* when fat and hanging; a dewlap; a double chin. **2** the hanging lip of a hound. **3** the wattles of a fowl; *see also* jowl.
- [Scots and South-Western English *chollers*; Scots also *chullers, chillers*; South-Western Scots also *chuldher*; either from Old English *ceolor* "the throat" or related to *chawl*.]
- choo** *see* chew².
- chook chook, chookie** *see* chuck.
- chop**¹ *verb* hammer.
- [Scots "to strike", a form of *chap*¹.]
- chop**²: **chop-stick** a length of iron wire, whalebone, *etc.*, attached to a sea-fishing line to keep the snood and hook clear of the sinker.
- chop**³ *noun* a young lad.
- chorch** *see* church.
- chough** *see* teugh.
- chough** *noun* a bird: the jackdaw *Corvus monedula* [in Standard English now only applied to a different bird, *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*].
- choutee** *verb* mumble, talk indistinctly.
- chow** *see* chawl.
- chow** *see* chew¹.
- Chrissimiss** *noun* Christmas.

[Northern English form *Chrisamas*.]

Christian, Christen, cristen, Chriskyin, *noun* a human being *e.g.* *Are you a Christian? Do you think I'm a baste?*

◆ *adjective* Christian.

□ **as wise as a Christian** *proverbial, of an animal* very clever.

□ **Christianable** *of an animal* good-natured, affectionate.

[*Christen* form obsolete in Standard English (still Lincolnshire).]

chuck *exclamation, also chook chook, chooky chook chook, duke-duke, chuckie, chookie, tukey* a call to fowl.

□ **chuckie, chooky, tukey 1** a hen. **2** a person who is foolish for his or her age.

[Scots and Northern English form *chuckie*; Scots also *chookie, tukey*.]

chucker *verb* crumple, pucker *Co. Donegal*.

[Possibly an altered form of *pucker*.]

chuck-full *adjective* chock-full, full to the brim.

[Form obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal).]

chuff *see* *teugh*.

chug *verb* tug, jerk.

◆ *noun* a tug, a strong pull.

[Scots and Northern English form of *tug*.]

chugh *see* *teugh*.

chuldhers, chullers *see* *chollers*.

chunner *see* *channer*¹.

church, chorch *noun, specifically* the Church of Ireland; an Anglican church *e.g.* *They go neither to church nor Mass*.

□ **churchyard: churchyard cough** a chronic cough.

□ **churchyard deserter** a very sick-looking person.

□ **the nearer the church, the farther from grace** *proverbial*

[Northern English form *chorch*. *See also* *kirk*.]

churn¹ *verb 1* do any non-essential work with great ado. **2** sniff loudly and repeatedly.

□ **churn dash** *noun* the round flat board at the end of the handle of a churn.

□ **churn-milk** buttermilk.

[The same word as Standard English *churn* (butter).]

churn² *noun 1* the last handful of corn cut. The stalks were roughly plaited together and the reapers competed to cut the stalks by throwing their hooks. The plait was placed over the kitchen door or over the fireplace for good luck. **2 also churn dance** a harvest home, a social gathering and dance when the harvest is in; the supper at a harvest home. **3 figuratively** the last slice or piece (of bread, cake, *etc.*). [ILLUS: churn]

□ **bursted churn** describing the situation when the sun sets before all the grain is cut on the last day of reaping on a farm; *see* *burst*.

□ **win the churn 1** cut the last sheaf. **2 in general** complete the harvest.

[Northern English, a mistakenly "corrected" form of Scots and Northern English *kirn* (related to *corn*), because in these dialects *churn*¹ takes the form *kirn*.]

cialóg *noun* the bog lark.

ciarnnoge *noun* a black beetle.

cider *noun* the cypress tree.

□ **cider larch** a variety of larch wood.

[Middle English form *cyder* of *cedar*.]

ciggies *noun plural* cigarette cards.

cineal, kinel *noun 1* food given to a cow to keep her quiet when being milked. **2** a hot drink given to a newly-calved cow.

□ **make a cineal on someone** give someone something nice to eat

[translation of Irish *cinéal a dhéanamh ar dhuine*].

[Ulster Irish *cinéal* (Standard Irish *cinéal*) "kindness; a treat, special feeding for an animal".]

cinner, sinner, shinner, shunner *noun* a cinder.

[Scots form.]

cipin *noun* a piece of stick, a twig.

[Irish *cipin*.]

circumpendibus *noun* a roundabout route, a circuitous journey.

ciss *noun* a long, pointless story.

citach *see* kittagh.

citherwood *noun* a plant, southernwood.

cittoge *see* kittog.

civil *adjective* **1** *of a person* quiet, orderly, not troublesome. **2** *of an animal* good-natured.

cla *see* claw.

clab *see* clabber.

clab *noun* **1** a "mouth", someone who cannot be depended on to keep a secret. **2** a chatterbox, a gossip.

[Irish *clab* derogatory "a mouth".]

clabber *see* bonny clabber.

clabber, clauber, clobber *noun* **1** mud; *also* road **clabber**. **2** cow dung.

- **clab** cow dung; *hence* **clabber** a muck hoe.
- **clabber-house** a house whose walls are built of clay, a mud-wall house.
- **clabber-up dinner** a scratch dinner, made from whatever is available.
- **clabbery** muddy, dirty.
- **regard someone's tracks in the clabber** "worship the ground someone walks on".

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *clábar* "mud"; also Scots, mainly Western, from Scottish Gaelic *clàbar*.]

clachan, claghan, clackan *noun* a small cluster of farmhouses.

- **a clachan of houses** not as trim as a village but houses grouped together haphazardly.

[Scots *clachan*, from Scottish Gaelic *clachan* "a settlement with a church" (itself from *clach* "a stone" + diminutive ending *-an*). *Cf.* cloughawn.]

clacking, clackin **1** a clutch of eggs. **2** a brood of chickens.

- **clacking hen** a broody hen.

[Possibly the same word as *cleckin* or *clake*¹.]

cladyin *noun* a big, fat, useless person *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

claes, clees *noun plural* clothes.

- **claes-pin** a clothes peg.

[Scots and Northern English form *claes*. *See also* *cloth*.]

clag *see* cleg.

clag, cleg *verb* **1** clog; impede progress, obstruct. **2** stick as if glued.

3 cleg up *of hay* heat up and start to rot.

- **claggy** **1** sticky. **2** *of soil* soft and heavy.

[Scots and Northern English; possibly of Scandinavian origin, *cf.*

Danish *klag* "sticky mud", related to Old English *clæg*, which gives *clay*.]

claght *see* claught.

claik *see* clake².

clairshach *see* clarsach.

clairtha *noun* a wild flower: the common speedwell *Veronica officinalis*, *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

claith *see* cloth.

clake¹, **cleck** *noun* clack, speech, conversation.

- ◆ *verb* clack, chatter, gossip.

[Scots forms.]

clake², **claik** *noun* a bend or turn in a river; a complete change of a river's course.

- ◆ *verb, of a river* turn, change course.

[Origin unknown.]

clam *see* clem.

clam¹, **clem** *noun*, also in plural a clam (a vice used for instance by saddlers and shoemakers).

◆ *verb* **1** pinch with hunger or cold. **2** pinch, maul.

□ **clemmed** perished with hunger or cold.

[English dialectal form *clem*.]

clam² *verb* clog (machinery, etc.).

[Obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal), from Old English *cl*□*man* "to smear".]

clanjamfrey, **clanjamfrey**, **clanjaffrie** *noun* **1** a mob, a rabble; a crowd.

2 rubbish, useless objects.

□ **the whole clanjamfrey** the entire lot, the whole bunch.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

clamp *verb* clump, move noisily.

[Scots and English dialectal, onomatopoeic.]

clamp¹ *noun* a small stack of peat, a few peats set on their ends against each other to dry.

◆ *verb* build peats into a stack.

clan: **clannish** *of people* sticking close together.

clane *see* clean.

clap *verb* **1** pat (a pet, someone's head, etc.). **2** flatter. **3** **clap till** close (a door) [*clap to* archaic in Standard English]. **4** cast peats.

◆ *noun* a fork with three prongs bent at right angles, used for lifting flax out of a dam; *cf.* illustration at drag, pull.

□ **clap dance** a type of dance performed by four people, involving clapping hands in pairs.

□ **clap eyes on**, **clap your eyes on** get a sight of; see.

□ **clap of the hass** the uvula (the elongated part of the soft palate that hangs down at the back of the mouth); *see* halse.

□ **clapped in** *of the cheeks* sunken, hollow.

□ **clapper**: **clap-till** a lean-to addition to a building.

□ **stop your clapper** hold your tongue.

clappy doo *noun* a shellfish: (a) the edible mussel *Mytilus edulis*; (b) the razor shell *Ensis arcuatus*.

[Western Scots *clabbydoo* "a large variety of mussel", probably from Scottish Gaelic *clab* "big mouth" + *dubh* "black".]

claret: **claret mark** a port-wine birthmark.

clargy *see* clergy.

clark *see* clerk.

clarry *verb* **1** dirty (with mud, etc.), smear. **2** paint carelessly. **3** do something in a dirty, messy way.

◆ *noun* **1** a sticky, unappetising dish of food. **2** a daub of paint.

□ **clarry hole** a muddy puddle.

[Scots, possibly a form of *glaur*, perhaps influenced by *clart*.]

clars *see* cow¹.

clarsach, **clairshach** *noun* a harp.

[Irish *clàirseach*; also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *clàirseach*, *clàrsach*.]

clart *noun* **1** mud. **2** cow dung. **3** a slattern, a dirty, lazy housewife; an untidy person, an unhygienic cook, a dirty worker. **4** a dirty place.

◆ *verb* cover with mud, muddy.

□ **clarted butter** badly-made, dirty butter.

□ **clarty** **1** dirty, muddy. **2** untidy, slovenly, careless at work.

□ **clarty yellow** a dirty yellow colour.

□ **you weren't both clatty and longsome over it** *ironic* meaning that a thing was done dirtily but at least quickly, and implying that it would have been better to have taken longer.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

clash *noun* **1** a sudden, heavy shower. **2** soft mud or a similar substance

thrown at an object. **3 cow's clash** a cow's full udder. **4** a blow, a slap. **5** gossip, scandal; a piece of gossip, a rumour; *hence* **carry clashes** carry tales. **6 also clash-bag** a busybody, a gossip, a tell-tale.

◆ *verb* **1** close, slam (a door). **2** slap, smack (someone). **3 clash up** close up a hole in a mud wall with wet mud. **4 also clash on** gossip, tell tales (on).

□ **as coul as clash** very cold.

□ **as thick as a cow's clash** *of someone's hands*.

□ **bad luck to you for a clash, if you'd more to tell you'd tell it**

□ **clashed** *of a horse's teeth* clenched.

□ **clashmaclaver, clashmaclabber** **1** idle talk, gossip, rumours. **2** a talkative person, a gossip.

[*Clash* + *-ma-* (as in *whigmaleerie*) + *claver*¹.]

See also clish.

clat *see* claut.

clat, claut *noun* **1** dirt, soil. **2** a clod, a small piece of sod. **3** a clart, an untidy person, an unhygienic cook, a dirty worker; a dirty, lazy housewife.

◆ *verb* clart, cover with mud, muddy.

□ **clatty** *adjective* **1** dirty, muddy. **2** untidy, slovenly, careless at work.

◆ *noun* an untidy, slovenly person.

[Scots and English dialectal "a clod; cow dung; to bedaub"; either a form of *clot* or from Middle Dutch *clatte* "a splotch", *clatten* "to bedaub".]

clatch¹ *noun* **1** a clutch of eggs. **2** a brood of young chickens or ducklings.

□ **clatcher** **1** a brood of young chickens or ducklings. **2** a clatter, a collection, a large number of things.

□ **clatching, clatchin** **1** a clutch of eggs; a brood of young chickens or ducklings. **2** a collection, a large number of things. **3 figuratively** a gathering of people.

[Scots and Northern English form of dialectal *cletch*. Standard English *clutch* is also an altered form of *cletch*. *Cletch* itself appears to be an alteration of *cleck*, *see* cleckin.]

clatch² *noun* a useless person.

[Scots "a plop; a wet mass; a dirty untidy person"; onomatopoeic.]

clatcher *see* clatch¹.

clate *see* cloot².

clather *noun* cough.

clatter *see* claut.

clatter, clatther *verb* gossip, chatter; pass on (a piece of gossip).

◆ *noun* **1** a heavy blow. **2** idle talk, gossip. **3** a clatcher, a brood of young chickens or ducklings. **4** a collection, a large number of things. **5** a crowd of people.

□ **clatterbash** a tell-tale.

□ **clatterbox** a chatterbox.

□ **clatterer** a gossip, a talkative person; a tell-tale.

□ **her tongue's hung in the middle and clatters at both ends**

□ **he that clatters till himsel' cracks wi' a fool**

clauber *see* clabber.

claughin *noun* a clutch of eggs; a brood of young chickens; *cf.* clock¹.

claught, claght *verb* clutch at, seize, lay hold of.

[Originally the past tense and past participle of *cleek*.]

claut *see* clat.

claut, clat *noun* **1** a long-handled scraper or rake for gathering up dirt, cinders, *etc.* **2** a hoe. **3 in plural** the fingers; *hence* the five in a suit of cards. **4 in plural** dirty finger marks. **5** a scrape, a scratch; a scratch mark.

6 a blow with a rake to tidy up a haycock.

◆ *verb* **1** scrape, scratch. **2** rake. **3** claw (potatoes) out of the ground.

4 daub unskilfully and carelessly.

□ **clatter** **1** a muck hoe. **2** an implement used to scrape ashes from the hearth. [ILLUS: clatter]

[Scots and Northern English *claut*, Scots also *clat*; origin unknown.]

claver¹ *verb* gossip, chatter idly, talk nonsense.

◆ *noun* **1** also **clavers** idle talk, gossip, chatter, nonsense. **2** a person who talks nonsense.

□ **claverer** a person who talks idly or foolishly.

□ **clavering** incessant chatter, nonsensical talk.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown. *See also* clash, clish.]

claver² *noun* a wild flower: the bird's foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*.

Illustration see CROW¹.

[Scots and English dialectal form of *clover*.]

clavin *see* cleevan.

clavin *noun* a fish: the butterfish *Pholis gunnellus*; *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*.

[Origin unknown.]

claw, cla *noun* a claw.

◆ *verb* claw, scratch.

□ **away and cla yersell!** go away!

□ **claw-hammer** *slang* a pig's foot.

[Scots and English dialectal form *cla*.]

clay, cley *noun* clay, earth.

□ **clay bug** a clay marble; a home-made marble.

□ **clay hog** a labourer.

□ **clay-looye** tough blue clay.

□ **clay wee** yellow clay subsoil.

[Scots form *cley*. *See also* clag.]

clean, clane *adjective* clean.

◆ *adverb* clean, entirely, completely.

◆ *verb* **1** clean. **2** *specifically* winnow (corn).

□ **as clane as a new pin**

□ **clean and clever** **1** *of a man* strong and well-made. **2** also **clever and clean** completely, altogether; *of a task* neatly and completely done. *See* clever.

□ **clean bones** the Irish draught horse [its small hairless feet are clean in the furrow].

□ **cleaning** the afterbirth of a cow.

□ **cleanly:**

□ **clean teeth** poverty.

□ **clean work** completely.

□ **that draught could clean corn**

□ **waant's bare but cleanly**

[Older form in Scots and English *clane*.]

clear: **clearsome** bright, clear.

□ **it'll be a clear een that'll see me (do a certain thing)** meaning that I won't do a certain thing.

cleat *noun* a piece of wood used as a support or wedge in carpentry.

cleave *noun* a creel for carrying potatoes.

cleaveen, cleehan *noun* **1** also **clowney** a relation by marriage. **2** a distant relation; distant relations.

[Hiberno-English *cleean*, from Irish *cliamhain, cleamhnaí* "a relation by marriage".]

cleaver *noun* a person travelling round the countryside buying fowl.

[Irish *cliabhaire*, from *cliabh* "a wicker basket (in which the fowl were carried)" + agent suffix *-aire*. *See also* cleevan.]

cleck *see* clake¹.

cleckin, cleckeen *noun* a brood of chickens.

[Scots and Northern English *cleck* "to hatch" from Old Norse *klekja*.

See also clatch¹, clickin; *cf.* clacking, clock¹.]

cleed *verb* clothe.

◆ *noun, in plural* clothes, clothing.

□ **clad** clad, clothed; *of a branch* thickly covered (with fruit).

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *klæða* "to clothe".]

cleehan *see* cleaveen.

cleehy *noun* a large number, *especially* of gulls.

[Irish *cluiche*.]

cleek, click *noun* **1** a hook. **2** *specifically* a hook for pots, *etc.* over an open fire. **3** a fisherman's gaff. **4** a door catch. **5** a crick, a cramp (in the back, *etc.*). **6** *in a legal matter* a complication, something difficult for an ordinary person to understand.

◆ *verb* **1** *also* **cleek up** hook (up), catch up, fasten on a hook; fish out with a hook. **2** wheedle. **3** *also* **click with** pair off with (someone of the opposite sex).

□ **cleeked, cleekit** arm-in-arm.

□ **cleek-up, usually in plural cleek-ups** leg cramps in horses, a defect in a horse's walk that makes it raise the feet too high.

[Scots and Northern English, apparently from Old English *clīc(e)an* "to clutch". *See also* claught.]

cleepen *noun* anything big and good of its kind *Co. Donegal*; *cf.* clipe.

clees *see* claes.

cleester *noun* a badly-made, messy dish of food.

[Scots "to bedaub; a thick blob"; *cf.* Danish *klistre* "to paste", *klistet* "paste" and Middle Low German *klister* "something sticky".]

cleet *noun* a double hook used in a boat for belaying small ropes.

cleet *see* cloot².

cleety *see* cloot¹.

cleevan, clievaun, clavin *noun* a bird-trap made of woven twigs [boys would kill small birds to eat, especially those considered pests, such as the blackbird, which tore out thatch in search of insects].

[Irish *cliabhán* "a wicker cage", from *cliabh* "a wicker basket; a cage" + diminutive ending *-án*. *See also* cleaver.] [ILLUS: cleevan]

cleft *see* clift.

cleg *see* clag.

cleg, clag *noun* **1** a horse-fly: the cleg *Haematopota pluvialis*. **2** *of a person* an unwanted hanger-on.

[Scots and Northern English rare form *clag*.]

clem *see* clam¹.

clem, clam *adjective, of a person* silly, foolish; *of a horse* slow, useless.

[*Cf.* Scots, mainly schoolchildren's slang, "untrustworthy; odd"; origin unknown.]

clemmed *see* clam¹.

clergy, clargy *noun* **1** clergy. **2** a clergyman, *especially* a Protestant clergyman.

[Old form (not in Scots) *clargy*.]

clerk, clark *noun* a scholar, a learned person [*clerk* archaic in Standard English].

◆ *verb* **clerk Mass** serve at Mass.

□ **clerking** learning, education.

[Old form (not in Scots) *clark*.]

clet *see* cloot².

cleugh *noun* a cliff, a crag.

[Scots, from Old English **clōh* "a ravine".]

cleush *noun, also clow* **1** a sluice. **2** the outfall of a river or drain; a flood-gate in a mill-dam, *etc.* **3** a water-channel, a water-spout.

[Scots and Northern English *cloose*, Northern English also *clow*; from Old English *clūse* "a sluice". *Cloose* has been misunderstood as a plural form, hence the new singular *clow*.]

clever, cliver *adjective* **1** clever. **2** active, supple. **3** strong, powerful, well-made; handsome; *see also* clean. **4** *of a pocket, garment, etc.* large, generously proportioned, capacious. **5** generous, hospitable.

◆ *adverb* **1** handsomely, generously, well; *see also* clean. **2** "plus"

e.g. It's two miles cliver.

[Older form in Scots and English *cliver*.]

clew, clue, cloo *noun* a ball of thread, yarn, twine, *etc.*; a hank of wool
[*clew, clue* more commonly used than in England].

- **when the clew's wun up** in the end.
- **wind up your clew** approach death.

cley *see* clay.

clib, club *noun* **1** a colt, a one-year-old horse. **2** a young horse.

3 *figuratively* a young lad. **4** *figuratively* a rough, awkward, country fellow; a fool.

[Origin unknown, *cf.* *clibock*.]

clibbin¹, clibbeen *noun* a colt, a one-year old horse.

[Irish *clibín*; itself of unknown origin, *cf.* *clibock*.]

clibbin², clibbeen *noun* **1** unkempt hair. **2** dried dung sticking to a cow's hindquarters.

- **clibbins and shaglins** *derogatory, of women's clothes* loose-hanging finery [*shaglins* from Shetland *shaggle* "cut raggedly", itself from Norn (Old Norse *saga* "to saw")].

[Irish *clibín*.]

clibock *see* clib.

clibock, clubbag *noun* **1** a colt, a one-year-old horse. **2** a mountain pony.

[Origin unknown, also in Irish as *cliobóg*, *see also* *clib, clibbin¹, clip⁴*.]

click *see* cleek.

click *verb* shoot (a marble) by flicking it with the thumb and forefinger.

- **clickbeetle** an insect, the daddy-long-legs.

clickin *noun* a crowd of people; *cf.* *cleckin*.

client *noun* a "tricky customer", someone up to no good.

clievaun *see* cleevan.

cliff: cliff-man a cliffsman, a man who can climb well, for instance to collect birds' eggs or to rescue sheep or goats.

- **clifted** *of a person or animal* caught on cliffs, and unable to escape.
- **clifter** a cliffsman.

[Old form (not Scots) *clift*, by confusion with *cleft*.]

clift, cleft *noun* a half-wit, a mentally retarded person; a mentally unbalanced person; a fool; an awkward person.

- **quarter clift** *noun* a person who is a bit of a fool, a simpleton.
- ◆ *adjective* a bit unbalanced.
- **the two ends of a clift** a complete fool.
- **three-quarter clift** *noun* a person who is almost a complete fool.
- ◆ *adjective about three-quarter clift* almost completely witless.

[Possibly the same word as Standard English past participle *cleft*.]

clift¹ *noun* the fork of a tree.

- **clifted** *adjective* cleft, split.

clifted, clifter *see* cliff.

climb *verb, past tense and past participle* **clim, climmed**.

[Past tense: *clim* Renfrewshire, *climmed* South-Western English.]

climbaties *noun* a garden plant: clematis.

[Influenced by *climb*. This is a climbing plant.]

clincher *noun* a convincing argument.

cling, past participle **clinged**, *verb* shrink, contract, shrivel; wither; become thin from hunger.

[Old past participle *clinged* (still Somerset).]

clink *noun* **1** a resounding blow. **2** a mischievous child, a frolicsome young person.

- ◆ *verb* stub (your toe).
- **clinked, clinkit** *of a person's cheeks* sunken, hollow, *e.g.* after illness.
- **clinker** *noun* anything very good of its kind; a thoroughly reliable person.
- **clinking** very good, excellent.

clinker *verb*, of coal form into clinkers as it burns away.

clint *noun* **1** a rocky cliff. **2** a large, jutting rock. **3** a big, awkward person.

[Scots and Northern English; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Danish and Swedish *klint* "a steep cliff".]

clip¹ *noun* **1** a pair of wooden pincers for weeding out thistles. **2** a fisherman's gaff. [ILLUS: clip]

See also clipes.

clip² *noun*, in plural clippers; also hedge clips, hair clips

□ a tongue on him or her that would clip clouts like shears a sharp tongue.

□ clippin's remnants of cloth left after cutting out clothes.

clip³ *noun* the forelock *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

clip⁴ *noun* **1** a foal. **2** figuratively a mischievous, naughty child, especially a girl.

[Scots; origin unknown, also in Scottish Gaelic as *cliobag* "a colt", *see also* clib.]

clip⁵ *verb* smack (a child).

◆ *noun* a blow; a smart blow *e.g.* He hit him a clip on the ear.

clipe *see* clype.

clipe, clype *noun* **1** a large piece of anything, especially of torn cloth or food. **2** a well-grown child, pig, etc. **3** a large number of things.

[*Cf.* North-Eastern Scots "a blob; a stupid, awkward, ill-mannered fellow"; origin unknown.]

clipes *noun plural* tongs for holding stones when they are being lifted by a winch.

[Rare Scots form of clip¹.]

clish *verb* spread a rumour.

□ clishmaclaver, clishmaclavers, clishmaclash **1** gossip, rumours; nonsense, silly talk. **2** a person talking nonsense.

[*Clish* + *-ma-* (as in *whigmaleerie*) + *claver¹* or *clash*.]

[Scots; from *clish-clash*, *cf.* *clash*.]

clitterty-clatterty: clitterty-clatterty, late upon Saturday, Barley, parritch an' hardly that the rattling noise of a grinding mill.

clittery, clithero *adjective* left-handed; *cf.* *cloot¹*.

clitty *see* *cloot¹*.

cliver *see* *clever*.

cloak *see* *clock¹*.

cloakes *noun plural* grains of wheat which retain the husk after winnowing.

cllobber *see* *clabber*.

cloch *see* *clogher*.

clocher, clougher *noun* a stony beach; a small area, not necessarily a beach, covered with large stones.

clock¹, cloak *verb* **1** of a hen sit on eggs, hatch out eggs. **2** figuratively, of a person crouch by the fireside; sit around aimlessly.

◆ *noun* a cluck, the sound made by a broody hen.

□ about the size of a clocking hen *derogatory*

□ a rolling stone gathers no moss, an' a clockin' hen never grows fat

□ clocker a broody hen, a hen sitting on eggs.

□ clocking, clockin *adjective* **1** broody. **2** figuratively, of the weather

clockin for rain said of an unusual calm before the onset of rain. **3** of a fire smouldering, giving off smoke.

◆ *noun* **1** broodiness. **2** a brood of chickens; *see also* *claughin*.

□ clocking hen a broody hen.

□ if ye're too keen on the clockin' ye'll discover the eggs

□ that'll take the clockin' off ye that will waken you up.

□ they're keen for clocking that die on the nest *proverbial*

[Scots and Northern English *clock*, Scots also *cloak*; from Old English *cloccian* "to cluck". *Cf.* *cleckin*, *cluck*.]

clock² *noun* **1** *also* **clockroach** any black beetle or cockroach; *see also* **bum**¹. *Illustration see* **deel**. **2** *loosely* an insect of any kind.

- good clock-killers** big feet.
- one clock knows another clock** *proverbial*
- he or she has a foot wouldn't miss a clock in an acre** said of a person who walks clumsily.
- watch clocks in a basket** do something almost impossible.
- you're that thin - do you live on clocks?**
[Scots and English dialectal, origin unknown.]

clock³ *noun* the seed-head of the dandelion *Leontodon taraxacum*; children blow them and count the hours until the seeds have all been blown off.

clock⁴ *noun* a hook. used in more modern sense also

clod *verb* **1** throw (*especially* stones); pelt. **2** remove stones or clods from (land).

- clodding** a pelting with clods or stones.
- cloddin-match** **1** the act of children throwing sods or stones at each other. **2** a competition amongst people clamping peat.
- clod in the beef** eat quickly.

clog: **clogger** someone who makes clogs (wooden-soled shoes).

claghan *noun* a ford made of stepping stones; *freq in place-names*.

clogher, **clocher**, **clougher**, **cloigher** *noun* **1** mucus brought up from the lungs. **2** a persistent cough; *see also* **clouter**. **3** the death rattle. **4** a person who coughs a lot.

- ◆ *verb, also* **cloch** cough, clear the throat.
[Scots *clocher*, *clougher*; onomatopoeic.]

cloneen *noun* a fat boy or man *Co. Donegal*.

[Appears to contain the Irish diminutive ending *-ín*.]

cloo *see* **clew**.

clooder *verb* eat eggs in the open air on Easter Sunday *Co. Armagh*.

[*Cf.* Irish *chlúdóg* "a parcel of Easter eggs".]

cloomin *noun* a beating, a thrashing *Mid Ulster*.

[*Cf.* obsolete Standard English *cloam*, *cloom* "to daub with mud"; from Old English *clām* "mud".]

cloon *noun* a valley.

cloot *see* **clout**¹, **clout**³.

cloot¹ *noun* **1** a hand. **2** the left hand.

- ◆ *verb* **cloot about** mess around.
 - clooted** left-handed.
 - clootie**, **clouty**, **clutie**, **clitty**, **cleety** *adjective* **1** left-handed.
 - 2** awkward, clumsy.
 - ◆ *noun* **1** a left-handed person. **2** an awkward person.
 - clooty-fisted**, **clooty-handed** **1** *also* **clooter-handed** left-handed.
 - 2** awkward with your hands.
 - clut-footed** left-footed.
- Cf.* **cloot**², *see also* **clittery**.

cloot², **clate**, **clat**, **cleat** *noun* **1** one of the divisions in the hooves of cattle or other cloven-footed animals. **2** a cloven hoof. **3** *figuratively* a head of cattle. **4** *derogatory* a human foot.

- clootie**, **cloots** *literally* cloven foot: the devil; *see also* **horn**.
[Scots *cluit*, *clitt*, *cleet*; related to **claut**.]

clooter-handed, **clooty-fisted**, **clooty-handed** *see* **cloot**¹.

closa-peg *noun* clothes peg.

close¹: **as close as a clam** very reserved.

- close-fisted** tight-fisted, mean, stingy.
- closer** a pieceworker who finished off the toes of socks.
- close side** the right-hand side of a carcase of mutton [so called because the kidney at that side adheres more closely]; *cf.* **open**.
- close with a shut fist** become bankrupt fraudulently.

- **speak close** speak disparagingly.
- **that close he could peel an orange in his pocket**
- close**² *noun* **1** an enclosed farmyard. **2** a lane between buildings. **3** an enclosed field.
- cloth, claith** *noun* **1** cloth. **2 cloth** linen as opposed to calico.
[Scots and Northern English form *claith*. See also *claes*.]
- clouds: the clouds of the night** nightfall.
- cloughawn** *noun* a simple bridge across a drainage channel or stream.
[Hiberno-English, from Irish *clochán* "stepping stones", from *cloch* "stone" + diminutive ending *-án*. Cf. *clachan*.]
- clougher** see *clogher*.
- cloughore** *noun* St Patrick's Cross on Lough Derg, where there was originally a gold cross.
- clouster** see *clowster*.
- clout**¹, **cloot** *noun* a blow, a slap.
◆ *verb* slap, hit with the hand, *usually* on the side of the head.
- **clouting** a beating, a thrashing.
[General dialectal and Scots *clout*, Scots and Northern English form *cloot*; origin unknown. Cf. *clout*².]
- clout**² *noun* a foolish person.
□ **clouted crame** clotted cream.
[*Clout* "a clot of cream" obsolete in Standard English (still South-Western English *clouted*), from Old English **clūta* "a clot, a clod".]
- clout**³, **cloot** *noun* **1** a patch on cloth; a patch on a boot or shoe [*clout* archaic in Standard English]. **2 clout** a heavy shoe-nail. **3** a rag, a fragment of cloth [*clout* archaic in Standard English]. **4 also dish cloot** a dish cloth [(*dish*) *clout* archaic in Standard English]. **5** "a clout", a handkerchief. **6** a scrap of clothing, a garment. **7 in plural** clothing, *especially* ragged clothes. **8 in plural** a pair of old slippers.
□ **a cow and a cloot will soon run oot** a warning that if your savings are much reduced, they will soon be used up.
□ **as white or as pale as a clout**
□ **clottie: clottie-dumplin** a fruit pudding boiled in a cloth.
□ **clouted 1** patched [archaic in Standard English]. **2** dressed, *especially* heavily wrapped up in clothes [archaic in Standard English].
□ **mare cloot than child** said of a small child wrapped up in too many clothes.
[Scots and Northern English form *cloot*.]
- clouter, clouther, cloither** *noun* **1** a cough. **2** thick spittle. **3** a person who coughs a lot.
[Cf. Scots *cloiter* "a disgusting wet mass; to do dirty wet work"; possibly of Low German origin, cf. Middle Dutch *clāteren* "to besmear". Possibly influenced in sense by *clogher*.]
- clouty** see *cloot*¹.
- clove** *noun* an implement for cleaning any remaining shows from scutched flax.
◆ *verb* refine flax with the clove.
[Scots, cf. Middle Low German *klove* "a cleft stick".] [ILLUS: clove]
- clover-stones** *noun plural* stones that rise to the surface of grassland.
- clow** see *cleush*.
- clowney** see *cleaveen*.
- clowster, clouster** [vowel as in "plough"] *noun* **1** a sticky mixture or mess; *specifically* (**a**) a messy mixture of different kinds of food; (**b**) a poultice. **2** a shapeless thing; see also *cluster*. **3** a rough, untidy person; an untidy worker; a clumsy person.
◆ *verb* work in an untidy manner.
[Also in Irish as *clabhstar*; origin unknown, cf. *cleester*. See also *glowter*.]
- club, clubbag** see *clib*.

cluck: **clucker** a clocker, a broody hen.

[Standard English *cluck* is an altered form of *clock*¹.]

cludog *noun* an Easter egg.

clue *see* clew.

Cluity *see* horn.

clump *noun* a small heap of hay.

clumph *noun* a big, silly person.

[Scots "clump, walk heavily"; *cf.* also Scots *clump* "a heavy, inactive person". *Clumph* is probably an altered form of *clump*.]

clumsy *adjective* stupid, thick-witted *e.g.* *Her head was clumsy*.

clunter *verb* throw (things) down with a clatter.

[Yorkshire "construct (*e.g.* furniture) clumsily", possibly from Low German *klunt* "a lump, a clod".]

cluster *noun* a half-made article; a shapeless thing; *cf.* *clowster*.

cluster¹ *noun* a constellation of stars, the Pleiades.

clutch *noun* **1** a handful. **2** the silt in which oysters are partly embedded on the oyster-banks.

clut-footed, clutie *see* cloot¹.

clyd: **that clyds the cleeks** said of something very unusual.

clype *see* clipe.

clype, clipe *verb* gossip.

◆ *noun* **1** a gossip. **2** a tell-tale.

□ **Clipe-claash käl a loose! Häng it up in the market hoose!** *jeering rhyme*

□ **clypach** talkative; fond of gossip [Scots *-ach* ending, from Scottish Gaelic *-ach*].

□ **clype-clash** a tell-tale; *see* *clash*.

[Scots, from Old English *cleopian* "to name".]

clyre *noun* a gland of a pig, *especially* a neck gland.

[Scots "a gland in meat", from Middle Dutch *cliere* "a gland".]

coach *see* moss.

coach¹: **coachy** *literally* resembling a coach-horse: *of a person* awkward.

coach² *noun* a cache, a hiding place for poteen *Co. Donegal*.

coadey *verb* beat severely with a rod *Co. Armagh*.

[Origin unknown.]

coal *noun* a glowing ember, not necessarily of coal (the black mineral) [archaic in Standard English].

□ **a coal's aisy to light up again** said of an old courtship renewed.

□ **coal breek** a briquet made from coal dust; *see* *breek*.

□ **coal rake** a long stick, generally with an iron point, for stirring up kelp burning in a kiln.

□ **colly, colley** **1** soot, smut; a small particle of soot. **2** coal-dust.

[English dialectal *coll(e)y*.]

coalie *see* collie.

coard *see* cord.

coarn *see* corn.

coarse, coorse *adjective* **1** coarse, rough. **2** *of the weather* wild, stormy, but not necessarily wet. **3** *of a person* rough, boorish, bad-mannered, *frequently* **a coorse christian**; *see* *Christian*.

□ **as coorse as pritta or taaty oaten**

□ **coorse fithers takes long to chow**

□ **he's a coorse christian, as the divil said to the hurchin** *proverbial*

[Scots and Northern English form *coorse*.]

coat *noun* a woman's or girl's dress.

□ **as dacent a fella as ever threw a coat over his shoulder**

□ **coat card** *playing cards* a picture card [now altered to *court card* in Standard English].

□ **he wears his coat none the worse for that** he is none the worse for having been at one time in a much lower position.

- **Hm! tae Durrt, The tail o ma shurrt! Ma maamy waasht ma cotton coat An toul me no tae speak tae Durrt!** *children's jeering rhyme*
- **more coats than an onion** wearing too much clothing.

See also cottamore.

coating: the coating of a split the charred end of a splinter of wood.

coaxmalorum, coaxalorum, coaxfalorum *noun* **1** a love potion.

2 perfume.

◆ *verb* coax by flattery.

[Onomatopoeic extension of *coax*. For the *-ma-* element, *cf.* whigmaleerie.]

cob *see* cub.

cob, cab, keb *verb* **1** thump, hit (a person). **2** rap (a person) on the head.

3 keb *of a cow* push with the horns.

[Scots and English dialectal *cob*, Scots also *keb*; origin unknown.]

cob¹ *also* **herring-cob** a young herring.

cobble¹ *verb* pelt with stones.

- **cobble stone** a good-sized stone for throwing.

[The same word as Standard English *cobble* "a paving-stone".]

cobble² *verb* haggle over prices, bargain.

[From Old Norse *kaupa* "to buy, bargain" (the equivalent of Old English *cēapian*, which gives *cheap*) + *-le*.]

cobble³ *noun* a small, flat-bottomed boat, used for fishing on inland waters and estuaries; *also* **salmon cobble**, *etc.*

[Scots and Northern English; of Celtic origin (Modern Welsh *ceubal*).]

cobble⁴: **cobbety-curry** *noun* a seesaw.

[Scots *cobble* "to rock", origin unknown. *See also* coggle.]

cobbler: **cobbler's knock** a noise made on ice by tapping it with the heel of one foot while sliding.

cobwab, cabweb *noun* a cobweb; *see* web.

coch *see* caught.

cock *see* caulk.

cock¹ *noun* **1** *also* **cockfighter, cock's head** the seed head of the ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* [from the children's game of hitting two of the stems against each other until one person's is beheaded]. **2** the field wood-rush *Luzula campestris*. **3** *in the eye* a squint.

◆ *verb, also* **cock up** prop (up), set in a conspicuous position, perch (a person) *e.g.* *She cocked the wean on the chair.* [ILLUS: cock]

- **at cock-eye** cock-eyed, awry, "upside down".

- **cock-a-bandy, cockabundy** **1** an implement for twisting straw, *etc.* into rope. **2** a lively boy [Scots *cock-a-bendy*, from *cock* + **a⁴** + **bend** + *-y*].

- **cock above water** an endearment.

- **cock-bread** a mixture containing hard-boiled eggs, fed to game cocks.

- **cock Collie up with a posset** *sarcastic* said in reply when something has been demanded.

- **cocked, cockit** **1** *also* **cocked up** *especially of a child* conceited, self-assured. **2** "half-cocked", slightly drunk; *hence* **full-cocked** drunk.

- **cocked-lug** with erect ears.

- **cocker** *noun* someone who keeps and trains cocks for cockfighting.

- **cock-eye:** *superlative* **cockiest-eyed**

- **cock her cap** *of a woman* expect a proposal of marriage.

- **cockie-lockie:**

- **cock o' the walk** the master or chief of the house.

- **cock over a hundred**, *etc.* a conker that has defeated a hundred, *etc.* other conkers; *see also* conquer.

- **cock-ride**, *also* **cokie, cock-a-leerie** the game of riding pick-a-back [Scots *cockaleerie* "the cry of a cockerel", *cock* + onomatopoeic *-aleerie*].

- **cock's eye** a halo around the moon.

- **cock-shot** anything set up as a target at which to throw stones.

- **cockstowry** ["ow" as in "cow"] *of a haycock* built too high and out of proportion.
 - **cock stride** a measure of the lengthening of days, from the observation of the length of shadows.
 - **cocktail**, *also* **cocktail beetle**, **cocktail keerog** a rove beetle: the devil's coach horse *Staphylinus olens*; *see keerog*. *Illustration see Irish*.
 - **cock Tuesday** Shrove Tuesday, when there was traditionally a young cock for dinner.
 - **cock up** over-indulge, spoil, pamper (someone); *also* **cock Collie up with a posset**, **cock Spotty up with a posset** *sarcastic* said in reply when something has been demanded [the image is that of a dog being nursed with hot drinks]; *see posset*.
 - **cocky** *adjective* impertinent, self-conceited.
 - **cock your toes** die.
 - **fed up like a fightin' cock** well fed.
 - **fighting cocks** **1** a wild plant: the ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*. *Illustration see cock*¹. **2** a game. A child chooses a certain number of **fighting cocks** and holds them up for another child to knock off the heads with his or her **fighting cocks**; *hence* **fight cocks** play this game. [ILLUS: fightg/c]
 - **there's no cock's eye out yet** there's not much harm done yet.
- cock**²: **cockshifter** a low vehicle for moving hay, a rickshifter.
Illustration see bogie.
- cockabillion**, **cockobillion** *noun* a shellfish: the common piddock *Pholas dactylus*.
[Origin unknown.]
- cockal** *see* coghel.
- cockaninny**, **cockaninny** *noun* a young girl with a high opinion of herself.
[*Cf.* cockernony and *ninny*.]
- cockcrotchet** *see* cockroach.
- cocker** *see* calk.
- cockernony**, **cockanony**, **cockernanny**, **cockananny** *noun* **1** a woman's hairstyle where the hair is gathered up on the top of the head. **2** an odd hat. **3** a comical or decorative top: (**a**) on a limekiln; (**b**) on a haycock, for instance a **gait** of rushes or a fancy thatching staple.
[Scots *cockernony* "a woman's hairstyle; a woman's cap with starched crown"; origin unknown, possibly based on Scots *cocker* "to rock, to totter", itself possibly related to **cock**¹.]
- cockle-eyed** *adjective* cock-eyed, having a squint.
[Apparently influenced by Scots and English dialectal *cockle* "to rock, to totter", *cf.* **cock**¹.]
- cockroach**, **cockcrotchet** *noun* a black beetle; *see also* **clock**².
- cod** *see* could.
- cod**¹ *noun* **1** a practical joker. **2** a botch, a mess *e.g.* *I've made a real cod of this*.
□ **codology** fooling, pranks; acting the fool.
[Slang "a joke, a hoax; to 'kid' someone; to play the fool", origin unknown.]
- cod**² *noun* the seed-pod of peas, beans, *etc.*
- cod**³ *noun* **1** a testicle. *sometimes* **cods** **2** the scrotum. **3** the penis.
- coddle** *noun* a codicil *Mid Uls.*
- coddy** *see* caddie.
- codger** *noun* **1** a crusty, short-tempered old man. **2** *also* **cadger** a young boy, *especially* a crafty little boy.
[Colloquial English *codger* "an old man; a fellow"; possibly an English dialectal form of *cadger* (*see cadge*).]
- codlick** *noun* a fish: the butterfish *Pholis gunnellus*.
[Origin unknown, also found in Kirkcudbrightshire.]
- coffin** *see* colf.

coffin: **coffin-cutter 1** a rove beetle: the devil's coach horse *Staphylinus olens*. *Illustration see Irish.* **2** also **coffin-nailer** a centipede. *Illustration see da.*

coft *adjective* bought.

[Scots; from Middle Dutch *cofte*, past participle of *copen* "to buy", corresponding to Old English *cēapian* which gives *cheap*.]

cog *see* cogue.

cog¹ *noun* a wedge under a wheel to steady it.

◆ *verb* wedge (a wheel).

□ **cogged** propped up.

[The same word as Standard English *cog* "one of the teeth of a cogwheel".]

cog² *noun* a key, such as a translation of a school language exercise, allowing a schoolchild to cheat.

[Slang *cog* "to cheat", origin unknown.]

cog³ *verb*, *childish* "bags", lay claim to.

[Origin unknown.]

cogall *see* coghel.

coggle *verb* rock, totter, wobble.

◆ *noun* a tendency to rock, totter or wobble.

□ **cogglesome** shaky, unstable; *specifically (a) of a badly-built boat* poorly balanced, unstable; *(b) of the weather* changeable.

□ **coggly**, also **cogglyety** shaky, unstable, precariously balanced; *see also* goggly.

□ **coggly-curry**, **cogglyety-curry**, **cogglyety-curley** *noun* a seesaw.

◆ *adjective* precariously balanced.

[Also found in Galloway as *coggle-te-carry* "a seesaw". The origin of *-curry* is unknown.] *See also* **cobble⁴**, **hobble¹**.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

coghel, **cogall**, **cockal**, **cahill** *noun* a long bag-like fishing net, narrowing to a point, and fixed on a hoop; *specifically* an eel net. *Illustration see* slug².

[Irish *cochall* "a hood".]

cogue, **cog** *noun* **1** a wooden vessel for holding or carrying water, made of hoops and staves, like a small barrel. **2** a measure of dry goods. **3** a small wooden drinking vessel. **4** a full draught; a full meal. [ILLUS: cogue]

□ **tak' a stav' oot o' someone's coag** cut down someone's allowance of goods.

[Mainly Scots; probably the same word as *keg* (originally *kag*, from Old Norse *kaggi*).]

coheen *noun* a small quantity *Co. Donegal*.

[Appears to contain the Irish diminutive ending *-in*.]

coign *noun* a narrow neck of land, a peninsula.

[Probably the same word as Standard English *quoin* (archaic spelling *coign*) "a wedge; an angle".]

coign¹, **coin** *noun* a quoin, a corner-stone.

coil, **cole** *noun* **1** the first small roll into which hay is gathered; *see also* lap. *Illustration see* hedge¹. **2** a medium-sized heap of hay.

◆ *verb* roll hay into small cocks.

□ **coling** a small heap of hay.

[Scots and Northern English *coil*, Scots and Northamptonshire also *cole*; origin unknown.]

coimrigh: **coimrigh 'n Righ leat** the protection of the King, *i.e.* God, with thee.

coinnigh: **coinnigh do hi-a, -hanna** be silent!

coit *noun* a mite.

coit¹ *verb* throw or toss stones.

coiver make or provide *of a sow e.g. she coivers the rent by breeding*.

colcannon, **caulcannon**, **colecannon**, **culcannon**, **kalecannon** *noun*

1 potatoes and cabbage mashed together with butter and milk. **2** cabbage and potato fried together. **3** mashed potatoes, cooked with flour.

[Hiberno-English, from *cole* (the rare Standard English word corresponding to *kale*) or else Irish *cál* "cabbage" + an unknown element. The form *kalecannon* has been influenced by *kale*.]

cold, could, coul', cowl, cauld, caul', cald *adjective* **1** cold; *of land* poor, water-logged. **2** *of a haycock* not well packed *e.g. It's cold there*.

3 *emphatic* single *e.g. not a could shilling*.

◆ *noun* a cold.

□ **a cowl wuman is niver shy**

□ **as cold as a puddock, as cold as a dog's nose in snow** very cold.

□ **as cowl as charity parritch**

□ **cauldrife, coldrife, cowlrife, coldrifed, cowlrife** shivery, abnormally sensitive to cold, applied *e.g.* to a sick person or a person constantly hunched over the fire [*cauld* + Scots ending *-rife* (originally the same word as Standard English *rife*); *cf. wake*²].

□ **caul' kale het again** **1** warmed up food. **2** *figuratively* a re-used speech. *See* *heat*¹, *kale*.

□ **that cowl the snipe on it had the rheumatics** said of a piece of land.

□ **what will keep out the coul, will keep out the hate** a coat.

[Hiberno-English and North-Eastern English form *could*; Isle of Man *coul', cowl*; Scots and Northern English *cauld, cald*; Scots also *caul'*.]

coldfoot *see* *colt*².

cole *see* *coil*.

colf *verb* **1** wad (a gun). **2** cram (your mouth) with food.

◆ *noun* a large piece (*e.g.* of cotton wool).

□ **as dry as colfin** very dry.

□ **colfed** constipated.

□ **colfing, colfin, coffin** **1** wadding used for guns. **2** any plug used for stopping a hole. **3** a big feed.

□ **colfing-guns** small guns fired off at a wedding.

[Scots, from French *calfater* "to caulk".]

collagin *see* *college*.

collar: collar-work the process of a horse pulling by its collar on a steep hill.

colleen, collyeen, cailin *noun* a girl; a young woman.

□ **collyeen a barragh** a domineering woman, one who "wears the breeches".

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *cailín*.]

college: collagin a collegian, someone who has been to college.

colley *see* *coal*.

collie, coalie *noun* **1** a collie, a shepherd's dog. **2** a coward.

◆ *verb* bully, tyrannise (a person).

□ **as clean as if colly had licked it** said of a plate or bowl that has been thoroughly emptied and polished off.

[Scots form *coalie*.]

colligoleen, calligaleen, colligaleen, coolygullen, gollagoleen,

golligaleen, gallogleen *noun, also callig* the earwig. *Illustration see* *fork*.

[Antrim Irish *cológ an lín* (Standard Irish *cuileog an lín*) literally "insect of the flax". The forms with *g* may have been influenced by *gellick*.]

collioch *see* *cailleach*.

collogue, cullogue, colloug *verb* talk privately and confidentially, often implying scheming and conspiring.

◆ *noun* a confidential conversation.

[Verb obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), apparently from French noun *colloque* "a conference". *See also* *connogue*.]

collop *noun* **1** a slice of meat. **2** *figuratively* a large piece of anything *e.g. a collop of land*.

- **Collop Monday** the day before Shrove Tuesday [bacon and eggs (the original sense of *collop*) are traditionally eaten on this day].
- **I'll cut ye in collups, I'll cut cullops oot o' ye** threats.
[Scots and English dialectal; origin unknown, *cf.* Swedish *kalops* "slices of beef stewed". *See also* scollop.]

collough *see* cailleach.

colly *see* coal.

collyeen *see* colleen.

collyfox *verb* **1** mislead, make a fool of (someone). **2** play pranks, amuse yourself instead of working; dawdle, fiddle about, waste time. **3** fawn, try to persuade (someone) by a show of affection.

[Apparently contains *fox*.]

collywabbles *noun plural* the collywobbles, an unspecified illness.

[*Cf.* Scots and Southern English dialectal *wabble* form of *wobble*.]

colour *noun* a drop, a small amount, a touch *e.g.* *a colour o milk in tay, a wee colour of whiskey, a wee colour of pain, a wee colour of frost.*

colpan *see* culpen.

colpogh, coolpeck *noun* **1** a young person not yet fully grown. **2** a big, awkward person.

[Irish *colpach* "a heifer; a bullock".]

colt¹ *noun* a piece of gritstone set in wood, used by a shoemaker to roughen the soles and heels before applying a black stain *Co. Antrim*.

[Origin unknown.]

colt², colt, cowl, cowl, cout *noun* **1** a colt. **2** *figuratively* a bad-mannered man, dog, *etc.*

◆ *verb* **colt** thrash, beat.

□ **coulfit, coulfit, also incorrectly coldfoot**, a wild flower: the coltsfoot *Tussilago farfara*; *see* cold, foot.

[Southern English form *cowl*; Scots and Northern English form *cowl, cout*.]

colytee *noun* an outshot (a bed recess in the back wall of a traditional kitchen). *Illustration see* out.

[Ulster Irish *cúl an toighe* (Standard Irish *cúl an tí*) "the back of the house".]

comb, kaim, kame *noun* a comb.

□ **comber** a bird: the red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator*.

□ **combing** *ploughing* the top of the furrow slice.

□ **combing-comb** a fine-toothed comb.

□ **comb someone's head with a creepie, comb someone's head with a three-legged stool, comb someone's head with the crook-rod** beat up, thrash someone.

□ **more in his head than the comb will take away**

□ **that chile'll never comb a grey hair**

[Scots and Northern English form *kaim, kame*.]

comber *see* cumber.

combustible *noun* **1** a mixture, a compound, whether or not combustible. **2** *in plural, jocular* comestibles, food.

come¹; *past tense* **come, cam**; *verb* **1** expressing time *e.g.* *It'll be three weeks come Tuesday*. **2** *of a cow* approach the time of calving. **3** *of something damaged* recover, return to its former condition.

◆ *noun* growth.

□ **comatible** easy to reach, accessible.

□ **come across** meet; become acquainted with.

□ **come aff** a riposte; a rude reply; an inappropriate remark; *see* off.

□ **come after** court, seek (a woman) in marriage.

□ **come again!** a request to a person to repeat what he or she just said.

□ **come again (a person)** go against, be to the disadvantage of (a person); *see* again.

□ **come aisy, go aisy** *proverbial* "easy come, easy go".

- **come-all-ye, comollye, cormoylie 1** a type of folksong [from the opening words, "Come all ye"]. **2 cormoylie** the members of a craft or brotherhood [their songs typically begin in this way].
- **come along** communication, friendly relations.
- **come and go** "give and take", flexibility.
- **come at (someone)** approach (someone) *e.g. They were come at by the other side.*
- **come away with** come out with, utter.
- **come back and pay the bap ye eat** do not hurry away.
- **come before (someone)** intrude upon (someone).
- **come by** respectable *e.g. He was well come by on both sides.*
- **come dark, come dark over** come on dark, become dark.
- **come forward of fruit or vegetables** come into season.
- **come good speed with** make good progress with.
- **come here** exclamation, also **come 'ere, comeer, commee, mere, mera, meea** a call to a horse: come to the near side (usually the left, but sometimes the right).
- ◆ **noun** a cast in the eye.
- **come in 1** be useful *e.g. That thing will come in some day - put it by.*
- 2 of fruit or vegetables** come into season.
- **come in to a horse** come here.
- **come in and welcome; go by and no offence**
- **come off 1** strike a blow on *e.g. She came off the side o his head with yin that he felt.* **2 come off with** come out with, utter.
- **come on** revive, recover.
- **come on 1** become of, happen to *e.g. What come on ye?* **2 (a) come on rain** start raining; **(b) come on dark** become dark.
- **come on er that** to a horse go faster.
- **come out** exclamation a call to a horse: turn left.
- ◆ **noun** a witty saying.
- **come out with** repeat (a story).
- **come over** repeat (a story, *etc.*); *specifically* repeat (something told in confidence).
- **come over, come o'er** a call to a horse: **(a)** move to one side; **(b)** turn left.
- **come round** verb recover from an illness.
- ◆ **noun** a digression in a road.
- **come-tae-me-go-aff-me** *literally* come-to-me-go-off-me: an accordion; *see frae.*
- **come to!** said to urge a person to get started on something.
- **come to the ground** come to grief.
- **come up 1** improve in health. **2 come up (something)** retract, withdraw (something).
- **comin doon 1** a "come down", a humiliation. **2** a beating, a thrashing.
- **coming:**
- **coming-o'er, comin-o'er** nutrition, wholesomeness in food [*cf. Irish teacht aniar* literally "coming from the back or the west"].
- **comings, cummings** the sprouts and rootlets of malting barley.
- **comin to come** jocular the opposite of "goin to go".
- **comitherin** a crowd.
- **commither, comether, commidher, comideer** noun, *literally* come hither: **1** friendly socialising, conversation; acquaintance; *hence* **comitherin** a crowd. **2 put the commither on (someone)** persuade, influence, fascinate (usually someone of the opposite sex).
- ◆ **verb** flatter, coax.
- **put the commither on (someone)** persuade, influence, fascinate (usually someone of the opposite sex).
- **well-come-house** of a girl well provided for.
- **well come up with (someone)** natural to, characteristic of (someone).

[Past tense: English dialectal and Scots form *come*, Scots and Northern English also *cam*.]

come² *verb* become; suit.

comeer, comether, comideer *see* come¹.

command: commanding pain a severe, disabling pain.

commat *noun* a lesson learned by heart, committed to memory.

commee *see* come¹.

commerce *noun* dealings with *e.g.* *He had no commerce with them.*

commidher *see* come¹.

commissary: commissary cart a type of small cart.

commit: commit himself or herself *euphemism, of a child* soil itself or the floor.

commither *see* come¹.

common *see* caman.

common¹: **as common as potatoes** of very low extraction; a comparison for anything very common.

□ **past the common** very unusual (good or bad).

common²: **be ill your common** be an ungrateful or unbecoming way to behave.

[Irish *comaoin* "recompense", thus *b'olc an chomaoin ort é* "it would be a poor return to you"]

commonality *noun* commonalty: (a) the common people; (b) the middle classes.

[The usual form in Scotland, from Medieval Latin *commūnālītās*.

Commonalty is from Old French *cumunalté*, itself from Latin *commūnālis* "communal".]

commons *see* caman.

comogeous *adjective, jocular* great, excellent.

[Extended form of odious.]

comollye *see* come¹.

compaction *noun* a fable, an untrue story.

company *verb* accompany.

comparishment *noun* comparison.

compeditor *noun* a competitor.

complain *verb* be ailing, show signs of pain.

□ **complant** a complaint [form also found in Galloway].

complexion *noun* the habitual expression on a person's face.

compliment: under a compliment under an obligation.

compluther *noun* a mixture, a mess.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

compromise *noun* [com-**pro**-mise]

comrade a fellow, a match, one of a matching pair (of gloves *etc.*).

comsleesh *see* cumslloosh.

con *verb* **con on** drive (a horse) on.

[*Cf.* obsolete Standard English "to strike", possibly from French *cogner* "to beat, to thrash".]

conacre *see* corn.

conagh *see* connough.

conceit, consate, consait *noun* **1** conceit, conceitedness; pleasurable pride. **2** liking, affection.

◆ *verb* **1** desire, like, have a fancy for *e.g.* *Would you consate a peppermint?* **2** imagine, form the opinion, think (that).

□ **a consate's as good to a fool as a physic**

□ **conceity, consatey** self-satisfied; conceited, vain; proud, "stuck up"; fastidious, *especially* with regard to dress.

□ **fall in consate with** take a fancy to.

□ **have a great consate of** have a high opinion of.

□ **He's as full of consate / As an egg is of mate**

□ **lose consate of** lose your good opinion of.

- **take a great consate** in pride yourself on.
[Older form in Scots and English *consate, consait*.]
- concern, concarn, consarn** *noun* **1** concern; *figuratively* a situation, an activity; a family, a business, a crowd of people. **2** *derogatory* an undesirable person *e.g. a coorse concarn, a concern and a half*.
- ◆ *verb* concern.
- **concern with** associate with.
[Old form (not in Scots) *concarn, consarn*.]
- condairy** *noun* a dispute, an argument.
- condescend** *verb* agree, consent.
- cone** *noun* a medium-sized heap of hay.
- coney, cunny** *noun* **1** a coney, a rabbit. **2** a young rabbit.
[Old form (not Scots) *cunny*. *See also cunnygar*.]
- confuse** *verb* infuse (tea).
- conge** *verb* beg, without being genuinely in need.
- **conger** *noun* an unreliable, rough person.
- ◆ *verb* steal.
[Origin unknown.]
- conglomeration** *noun* a conglomeration.
[Hiberno-English form; *see also conglomerate*.]
- conglomerate: conglomerest** conglomerated, gathered together.
- **conglomery** a conglomeration.
See also conglomeration.
- congo** *noun* a cup of congo a cup of tea.
- conn** *noun* the ace of diamonds *Co. Donegal*.
[Origin unknown.]
- connogue** *verb* colloque.
- connough, conagh** *noun, usually the connough* a fatal illness of cows.
- **connough-worm, also conagh** the caterpillar of a hawkmoth (family *Sphingidae spp.*) [believed to cause the connough]. [ILLUS: conagh/w]
[Irish *conach*, also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *conach*.]
- Conn's quantity** *in full Conn's quantity - "Some - not 'neugh, nor half 'neugh"* *proverbial* an inadequate amount.
- conny** *see canny*.
- conquer** *noun* a conqueror.
- **conqueror: conqueror over a hundred, etc.** a conker that has defeated a hundred, *etc.* other conker(s); *see also cock*¹.
- consait** *see conceit*.
- consale** *verb* conceal, hide.
[Older form in Scots and English.]
- consarn** *see concern*.
- consate, consatey** *see conceit*.
- consequentiality** *noun* self-importance.
- consikution** *noun* constitution *Mid Uls.*
- consist** *verb* interfere **with** *e.g. I didn't consist with her*.
- consither** *verb* consider.
- **consitherin'** *e.g. How are you? I'm doin' bravely, consitherin'*; considering all I have gone through.
- **put on yer consider cap** think it out.
[Scots and Northern English form.]
- constant** *adverb* constantly.
- **as constant at his or her work as the runnin' sthrame**
- **constancy** *noun* a habit, a permanent practice; a permanency.
- **for a constancy** always, continuously, continually.
- conster** *verb* construe; put a construction or interpretation on.
[Old form (not Scots).]
- constitutional: constitutional lumps** tubercular glands in the neck.
- contempshus** *adjective* contemptuous.
- contemptible** *adjective* contemptuous.

contend *noun* an argument.

- **contend with** attend to.

continuens *noun* a discharging wound.

contrairy, cunthry [**contrairy**] *adjective* **1** contrary, opposite.

2 perverse, stubborn, ill-natured. **3** inconvenient.

◆ *adverb* awkwardly, inconveniently.

◆ *verb* contradict, oppose.

- **as contrairy as a pig (goin' to hoak)** *proverbial*

[Older pronunciation (still general dialectal and Scots) with stress on the second syllable, in Standard English now only in the nursery rhyme "Mary, Mary, quite contrary...".]

contrickit, contrikit *adjective* **1** intricate, fiddly; *see also* cornantrakate.

2 of a person perverse, stubborn, **contrairy**.

[*Cf.* Scots *contermacious* and *contermin't* "perverse, stubborn", variations on *contumacious* and *determined*.]

convenient, convainient *adjective* **1** convenient. **2 convenient to** near.

◆ *adverb* nearby.

conversation *noun*, *also* **conversation-lozenge** a flat sweetie with a motto, usually a love-motto, on it.

conversazione *noun*:

convex *adjective* converse.

convoy *noun* **1** a party given for a person leaving, *especially* for America.

2 a group of friends accompanying emigrants part of the way to the ship or train. **3** *loosely* any large gathering of people in a person's house.

◆ *verb* escort, accompany.

coo *see* COW¹.

cooch-grass *see* couch-grass.

coody *see* coorie.

coof, couf, cuif, kiff, keef *noun* **1** a fool, a blockhead; a clown, a lout, an awkward fellow; a person easily imposed upon. **2** a light-hearted, unreliable fellow. **3** a coward.

[Scots, possibly the same word as slang *cove* "a fellow".]

coohan *noun* a state of entanglement of a **speller** (a fishing line).

cooker *verb* spoil, pamper (a child).

- **cooked** spoiled, pampered.

[*Cf.* Shetland *kukker* "to cheer (someone) up, to comfort (someone)" and Lanarkshire *coocher* "to revive (someone)"; forms of English *cocker* "to pamper (a child)". *See also* **couter**.]

cookie *noun* a plain bun.

cool¹ *noun*, *of a fever* the turning point.

- **coolin' an' suppin'** living from hand to mouth; *proverbial*.

cool² *noun* **1** a vessel for storing butter. **2** a measure of butter, usually about 40 lb (18.14 kilogrammes).

[English dialectal *cowl*, *cool* "a large tub"; apparently from Old French *cuvele* "a small vat".]

coolfaugh *noun* the nettle.

coolie dog *noun* a retriever; *cf* collie.

coolin *see* coulin.

coolpeck *see* colpogh.

coolsey *verb*, *of a clergyman* poach (another clergyman's parishioners).

[Origin unknown.]

coolygullen *see* colligoleen.

coom *noun* **1** culm, coal-dust. **2** soot, smut; the black deposit on the outside of a cooking pot. **3** *also* **turf coom** leftover dust and fragments of peat; *see* turf.

- **run and throw coom on yerself** a dismissive remark; *see* mould.

□ **smiddy coom** the ashes from a smithy fire; *see* smiddy.

[Scots and English dialectal form.]

coon *noun* a fool.

coonagh *noun* a nest egg, money put aside.

coonty *noun* a county.

[Scots form.]

coop *see* coup.

coop *noun* a small pile of dung put down in a field ready for spreading.

[Scots; origin unknown, but possibly the same word as English *coop* in the sense of "a basket", *i.e.* "a creelful of manure".]

coorick *see* coorie.

coorie, cowerly, keery, coody, cowdy *verb, also couragh, coorick*

1 crouch. **2** slide on ice in a crouching position.

□ **coorie down** kneel down.

[Scots *coorie*; extended form of Scots and Northern English *coor* form of *cower*.]

coorse *see* coarse.

coorse *noun* course, *thus of coorse* of course.

[Scots form.]

coort, coortin *see* court.

coorum *noun* flattery and fawning to draw attention to yourself and obtain the favour of a superior.

[*Cf.* Cornwall *cooram* form of *decorum*.]

coos *see* cow¹.

cooshee *noun* a prance of a horse.

[*Cf.* Scots *coosie* "a feat of dexterity", origin unknown.]

cooshog *see* cushag.

coot *noun* the moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* [in Standard English, applied to a different bird, *Fulica atra*].

cooter *see* coulter.

cooterred *adjective* extremely tired, exhausted.

cooterments *noun plural* accoutrements, paraphernalia; the tools of a trade, *especially* when carried around; *jocular* any packages carried by hand.

[Old form *coutrements*.]

cop *see* cap¹.

cope, kwap *noun* "the co-op", the Co-operative Society; *also cope-lorry, cope-man, cope-ship, cope-van.*

copies *see* coup.

copney, cappany *noun, also copney-pig* a piglet brought up by hand.

[Irish *copánach*, from *copán* (*see* coppen) + *-ach*.]

coppag *noun* reeds growing in marshy ground.

coppen, cappen *noun* a cap, a small wooden bowl.

[Irish *copán, capán*; itself from Latin *cuppa, coppa* "a cup" + Irish suffix *-án*. The Latin word is the source of English *cup* and may also be the source of the Old English or Old Norse word that gives cap¹. *See also* copney.]

coppul-hurrih *see* cappel.

copy: copy-board a piece of wood held on the knees while writing.

corant *see* courant.

coraseena, corasheena *noun* the bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

[Apparently contains Irish *corr* "a berry". *See also* corrisran.]

corasrayna *see* corrisran.

corbie *noun* **1** a bird: **(a)** the crow, the rook *Corvus frugilegus*; **(b)** the carrion crow *Corvus corone corone*; **(c)** the raven *Corvus corax*; **(d)** the hooded crow *Corvus corone cornix*; **(e)** *rare* the cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. *Illustration see* black. **2** a greedy, miserly person.

3 an undersized person.

□ **as black as a corbie** very dirty.

□ **miss the crow an hit the corbie** not achieve what you are aiming at, but gain something equally good.

[Scots and Northern English "a crow, usually the raven", from Old

French *corbe* (itself from Latin *corvus* "the raven") + *-ie*.]

cord, coard *noun* cord, string, twine.

□ **corded** *adjective, euphemism* hanged.

[Scots form *coard*.]

corduroy *noun* porridge made with a mixture of oatmeal and maize meal.

core *noun* **1** an agreement to exchange labour, horses, *etc.* for cooperative farmwork. **2** the obligation to return cooperative help with farmwork.

core *see* *car*².

□ **core smoke** *figuratively* the act of smoking pipes together and sharing tobacco.

[Irish *comhar*.]

corfuffle *see* *carfuffle*.

cork: smell the cork *be* a habitual drinker.

corker¹ *noun* **1** anything big or excellent of its kind. **2** a conversation-stopper, a monstrous exaggeration.

corkin pin, *also* **corker pin**, **corker** *noun* a large pin used in needlework.

[*Corking-pin* obsolete in Standard English (latterly Scots and Northern English), Scots also *corker*; apparently an alteration of *calkin* (*see* *calk*).]

corlie *verb* chat, have a conversation.

[*Cf.* Irish *comhairle* "advice, counsel".]

corly *noun* the raven.

corly *see* *curl*.

cormorant, cormoral, corporal *noun* a bird: (a) the cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo. *Illustration see* *black*; (b) **cormorant** the grey heron *Ardea cinerea*.

[Norfolk form *cormoral*.]

cormoylie *see* *come*¹.

cormurring *see* *curmurring*.

corn *see* *corn*.

corn, coarn *noun* corn, generally meaning oats *e.g.* *He has a great deal of wheat sown this year, but no corn.*

◆ *verb* feed (an animal) with oats.

□ **a voice like a corn-crake** said of a bad singer.

□ **conacre** *literally* corn-acre: the letting by a tenant, for a season, of small patches of land ready ploughed and prepared for a crop.

□ **corn-crake** **1** a toy rattle. **2** a football rattle. *See also* *crake*.

□ **corn-daisy** a wild flower: the mayweed, scentless feverfew *Chrysanthemum inodorum*.

□ **corndolly** the last sheaf cut at harvest.

□ **corn dumpling** a bird, the corn bunting.

□ **corney of the cap** a bird: the goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*.

□ **corney of the cravat** a bird: (a) the reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*. *Illustration see* *black*; (b) the stonechat *Saxicola torquata*. *Illustration see* *black*.

[Both of these birds have white patches on the neck.]

□ **corn hand** the right-hand or leading worker in a band of reapers.

□ **corn-sheet** a container in which seed is held when sowing by hand.

□ **corn-thistle** the creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*.

□ **corny: cut no corn** make no delay.

□ **he or she doesn't stand or carry corn** meaning that he or she is not able to cope with prosperity.

[Scots form *coarn*.]

cornageerie, corneygarey, cornygera, cornykeever *noun* a bird: the mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*; *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*. *Illustration see* *shriek*.

[Origin unknown.]

cornhassock *noun* a medicinal herb; not identified.

cornamailye, cornyameliagh *noun* a well-made, neat, handy thing or animal *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

cornmeliagh *see* carmeliagh.

cornantrakate *adjective*, of a knot made by intertwining the perpendicular and horizontal ropes on a haystack.

[Apparently Scots intensifying prefix *cor-*, *cur-* (as in *curcuddoch*) + *intricate*. Cf. *contrickit*.]

cornaptious *see* carnaptious.

corner *noun*, in plural the game of rounders.

□ **corner boy 1** a youth who hangs about street corners. **2** an idle, good-for-nothing fellow.

□ **corner of the fire** the corner formed by a jamb-wall and the hearth wall in a traditional kitchen. [ILLUS: corner/f]

corney *see* corn.

corneygarey *see* cornageerie.

cornmeliagh *see* carmeliagh.

cornobble *see* curnoble.

cornygera, **cornykeever** *see* cornageerie.

corp *see* carp.

corp *noun* a corpse; the deceased.

□ **better be a coward than a corp**

□ **corp-house** the house where a body lies awaiting burial.

□ **corpse-candle** *noun* a will-o-the-wisp.

□ **cross the** or **your corp** pass the or your lips *e.g.* *Not an iota of food crossed my corp*.

[Scots and Northern English, new singular form as if *corpse* was a plural.]

corplar, **corpolar** corporal.

corporal *see* cormorant.

corporation: **corporation hairoil** *jocular* tap water used to save money on hairoil.

corrag *noun* a wind-guard for the door of a traditional house, made of interlaced branches. *Illustration see wheez*.

[Irish *corróg* "a thick bundle (of rods, etc.)".]

corragh *see* curragh¹.

corragy *noun* a wild flower: the dog rose *Rosa canina*.

[Origin unknown.]

corran crusach *noun* a hook used to cut or gather sea-weed.

correct *verb* give a sharp scolding to.

□ **correctment** correction.

□ **corrector** an abusive, foul-mouthed person.

corrisran, **corasrayna** *noun* the crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*.

[Apparently contains Irish *corr* "a berry". *See also coraseena*.]

corruption *noun* pus from a sore, boil, etc.

corry, **carra**, **carry** *noun 1* a weir on a river, especially one built to divert the water into a mill race. **2** a dam across a small stream. **3** a line of stepping stones.

[Irish *cora*.]

corry-fisted, **corrie-fisted** *adjective* left-handed.

[Scots; origin unknown, cf. *car*³.]

corsnoptious *see* carnaptious.

corvorant *noun* the cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

corwaddle *noun*, Co. Fermanagh **1** a hard biscuit such as a ship's biscuit.

2 a piece of oatcake.

[Origin unknown.]

cosdergan a small bird with red legs; the redshank.

cosh *adjective 1* snug, neat, comfortable, tidy. **2** of a person quiet.

[Scots, origin unknown. *See also* *cush*².]

cosher *verb* pay a friendly visit.

◆ *noun* a cosy chat, a gossip, a tête-à-tête. *also* **cosher on someone**

"sponge", make yourself comfortable in someone else's house.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *cóisir*.]

cosnet *see* **costanent**.

cooss *noun* a tin can or similar object tied to a dog's tail as a prank.

[Origin unknown.]

cossett *see* **costanent**.

cossey *see* **causey**.

costanent, **costinent**, **costnent**, **costment**, **costnet**, **cossett**, **cosnet**, **costninit** *noun* wages without board.

◆ *adverb*, of *farmworkers*, etc. (work) for wages without board.

◆ *verb* receive money for board and lodging.

□ **costment wages** wages that include money in lieu of board.

[Scots *cosnent*, apparently *cost* + *anent*.]

cot¹: **cot-tack** the tenancy of a farm cottage [Scots and Northern English *tack*, from Old Norse *taka*, *see* **tack**³].

□ **cottar**, **cotthar** **1** also **cottar-woman**, etc. someone who lives in a cottage dependent on another farm. **2** a labourer.

□ **cottar-house** a cottage, a farm labourer's house.

cot² *noun* a flat-bottomed boat.

[Hiberno-English, also in Irish as *coite* "a small boat".] [ILLUS: cot]

cotch *see* **catch**.

cotillon, also **cut-along** *noun* a dance: the cotillion.

[Forms of *cotillion* from French *cotillon*.]

cottamore, **cothamore** *noun* a great coat, an overcoat.

[Irish *cóta mór*. *Cóta* is itself from English *coat*. *See* also **big**².]

cotther *verb* entangle, put into confusion.

◆ *noun* a confused scuffle.

[Northern English and Southern Scots "to entangle"; extended form of English dialectal *cot* "matted wool; to entangle", itself from Anglo-French *cot* "matted wool"; *see* also **cat**².]

cotton: **cotton onto** attach to.

□ **cotton to (a person)** "cotton on to", take a liking to, become friends with (a person).

couch *see* **caugh**.

couch-grass, **cooch-grass** *noun* (a) couch-grass *Elymus spp*; (b) false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*.

[Southern English form *cooch-grass*. *See* **quick**².]

couf *see* **coof**.

coul' *see* **cold**.

could *see* **cold**.

could, **cud**, **cod**, **kid**, **kwid**; *negative couldnae*, *cudnae*, etc., *auxiliary verb* could.

[Scots and English dialectal *cud*, North-Eastern Scots also *kwid*. *See* also **can**.]

coulfit *see* **colt**².

coulin, **coolin** *noun* the forelock, especially of a boy.

[Irish *cúilín* "a tress of hair".]

coult *see* **colt**².

coulter, **cooter**, **couter**, **couthter** *noun* **1** also **plough-cooter** the coulter of a plough, a ploughshare. *Illustration see* **plough**. **2** derogatory the nose, especially a long nose.

□ **a nose like a cooter** a long, sharp nose.

□ **coulter-neb**, **cooter-neb** a bird: **1** the puffin *Fratercula arctica*.

Illustration see **bridle**. **2** the razorbill *Alca torda*. *See* **neb**. *Illustration see* **bridle**.

[Scots and Northern English form *cooter*, *couter*.]

coulfit *see* **colt**².

counsellor *noun* a barrister, an advocate [archaic in England].

count: **count acquaintance** know a person as an acquaintance.

- **count friends** claim some blood relationship.
- **count kin** or **kindred with 1** claim (a successful person) as a relative.
- 2** compare your genealogy with (someone), to find out if you are related.
- **take count of** take account of, pay heed to [archaic in Standard English].

countenance: **change countenance** lose one's temper.

counter *verb, of the tide* turn.

country, country *noun* **1** country, a country. **2** the Irish mainland. **3** the district in which a person lives.

- **country crop** a haircut with the hair short around the neck and ears.
- **country Joan** an unsophisticated woman from the country.
- **country-luking** having the appearance of someone brought up in a backward part of the countryside.

counts *noun plural* accounts.

- **short counts make long frien's**

[English dialectal form, by wrong division of *accounts* as if *a* was the indefinite article.]

county: **county crop** *derogatory* a haircut as short as if it had been cut in the county prison.

coup, cowp, cope, coop *verb* **1** knock (a person) down. **2** overturn, capsize. **3 cope** make (lazy beds). **4** tilt, tip up; empty out by overturning. **5** cut, harvest (corn).

- ◆ *noun* a tumble *e.g.* from a horse or a bicycle.

- **cope sods** the sods forming the sides of lazy beds.
- **copies** capers, antics; *hence cut copies* cut capers, perform antics; show off, make a display of yourself.
- **coup carlie** *verb* turn a somersault.

- ◆ *noun* **1** the children's game of turning a somersault. **2** a tumble (of a baby or child). *See* **carl**.

- **coup the crans** overturn, upset (something); *see* **crane**.

- **coup the creels** **1** overturn something. **2** turn a somersault.

- **coup the ladles** turn a somersault.

- **cut copies** cut capers, perform antics; show off, make a display of yourself.

[Scots and Northern English *coup, cowp*; Scots also rarely *coop*; forms of obsolete Standard English *cope* "to strike" (still English dialectal), from Old French *couper*.]

couple, kipple *noun* **1** a couple, a few, several. **2** a couple, a pair of roof beams.

- ◆ *verb* couple.

- **couple-baulk** the coupling of the frame of a roof.

- **couplings** **1** the back between the tops of the shoulder-blades and the tops of the hip-joints. **2** the sacro-vertebral joint at the base of the spine.

- **kipple-butt** the part of the couple of a roof that rests on the top of the wall.

[Scots form *kipple*.]

couragh *see* **coorie**.

courant, corant *noun* **1** a hasty retreat. **2** a quick send-off, a chase.

- ◆ *verb, only courantin* raking, night-visiting.

- **merry courant, merry curant** **1** a riotous revel. **2** a sudden, unceremonious dismissal, *frequently give someone a merry-courant*

[English dialectal (in Scots only *merry-courant*). In Standard English a *courant* is "a kind of dance". From French *courante* literally "a running (dance)".]

course *verb* put the alternate courses of limestone and coal into (a limekiln).

court, coort *noun* **1** a court; a courtyard. **2 coul' coort** an undemonstrative boyfriend; *see* **cold**.

- ◆ *verb* court, go out with (someone of the opposite sex).

- **coortin** courting, going out with someone of the opposite sex.
- **court (a woman) down to the axin** or **the cotton court** (a woman) for a long time without asking her to marry.
[Scots form *coort*.]

cout *see* colt².

couter *see* coulter.

couth *adjective* pleasant, friendly.

- **couthless** cold, unkind.
[Scots, from Old English *cūð* "known".]

couter *noun* a pouting expression.

- **cooter** spoiled, pampered.
[Scots and Northern English *couter*, Scots also *cooter* "to pamper (an invalid)"; origin unknown. *Cf.* *cooker*.]

couter *see* coulter.

cove¹ *noun* a cave.

[Scots and Northern English, the same word as English *cove* "a bay".]

cove² *Co. Antrim, Co. Down, verb* rub (a flagstone or stone floor) with a piece of sandstone to whiten it in a decorative pattern.

- **covin stone** a piece of sandstone with which to **COVE** a floor, *etc.*
[Origin unknown.]

cover: **cover the wean's feet** buy shoes for your child *e.g. I've already covered the wean's feet this week*; an excuse for not contributing money.

- **niver lift the cover of yer dead aunt** don't always enquire into things.

cow¹, **coo**; *plural*; **kye, coos**; *noun* a cow.

- **as far as ye cud throw a cow by the tail** a very short distance.
- **as great a shannough as between the oul' cow an' the haystack, there's a great bigness between the cow and the haystack**
- **cowbird** the pied wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*.
- **cow clap 1** cow dung. **2** a cow-pat.
- **cow clars** cow dung; *cf.* *clarry*.
- **cow doctor** a rural vet.
- **cow grass** a wild flower: the greater spearwort *Ranunculus lingua*.
- **cow heifer** a young cow after it has had its first calf.
- **cow horn** a shellfish: (a) *Neptunea antiqua*; (b) the common whelk *Buccinum undatum*.
- **cow plat** cow dung [Northern English and Southern Scots *plat* from Old French *plat* "a flat thing"].
- **cowquake** a storm around the time of year the cows are put out to grass.
- **cow's grass plural cows' grass** a measure of land, the amount that will provide grazing for one cow.
- **cow-sleuch** a gutter running through a byre.
- **cow's lick** a cow lick, a lock of hair on the head that turns up and back as if a cow had licked it, and will not lie flat; *see also* **bull, calf**.
- **cow sorrel** a wild plant: the common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*.
- **cow's park** the part of a market where cows are gathered for sale.
- **cowstails** pigtails.
- **cow-tongue** the hart's-tongue fern *Asplenium scolopendrium*.
- **cow-tying** tether (for cows in a byre).
- **cow weed** the wild parsley *Chaerophyllum sylvestre*.
- **for one cow tied up, there's two loose** *proverbial* there's always something wrong.
- **he's growin' like the cow's tail - downwards 1** said of someone failing in health. **2** *derogatory* said of a short person.
- **it's not every day Maurice** or **Manus kills a cow** meaning "let's make a day of it".
- **kye-time** the time for milking cows.
- **the cow you don't know has always long horns** *proverbial* meaning that troubles look worse in anticipation.
- **them that has no cow can loss no cow**

- **what could you expect from a cow but a kick?**
- **he never was a mile from a cow's tail in his life** said of an ignorant, uncultured rustic person.
[Scots and Northern English form *coo*. Plural: Scots and Northern English *kye*, from Old English *cȳ*.]
- cow² verb** **1** dare, challenge (a person). **2** turn coward.
 - **cow's blow** a blow given to a boy as a challenge to fight, or else be branded as a coward; *cf* **coward**.
 - **take the cow** be frightened.
- cowan noun** **1** a seal. **2** a mythical fresh-water creature, which is supposed to carry off cattle.
 - **cowan snotter** a jelly fish [translation of Irish *smuga róin*]; *see also* **snot**, **seal²**.
 - **cowan string** a seaweed: long tangle *Chorda filum*.
[*Cf.* obsolete Scots *cowie* "a seal"; possibly from Scots *cow* "to poll" (because it has no visible ears), itself probably from Old Norse *kollr* "a shaven crown".]
- coward: coward's blow** a blow given to a boy as a challenge to fight, or else be branded as a coward.
- cowcumber, cowcummer noun** a cucumber.
[Old forms (still general dialectal and Scots), from Latin *cucumerēs* "cucumbers". Standard English *cucumber* is from the obsolete French form *cocombre*.]
- cowdy, cowery** *see* **coorie**.
- cowie adjective** left-handed.
[*Cf.* Northern English *cow-pawed*, origin unknown. *Cf.* also **car³**.]
- cowl, cowlrife, cowlrift** *see* **cold**.
- cowly noun** the weakest pig in a litter; *cf.* **crowl**.
- cowp** *see* **coup**.
- cowt** *see* **colt²**.
- coy verb** decoy.
[Shortened form, obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal).]
- coy¹ noun, place-name element** cuckoo *e.g.* *Ballynacoy in Antrim*; town of the cuckoo.
- craa** *see* **crow¹**.
- crab¹ noun** **1** an unpleasant child. **2** a fit of the sulks, *thus have a crab on sulk*, be in the huff.
 - ◆ *verb* provoke, make angry.
 - **as crabbit as they're amakin**
 - **as happy as a crab at the high water**
 - **crabbit, crubit** crabbed, short-tempered, grumpy, "twisted".
 - **crab's-allowance** the treatment that juvenile fishers give to crabs that fasten on their hooks and eat the bait. They are instantly trampled to death.
 - **old crab** a precocious child.
- crab² noun** a potato-apple (the fruit of the potato plant).
 - **crabtree shins** a name for a person with malformed legs.
- crab³ verb** beat up, thrash.
[Northern English "to break, to bruise", probably from Dutch or Low German *krabben* "to scratch".]
- crack noun** **1** talk, gossip, chat; a conversation, a chat; a good story or joke. **2** **the crack** news, gossip. **3** **good, etc.** **crack of a person** good, *etc.* company.
 - ◆ *verb* **1** *of milk* curdle; start to form butter; start to turn sour; *hence* **cracked milk**. **2** talk, chat, gossip.
 - **a cracked plate sees many a whole one broke**
 - **cracked, crackit** **1** *of part of the body* damaged, injured. **2** crazy, "cracked".
 - **cracker** **1** the thin cord at the end of a whip that makes it crack.
 - 2** **crackers** *historical* a cheap variety of trousers made of sheepskin, in

imitation of buckskins. They expanded when wet, but when drying they cracked and shrivelled up. **3 crackers** a wild flower: the foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*. *Illustration see sheegie*.

- **cracky** crazy, "cracked".
- **level-crackin** *of a person* straightforward, straight-talking.
[Also borrowed into Irish as *craic*.]

cracklins *noun plural* **1** the residue of rendered fat. **2** pigs' intestines fried with oatmeal.

cradach *noun* a small, stunted person.

[Scots *cradden*, *cradeuch*; origin unknown, but possibly of Scottish Gaelic origin, *cf.* Irish *cnádaí* "a person of stunted growth".]

cradle, creddle *noun* **1** a cradle. **2** a block on which to saw wood.

- ◆ *verb* line (a well) with stones.
- **don't rock an empty creddle**
- **nivver rock the creddle with a grey head**
[Scots and Northern English form *creddele*.]

cradyog *noun* a fish, the wrasse.

craft *see* croft.

craft, croft *noun* a carafe, a glass water-jug.

[General dialectal and Scots form.]

crafty *adjective* smart, skilful [without any implication of deviousness, as in Standard English].

crag, crawg *noun* a hand, *especially* a big, rough hand; a fist.

- **cnag mhór láimhe** a big rough hand capable of holding much.
[Irish *crág*.]

craggit *see* craig.

crahan, crahawn, cran *noun* a covering of green grass shaken over a haycock to protect it from rain.

[Ulster Irish *crathán* (Standard Irish *crothán*), formed on the verb *crothadh* "to shake".]

craig *noun* the throat.

- **craggit** long-necked, *thus* **craggit-heron** the grey heron *Ardea cinerea*.
[Scots and Northern English *craig, crag*; from Middle Flemish *krage* "the neck".]

craig-herring *noun* a fish: the Allis shad *Alosa alosa*.

[The first element is unidentified.]

crainearach *noun* a species of wrasse.

crainin *see* croon.

crake *see* creak.

crake *verb* **1** grumble, complain; *especially of a child* demand persistently, clamour. **2** talk incessantly.

- ◆ *noun* **1** a harsh scream. **2** a grating laugh or chuckle. **3** complaining, grumbling. **4** a watchman's rattle; *see also* corn. **5** a bird: the corncrake *Crex crex*.

crake-herring *noun* ? The horse-mackerel.

cram *verb* fill (a person's mind) with untrue stories.

- ◆ *noun* **crams** stories, gossip.
- **crammer** a lie.

crambo *also* **dumb-crambo** *noun* a game in which one player gives a word to which another finds a rhyme.

crame *noun* cream.

- ◆ *verb* add cream to.
- **craimery** a creamery.
- **creamery house**:
- **What's your name? / Butther and crame. / A very good name for winter** *rhyme* Ulster schoolboy saying.
[Older form in Scots and English.]

cramp *noun* a hobble for tying up an animal.

- ◆ *adjective* difficult to do.

- **cramper** a complicated problem.
- **cramp-hand** a cramped style of handwriting.
- cran** *see* crahan, crane.
- cran¹** *noun* a measure of herrings.
[Scots, also adopted in England and fixed by the Fishery Board at thirty-seven and a half gallons (170.48 litres); from Scottish Gaelic *crann* "a lot, a share".]
- cran²** *noun* a stunted child, dog, bird, *etc.*
□ **cranned** stunted as a child (as a result of a poor diet).
□ **cranny** a small, stunted, emaciated person.
[*Cf.* Pembrokeshire *cranted* "stunted", origin unknown. *Cf.* crank.]
- cran-a-crees** *noun* a plant; not identified.
- cranagh, krenagh** *noun* a seaweed: dulse *Rhodymenia palmata*.
[Irish *creathnach*.]
- cranch, cransh** *verb* crunch.
[Older form (still Hiberno-English and English dialectal) *cranch*.]
- cran-commer** *noun* the trailing willow *Salix repens*.
- crane, cran** *noun* **1** a crane, a derrick. **2** *also* **cran randle** a crane, the iron arm over an open fire, from which the **crook** hangs for holding pots, *etc.*; *see* randle-tree. **3** **cran** a trivet on which small pots are placed when cooking. [ILLUS: crane/P] **4** *also* **cranny, critthecran, crater cran** the grey heron *Ardea cinerea*; *cf.* creature.
◆ *verb* crane, stretch (the neck).
□ **crane duck** a bird: the great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*.
Illustration see tossel.
□ **cran wigeon** a duck: the pintail *Anas acuta*.
□ **swan-neck crane** a faucet, a tap.
[Scots form *cran*.]
- crank: cranked** stunted in growth; *cf.* cran².
□ **cranky** **1** *also* **crawkie** cranky, irritable. **2** stunted in growth. **3** *of a child* precocious; serious, solemn. **4** crafty, cunning.
- cranky** *adjective* merry, good-humoured, frolicsome.
[Scots and English dialectal, origin unknown.]
- cranlach** *see* cranrough.
- cranmore** *noun* a large tree.
- crannog** *noun* an ancient lake dwelling.
[Irish *crannóg*, also adopted in Standard English as an archaeological term.]
- crannracht** *noun, Co. Donegal* **1** a ring around the moon. **2** a ring of dirt on a person's neck.
[Origin unknown.]
- cranooley** *noun* an apple-tree.
- cranrough, cranlach** *noun* hoar frost.
[Scots *cranreuch*, possibly from Scottish Gaelic **crannrachadh* "hardening".]
- cransh** *see* cranch.
- crappie, crappin** *see* crop.
- crapt** *see* creep.
- crass** *see* cross².
- cratchety** *adjective* crotchety, bad-tempered, irritable.
[English dialectal form.]
- crate** *noun, also in plural* a horizontal frame laid over a cart to extend the area for carrying hay.
- crater cran** *see* crane.
- crathur** *see* creature.
- cratle** *verb* cough.
◆ *noun* **1** noisy breathing in the chest and throat. **2** the death rattle.
[Scots, onomatopoeic.]
- cratlins** *see* crutlins.

cra-toe *see* crow.

crats *noun* a lad, a youth; *cf.* crut.

cratur, crature *see* creature.

crauns *noun plural* broken peat *Co. Armagh*.

[Origin unknown.]

crautings *see* crettins.

crave *verb* beg for the repayment of a debt *e.g. You've nothing to crave off that cow anyway* said on making a good sale.

crave¹ *noun* the sound of the sea waves.

craw *see* crow¹.

craw *verb* **1** crow. **2** "crow", boast.

□ **crowing: it's unlucky to hear a crowing hen as a whistling woman**

□ **no craw sae croose** cease to be so boastful; *see* CROOSE.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

craw: crawthumper *literally* a breast-beater: a self-righteous, ostentatiously pious person.

crawg *see* crag.

crawler *noun* a maggot.

crawley *see* cowl.

cray *noun* a hen-run.

[Scots and Northern English, from Scottish Gaelic *crò* "a sheep-pen"; *see also* cro, crue.]

cray tae *see* crow¹.

creach *noun: droch creach on ye* an imprecation.

creaghan *noun* mountain ash *Pyrus aucuparia*.

creak, crake *verb* creak.

□ **creakin dours hing or last long, a creakin gate hangs long** meaning that a chronically sick person can live for years.

[Older form in Scots and English *crake*.]

creash¹, creesh *noun* grease, fat, lard; butter.

◆ *verb* **1** grease. **2** beat up, thrash.

□ **creashed bread** fried bread.

□ **creash someone's hand or loof** bribe someone; *see* loof.

□ **creashy** greasy, oily; *see also* mealy-creashy.

□ **creeshin** a beating, a thrashing.

□ **get the creesh** get a thrashing.

□ **I'll creash my whangs in ye** a threat to kick someone; *see* whang¹.

[Scots, from Old French *craisse*, itself a variant of *graisse*, which gives Standard English *grease*.]

creash² *verb* **1** crease. **2** iron (clothes).

[Scots form.]

creature, creathur, crature, cratur, crathur, critter, cretter *noun* **1** a creature. **2** *used of a person or animal: (a)* a term of endearment; *(b)* a term of contempt or pity. **3** **the cratur** whiskey, *especially* a drop of the cratur.

[Older form *crature*; Hiberno-English, also Scots, form *cratur*; Scots and English dialectal form *critter*; Northamptonshire form *cretter*.]

credan, cradan *noun* the burdock *Arctium lappa*.

credle *see* cradle.

credit *noun* blame *e.g. If I get the credit, I'll take the gain*.

□ **if I get the credit, I'll take the gain**

cree *verb* cook (whole grain) by steaming.

[Northern English, from French *crever* "to burst open".]

creel *noun* **1** a large wicker basket; *specifically* one made to carry on the back or to sling on either side of a horse or donkey, used for carrying peat, fish, potatoes, *etc.* [also adopted in Standard English in the sense "basket for fish"]. **2** *also* hen-creel a hen coop.

◆ *verb* walk or travel carefully to avoid potholes in the road. [ILLUS: creel]

- **brought up in or under a creel** describing a rough or inexperienced person.
- **creel pig**, *also* **creeler** a young pig small enough to be taken to market in a basket.
- **his or her head's in a creel** he or she is mentally confused.
[Hiberno-English, Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

creen *see* croon.

creep; *past tense and past participle* **crapt, crep**; *verb* **1** crawl *e.g.* *A chile must creep afore it can walk* [the usual word where Standard English would prefer *crawl*]. **2** **creep on** creep up on. **3** shrink in the wash.

- **creeper**
- **creepie** *noun, also* **creepie-stool** a low, usually three-legged, stool.
- ◆ *adjective* small, short-legged. [ILLUS: creepie]
- **creeping**:
- **creeping Jenny** the yellow trailing pimpernel or loosestrife *Lysimachia nummularia* (moneywort).
- **the creepers** the "creeps", a sensation of dread or horror.
[Past tense: Scots and Northern English *crap, crep*. Past participle: Northern English *crep*.]

creesh *see* creash¹.

creeveregh, creeverigh *noun* a wild flower: samphire *Crithmum maritum*.

creewalay *adverb* exactly.

[Origin unknown.]

creg *noun* a small milking stool.

crep *see* creep.

cretaghan *see* crutaghan.

cretter *see* creature.

crettings, crautings *noun plural* fat from the intestines of pigs, crisped in a pan.

[From Old French *cretons*. The form *crautings* comes via Northern English.]

creuben *noun* a crab.

crew *see* crue.

crezzool *noun* flowers of the order *Crassulaceae*.

crib *verb, slang* steal.

crib¹ *noun, also* **cribbin 1** *also* **crib-stone** a kerb stone. **2** the kerb of a pavement; *loosely* a pavement, a footpath.

◆ *verb* stub (a toe) on the kerb; *cf.* **crig²**.

□ **take to the crib** "take to the street".

[Scots and Northern English form. *Cf.* **crub**.]

crib² *noun, also* **cribs 1** the upper, moveable frame of a cart; *also* **box cribs, railed cribs**. *Illustration see* wing¹. **2** a horizontal frame laid over a cart for carrying hay. **3** a bird-trap; *cf.* illustration at cleevan. **4** *also* **crub** the upper part of an upright churn. *Illustration see* laggin.

□ **crib-biter** a horse that bites the manger.

□ **crib-sucker** a crib-biter, a horse that mouths the manger instead of eating its food.

[Scots, also South-Western English, form *crub*.]

crick¹ *noun* a pain from holding the neck or other part of the body in a twisted position; a "stitch" in the side from laughing.

◆ *verb* twist part of the body in such a way as to cause a cramp.

cricket *noun* **the crickets** the game of cricket.

cricket¹ *noun* the insect. The chirping of crickets was believed to be a sign of rain. If they suddenly became silent, it was an omen of death.

□ **crickety-croytell** an endearment.

□ **I had to live on crickets and buttermilk, as thin as if he or she lived on crickets** the supposed diet of (a) an older person kidding a younger one about being too well-fed. (b) a very thin person.

crickie: by **crickie**, by **Crickey** a disguised oath.

crickle *noun*, also **crickles** a disease of the legs in pigs.

[*Cf.* Scots *crochles*, rarely *cruggles*, "a disease affecting the legs of cattle"; origin unknown. *Cf.* also Southern English *crickle* "to give way".]

crig¹ *noun* a testicle.

□ **as broad as a crig** *of a hand or foot* unusually large.

[*Cf.* Irish *creig* "a rock" or *cnag* "a knob".]

crig² *noun* **1** a blow, a slap. **2** a mallet for beating flax. **3** a long-handled mallet used for breaking clods.

◆ *verb* **1** stub (a toe, *etc.*). **2** crush.

[Possibly Irish *cniog* "a blow".]

crile *see* cowl.

crilge *see* crulge.

crimmlle *see* crumb.

crimpers *noun plural*, also **crimper rollers** rollers in a scutching mill for breaking flax. [ILLUS: crimpers]

crine *verb*, also **crine in** shrink, shrivel, *e.g.* of clothes in the wash or of peat or wood in the sun, or of an old or sick person losing weight.

[Irish *crionadh* "to wither"; also Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *crion(ach)adh*.]

cringe *verb*, *of a child* cry.

crinkle *verb* shrivel up, shrink.

crios *noun* a rope controlling the tail or legs of a cow during milking.

cripper *noun* the crupper, the hindquarters (of a horse).

[*Cf.* Scots form *cripple*, Northern English form *crippin*.]

cripples *noun plural* **1** wooden frames used to support scaffolding. **2** a horizontal frame laid over a cart for carrying hay.

[English dialectal *cripple*; origin unknown, *cf.* *crib²*.]

crisp *noun* **crispin** taking woven linen off the loom and folding it lengthwise.

◆ *verb* fold a length of woven linen lengthwise.

cristen *see* Christian.

critch¹ *noun* a creek, a crick: (a) a small bay in a pond; (b) an inlet of the sea.

[Apparently a falsely "corrected" form of *crick*, *cf.* *birk* and *birch*.]

critch² *noun* a pain in the side, a stitch; a crick (*e.g.* in the neck).

[Apparently a falsely "corrected" form of *crick*, *cf.* *birk* and *birch*.]

critter *see* creature.

critthecran *see* crane.

crivin *noun* a carefully constructed, protruding top layer on a **creel** of peat, allowing more to be carried than if the creel were simply filled.

□ **crivling** the act of building the outside of a stack of peat.

[Irish *craoibhin* "a top on a creel of turf".]

cro, **crow**, **craw** *noun* **1** a pen or fold for animals; also **pig's crow**, *etc.* **2** a coop for fowl. **3** a hovel, a very small, inadequate house.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *cró* "a sheep pen"; *craw* also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *crò*; *see* also **cray**, **crue**.]

croak *verb* choke (a person).

□ **croaker** *noun*, *slang* **1** someone who is "done for". **2** a dead tree.

crocan *noun* a hillock.

crock¹ *noun* a sickly animal, *especially* a horse.

◆ *verb* **croak yourself** nurse yourself.

□ **crocky** feeble in health; extremely careful about your health.

crock² *verb* preserve (butter, eggs, *etc.*) in a crock.

crocket *noun* a mistake, a blunder (*e.g.* when trying to speak politely); an indiscretion.

[Origin unknown.]

croft *see* craft.

croft, **craft** *noun* a small enclosed field near a dwelling-house, usually with

rich soil.

[Scots, also Southern English, form *craft*.]

croidhe:

croil, croilie, croilly *see* crowl.

croker *noun* a groat, fourpence.

crole *see* crowl.

Cromwell: **Cromwellian** a person descended from the Planters.

□ **the curse of Cromwell upon (a person, animal or thing)** a curse.

cronane *see* croonyon.

crone *noun* a crony, an old friend, a companion.

cronebane *noun* a halfpenny token issued by the Associated Irish Mines, c. 1789-94, which was often passed off as a halfpenny sterling.

[Hiberno-English, named after Cronebane in County Wicklow.]

croneyon, croniawn *see* croonyon.

cronk *verb, of geese* honk.

□ **cronking, cronkin** the baying sound made by a flock of brent geese.

[English dialectal "to croak, usually of a raven", also applied in the U.S.A. to geese.]

cronyie *see* croonyon.

croo *see* crue.

croobeen *see* crubeen.

croobeen cut *noun* a wild flower: bird's foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*.

Illustration see CROW¹.

[Irish *crúibín*, literally "foot of a bird" + an unknown element, *cf.* crubeen.]

croobuggie *noun* a crab.

[Apparently from Irish *crúibóg* "a spider crab", itself from *crúb* "a claw" (*cf.* crubeen) + diminutive ending *-óg*.]

crooch, croochy *see* crootch.

crood *noun* a crowd.

[Scots form.]

croodle¹ *verb* cuddle.

□ **croodlin doo** *literally* wood pigeon: a term of endearment; *see* doo.

[Scots and English dialectal "to coo", onomatopoeic.]

croodle² *verb* crouch, coorie.

[Scots and English dialectal, origin unknown.]

crook, cruke, cruck *noun, also pot-crook* an adjustable iron implement with a pot-hook on the end, which hangs on the crane over an open fire to hold a pot, *etc.* [ILLUS: crook]

□ **as black as the crook** very black.

□ **as crooked as the hin' leg o' a dog** *proverbial* contrary, perverse, hard to please.

□ **crooked, crookit, cruckit** **1** crooked, not straight. **2** crooked, dishonest.

3 cross, bad-tempered, ill-natured.

□ **crook rod** or **stick** the crane, the bar in the chimney of a traditional kitchen on which the crook was hung. *Illustration see* crane.

□ **have a dale of the crook in you** be cantankerous.

□ **put soot on your own crook** have a home of your own.

[Scots and English dialectal form *cruck*, Scots also *cruke*.]

□ **ye dar'nt luk crooked at (a person)** said of a touchy person.

crool *see* crowl.

croon *see* crown.

croon, creen *verb* **1** of a bull bellow. **2** hum a tune [*croon* also adopted in Standard English]. **3** of a cat purr. **4** wail (at a funeral), lament, moan, whimper.

◆ *noun* a hollow, droning sound.

□ **crainin** crooning, soft singing.

[Scots and Northern English *croon*, Scots also *creen*; from Middle Dutch *cronen* or Middle Low German *kronen* (themselves, it has been

suggested, of continental Celtic origin), *cf.* **croonyon**.]

crooner *see* **crowner**.

croonyon, croneyon, croniawn, cronane, cronyie *noun* **1** a wordless chant or drone. **2 cronyie** the purring made by a cat.

◆ *verb, of a cat* purr.

□ **potato fadge and crooniawns** good entertainment.

[Hiberno-English *cronaun, croonaun*, from Irish *crónán*; *cf.* **croon**.]

croose, crouse, cruse *adjective* **1** cheerful. **2** conceited, self-satisfied. **3** irritable, quick-tempered.

◆ *adverb* proudly.

□ **as croose as a banty cock**

[Scots and Northern English from Middle Low German *krûs* "crisp".]

croosie *see* **cruisie**.

crootch, crooch *verb* crouch.

□ **crootched, croochy** round-shouldered.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

crootyer *noun* a hunchback; *cf.* **crut**.

crooved *adjective* crulged, in a crouched sitting position *Co. Down*.

[*Cf.* Scots *cruive, criv* "shut up (animals) in a pen".]

crop, crap *noun* **1** *also* **crappin, cropping, croppin** the crop of a bird. **2** a crop (of grain, *etc.*).

□ **cropped out of land** worn out.

□ **cropper** the man who tends a machine fitted with knives which cut the fluff off webs woven by machinery.

□ **croppie, crappie** **1** a boy with cropped hair. **2 (a)** a man who took part in the Rebellion of 1798; **(b)** *in general, abusive* a Roman Catholic man.

□ **croppin-for-all-corn** someone who is always hoping for a free meal.

□ **green crops** "green", inexperienced, unsophisticated.

□ **put in crop** sow seed.

[Scots, also Southern English, form *crap*.]

croshen *noun* **1** the small wooden cross-piece forming the handgrip at the top of the shaft of a spade. **2** a crutch.

[Irish *croisín*.]

cross¹ *noun* a piece of money.

□ **an oath on the ten crosses** a binding oath.

□ **by the five crosses** an oath made while crossing the hands palm to palm.

□ **cross-lift** *verb* deceive.

□ **cross-roads:**

□ **cross sett** a rectangular block of stone used for paving streets.

□ **cross the line** *of the sun* pass the equinox.

□ **cross-tig and tig** a game.

□ **cross-tree** a wooden rail in a byre.

□ **crossy-crowney** the game of noughts and crosses; *see also* **CROWN**.

□ **cross yer minds** come to an understanding, "split the difference".

□ **he or she would steal the cross off an ass** he or she would steal anything.

□ **the best of cross-roads must part** *proverbial*

cross², crass *adjective* cross, bad-tempered.

□ **cross britches, crass-patch** cross-patch (a name for someone who is in a bad mood).

□ **cross-patch, draw the latch, / Sit at the fire and spin**

[Hiberno-English, also Southern English, form *crass*.]

crossog *noun* a rope used for carrying a burden of hay on the back.

crotal, crotel, crotle *noun* **1** *also* **stone-crottles** a lichen, *Parmelia saxatilis*, from which a reddish-brown dye is made. **2** a seaweed: carrageen.

□ **that lazy the crotle is growin on him or her**

[Irish *crotal*; also Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *crotal*.]

crotch *noun* a forked stick.

crotin *see* cruiteen.

crottles *noun plural* sheep's droppings.

[Obsolete Standard English *crottels* "hare's droppings", from French *crote*.]

crotyeen *see* cruiteen.

croudie *see* crowdie¹.

crouels *see* cruels.

croul *see* crowl.

croup *verb* crouch down.

[Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *crùb*.]

croupy, crouby *noun* a bird: the rook *Corvus frugilegus*.

[Scots *croupy*; from Scots and Northern English *croup* "croak", onomatopoeic.]

croupy¹ *adjective* hoarse.

crouse *see* croose.

crow¹, craa, crow *noun* a bird, *literally* the crow: **(a)** the rook *Corvus frugilegus*; **(b)** the jackdaw *Corvus monedula*.

◆ *verb* dig up or raise as with a crowbar.

□ **as hungry as a June crow** about June and July, if there is a drought of long duration, crows suffer.

□ **crow-crow** a scarecrow.

□ **crow's feet** crow's feet, wrinkles round the eyes.

□ **crow tae, crow toe, cray tae, cra-toe** one of several wild flowers known as the crow-toe: **(a)** a buttercup, *especially* the creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*; **(b)** the bird's foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*; **(c)** the bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*. *See* toe. [ILLUS: crow/tae]

□ **crowfoot, crowfoot** a wild flower: the bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*.

□ **crow-frightener** a scarecrow.

□ **crow-iron, crow-iron** a crowbar.

□ **crow peat** the first peat cut in each row.

□ **crow-picker** the bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*.

□ **crow-rocket** a wild flower: hemp agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*.

□ **crow's foot** a wild flower: **(a)** *also* **purple crow's foot** the early purple orchid *Orchis mascula*; **(b)** common chickweed *Stellaria media*.

□ **crow's nest:**

□ **give a crow a puddin** said of an old worn-out horse.

□ **have a crow to pluck with (a person)** "have a bone to pick with (a person)", want to talk with (a person) about something he or she did to your disadvantage.

□ **he or she would follow a crow for a pratie** said of a miserly person.

□ **if ye hadn't been flying with the crows, ye would not hae been shot at**

□ **it's so hot the crow's putting out her tongue** describing very hot weather.

□ **put your finger in the crow's nest** a children's game.

□ **ye'll chase the crows for that yet** you'll be sorry you have wasted food.

[Scots and Northern English forms *crow, cra*.]

crow² *noun* a trivet (a three-legged pot-stand).

[*Cf.* Irish *crobh* "a claw".]

crowdie *see* crud.

crowdie¹, croudie *noun* **1** oatmeal and water. **2** porridge. **3** oatmeal in hot broth; oatmeal in buttermilk; oatmeal and the fat skimmed from soup. **4** a rough mixture of food. **5** badly cooked porridge; a badly cooked meal.

6 an uneaten portion of food. **7** a lump of dough. **8** a muddy mess. **9** fancy food. **10** a tasty dish.

◆ *verb* mess about in mud.

□ **fat crowdie** a crowdie made with fat skimmed from stock.

[Scots and Northern English *crowdie*, Northern English also rarely *crowdie*.]

crowdie² *noun* a short, stout girl.

[*Cf.* Older Scots term of endearment *crowdie mowdie*, origin unknown.]

crowl, croul, crool, crole, croil, crile *noun*, also **crowlie, crawley, croillie**

1 a stunted child, an undersized person; a dwarf. **2** a runt, the smallest and weakest animal or bird in a litter or brood.

◆ *verb* stunt the growth of (a child or animal).

◆ *adjective* **crowl** undersized.

□ **a crowl looks nothing on a creepie, a crowl on a creepie looks nothing** *proverbial*, *lit* a dwarf still doesn't look much even when standing on a stool.

□ **croilly** weak, small.

□ **crowl's leap** a sudden spurt of growth; *see also* **arcan**.

[Scots *crowl, croul, croil, crile*. *Crowl* and *croil* may be separate words. With *croil, crile*, *cf.* Middle Dutch *kriel* "dwarfish". With *crowl*, *cf.* Scots and Northern English *crowl* form of *crawl*.]

crown, croon *noun* a crown, the crown.

◆ *verb* hit (a person) on the head.

□ **crowny** the game of noughts and crosses; *see also* **CROSS**.

[Scots and Northern English form *croon*.]

crowner, crooner *noun* a coroner.

□ **crowner's quest** a coroner's inquest [*quest* obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal), from Old French *queste*].

[Old form (still English dialectal) *crowner*; Northern English also *crooner*, influenced by the *croon* form of *crown*.]

crowtlings *see* **crutlins**.

crub *see* **crib**².

crub *noun* the curb-bit of a bridle; also **crub-bit, crub-chain**

◆ *verb* curb, check, restrain.

[Scots, also South-Western English, form. The same word as **crib**¹.

Curb and *kerb* are forms of the same word in Standard English.]

crub¹ *noun* the centipede.

crubeen, crubbin, croobeen *noun* **1** a pig's trotter; the claw of a bird; the paw of an animal. **2** a toe. **3** a half-closed hand. **4** a handful.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *crúibín* "a little hoof", itself from *crúb* "a foot, a claw" + diminutive ending *-ín*. *See also* **croobeen cut, croobuggie**.]

crubeen¹ *noun* a type of small fish.

crubie *noun* a stout rough stick *Co. Antrim*.

[Origin unknown.]

cruck *see* **crook**.

cruckin *see* **cruiteen**.

cruckit *see* **crook**.

crud *noun* **1** usually in plural curds, thickened milk. **2** curd cheese, cottage cheese made with sour milk. **3** a term of endearment to a child *e.g.* *Come here, white crud*.

□ **crowdie** cream cheese [Scots; from *crud* + *-ie*, influenced by **crowdie**¹.]

□ **crudle** *verb, of milk* curdle, thicken.

◆ *noun, in plural* curdled milk spat out by a baby.

[Scots and English dialectal form, from Middle English *crud*. Altered to *curd* in Standard English.]

cruden *noun* a crab, *Carcinus maenas*, of a reddish colour.

crue, crew, croo *noun* **1** a pen or fold for animals; also **pig's crew, pig-crew, etc.** **2** a coop for fowl. **3** a hovel, a very small, inadequate house.

□ **pig-croo, pig-crew** a pigsty.

[Scots and English dialectal; of Celtic origin, *cf.* Welsh *creu* "a pen; a

hovel"; related to Irish *cró*, Scottish Gaelic *crò*, see **cray**, **cro**.]

cruel, crule *adjective* **1** cruel. **2** extraordinary, very large, very bad, *etc.*

◆ *adverb* extremely, very *e.g.* *cruel kind*.

□ **cruelty** the National (formerly the Royal) Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children *e.g.* *I'll git the cruelty on ye*.

□ **make a crule han' o' yourself** make a disagreeable spectacle of yourself.

cruels, crouels *noun* a disease: scrofula (tuberculosis of the lymphatic glands).

[Scots; from French *écrouelles*, itself from Latin *scrofulae*, which gives *scrofula*.]

cruffles *noun plural* a type of potato.

[Origin unknown.]

cruise *noun* a jug for holding liquor.

cruisie, croosie, crusie *noun, also cruisie-lamp* a simple oil lamp with a double pan.

[Scots, from Old French *creuset*.] [ILLUS: *cruisie*]

cruiskeen, cruisken, cruishkeen *noun* a small jug for holding liquor; a pitcher.

cruiteen, crutchin, crutyeen, crutyin, crotyeen, crotin, cruckin *noun* **1** a hunchback. **2** a stunted child; an undersized person. **3** a runt, the smallest and weakest animal in a litter, *especially* of pigs.

[Irish *cruitín*, from *crut* (see **crut**) + diminutive ending *-ín*.]

cruke *see* **crook**.

crule *see* **cruel**.

crulge, crilge *verb* **1** crouch, stoop. **2** cramp yourself by sitting in a crouched position. **3** become cramped.

□ **crulged** in a crouched sitting position *e.g.* over a fire or in a corner.

□ **crulgin, crilging** *of work* cramping, requiring to be done in an uncomfortable position.

[Scots, apparently an alteration of *cringe* under the influence of Scots *crull* "to huddle".]

crumb *noun* **1** a small portion of anything, *e.g.* a scrap of paper. **2** *with reference to time* a little while.

□ **crumb-cloth** a covering to protect the carpet from crumbs.

□ **crumble, crumple, crimmle** *verb* crumble.

◆ *noun* a crumb; a scrap of anything.

□ **crumblin, crumlin** *noun* a crumb.

□ **crumly** crumbly.

□ **the crumbs will make you wise** said to children to encourage them to eat up the crumbs.

See also crumming knife.

crumb cow *noun* a crooked-horned cow.

Crumlin: in the Crumlin Hotel in jail.

crummie *noun* a crooked-horned cow.

◆ *adjective* crooked-horned.

[Scots, *crom* "crooked" (from Scottish Gaelic *crom*, corresponding to Irish *crom*) + *-ie*.]

crumming knife *noun, coopering* a knife used to roughly trim the edges of grooves at the ends of barrel staves.

[Possibly from **crumb** in the sense "to break off fragments".]

crummy *noun* a three-legged stool.

crumple: crumply, also crumplety *of horns* crooked, bent in a spiral.

crunch: cruncher a back tooth.

crunnion *noun* the cranium, the head.

[Obsolete in Standard English; from Greek *krānion*, itself the source of Medieval Latin *cranium*.]

cruntles, cruntlins *see* **crutlins**.

crup *noun* a wall-post.

[*Cf.* Scottish Gaelic *crùb* "an upright beam".]

crupaiste *adjective*, of a person stiff, cramped; *cf.* crupan.

crupan, cruppan *noun* a rheumatic disease in the legs of cattle or sheep; *see also* crution.

□ **cruppany grass**, also **cruppany** a wild flower: the bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum* [it is supposed to cause **crupan** in sheep. It grows in lime-deficient soil, where sheep are liable to rheumatic disease. The Latin *ossifragum* also means "damaging to bones"].

[Ulster Irish *crupán* (Standard Irish *crapán*) "cramp". *See also* crupaiste, crupped.]

crupped *adjective* crippled; *cf.* crupan.

crusach *noun* a collection of anything, especially of bairneacs, and sea-weed.

cruse *see* croose.

crush *noun* **1** potato starch. **2** bread made from the starch of potatoes instead of flour.

□ **as coorse as crush**

crusie *see* cruisie.

crut *noun* **1** a hunchback. **2** a dwarf. **3** an undersized, feeble child. **4** the smallest pig in a litter. **5** a small potato.

[Irish *cruit* "a hump"; also Scots, Northern English and Pembrokeshire, from Celtic sources, *cf.* Scottish Gaelic *cruit*, *croit* "a hump" and Welsh *crwt* "a boy; a little fellow". Scots also *croot*. *See also* crootyer, cruiteen, crutaghan.]

crutaghan, crutchachan, cretaghan *noun* **1** a hunchback. **2** an undersized adult.

[Irish *crotachán*, *cruiteachán* "a humpback; a dwarf", from *cruit* (*see* crut) + *-achán*.]

crutch

crutch: **crutchey** *noun*, *nickname* a lame person who uses a crutch.

□ **crutchin** a strong, rough walking stick, used *e.g.* by an old person as a support.

crutchin *see* cruiteen.

crution, crutyin *noun* a disease of the legs in old and badly-fed cows; *cf.* crupan.

crutlins, crowthings, cratlins *noun plural* **1** also **cruntlins, cruntles** the residue of rendered fat. **2** also **cruntlins** pigs' intestines fried with oatmeal. **3** crumbs. **4** small particles, *e.g.* the last drops of butter floating in the churn. **5** crottles, sheep's droppings.

[Southern English *cratlins, crutlins* "the residue of rendered fat"; apparently an alteration of *crackling* (*see* cracklins) under the influence of English dialectal *crittens, crautings* (*see* crettins). *Cratlins, crutlins* also found in Galloway.]

crutyin *see* cruiteen, crution.

cry *verb* **1** call (somebody by name). **2** cry names at (a person) call (a person) names.

□ **big cry and little wool, as the deil said when he clipt the pig, great cry and little wool, as the butcher said when he shaved the pig**

□ **crying out** the time of confinement of a woman having a baby; *see also* out.

cub, cob *noun* **1** a young rabbit. **2** a young boy [in Standard English "an unpolished youth"].

cubbart *see* cup.

cube *noun* a tube *Mid Uls.*

cuboc *noun* a species of dogfish *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

cuckle *noun* a shellfish: a cockle.

cuckoo *noun* **1** a name for the Plymouth Rock hen [from its barred plumage]. **2** the game of peek-a-boo; the cry used in the game.

- **cuckoo corn** corn sown late in the spring when the cuckoo has begun to call.
- **cuckoo flower** a wild flower: bird's foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*.
*Illustration see CROW*¹.
- **cuckoo potato** a wild flower with edible roots: the pignut *Conopodium majus*.
- **cuckoo('s) clover** a wild flower: wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*.
- **cuckoo's laghter** an only child; *see laghter*.
- **cuckoo's maid** a bird: the meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis*.
- **cuckoo sorrel** a wild flower: (a) wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*; (b) sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella*.
- **cuckoo spittle, cuckoo spit** a white froth on plants which contains the larva of the *Cicada spumaria*. This appears about the time of the cuckoo's arrival. In the early days after its arrival the cuckoo makes a sound as if it is constantly clearing its throat. If the larva lies head upwards, this is supposed to be a sign of a dry summer; if downwards, a wet summer.
- **cuckoo storm** a storm about the end of April or the beginning of May.
- **from cuckoo to cuckoo** from one summer to the next.
- **when the wind's in the west, the cuckoo's on her nest**

cud *see could*.

cud-bear *noun* the blue dye used in Donegal (1890) and sold in Derry; Dr. Cuthbert Gordon's name.

cudden *noun* the young of the coalfish *Pollachius virens*.

[Scots; origin unknown, also in Scottish Gaelic as *cudainn* "a coalfish".]

cudding *noun* a small fish a few months after spawning.

cuddle *verb* bake (apples) in an oven.

[English dialectal sense of *coddle*, which in Standard English means "stew (apples, etc.)".]

cuddy¹, **cutty** *noun* **1** a donkey. **2 cutty** a young donkey. **3 cuddy** a small undersized horse. **4 cuddy** a sucking lamb, kid, calf, *etc.* **5 cuddy** a left-handed person.

◆ *adjective* **cuddy** uncouth, rude, bad-mannered.

□ **cuddy-cart** a donkey-cart.

[Scots and Northern English *cuddy* "a donkey". The *cutty* form is perhaps influenced by *cutty*.]

cuddy² *noun* come-uppance, what a person deserves.

[Origin unknown.]

cudeigh, cuidhich *noun* a night's lodging and food.

[Irish *cuid na hoíche* (earlier *cuid oíche*) literally "evening portion"; also Older Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *cuid oidhche*. *See also cuddy*².]

cudgel *noun* a beetle, a mallet.

cudnae *see could*.

cudyen *noun* a small tobacco-pipe, a *cutty*.

[Apparently influenced by *dudeen*.]

cue *noun* mood, frame of mind.

cuff *noun* the scruff (of the neck), the nape.

[Scots and Northern English form of *scuff*, itself now altered to *scruff* in Standard English.]

cuffuffle *see caruffle*.

cuggaring-bag *see gugger*.

cugger *verb* hold confidential conversation **with**, *frequently cosher and cugger*.

□ **cugger-mugger** secret conversation.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *cogar* "a whisper".]

cuidhich *see cudeigh*.

cuif *see coof*.

cuildreog *noun* the bog lark.

cuisle: **a chuisle mo chroidhe** a term of endearment; *lit* pulse of my heart.

culcannon *see colcannon*.

culchie *noun* a country bumpkin; a person from the back of beyond.

[Hiberno-English; from Irish *coillte* "the woods", possibly indirectly from a place-name containing *coillte*: *Kiltimagh* in Co. Mayo has been suggested.]

cull *verb* pick out and reject (*e.g.* potatoes) as inferior.

◆ *noun* **1** rejects. **2** the rubbish left after building stones have been picked.

□ **cullens** small potatoes; any low-grade pickings.

cullen *noun* holly *Ilex aquifolium*.

culliagh *noun, also, nickname* a cockfighter, someone who keeps game-cocks.

cullions *noun* the marsh orchid *Orchis latifolia*.

□ **cullion ban** the wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*.

culloch *noun* a fish: the eel *Anguilla anguilla*, *Lough Neagh*.

[*Cf.* Irish *collach* "the male of various animal species".]

cullogue *see* collogue.

culpen, colpan *noun* a strip of hide or leather joining the swipple of a flail to the handstaff. *Illustration see* soople².

[Middle English *culpon* "a strip", from Old French *colpon* "a cut, a portion". Also in Cornwall as *colp* "a short rope for carrying sheaves".]

culshy *adjective* **1** badly-fitting. **2** clumsy.

[Origin unknown.]

cultar [*cultar*] *noun* an argument, a noisy dispute *Co. Tyrone*.

[Origin unknown.]

cumber, comber *noun* **1** encumbrance, inconvenience, trouble. **2** a burden, a load, *especially* one carried by a person.

[Old spelling *comber*.]

cumlush *see* cumslloosh.

cumm *verb, Co. Armagh* **1** coagulate (milk) by adding rennet. **2** become damp again after being dried.

[*Cf.* Irish *cumadh* "to form, to shape".]

cummings *see* come¹.

cumsleesh a civil setback.

cumslloosh, comsleesh, cumlush *noun* a flatterer, someone who gets round others with sweet talk; an obsequious person.

◆ *adjective* flattering, "sweet".

◆ *verb* curry favour.

□ **get a bit cumslloosh** become poor or relatively so.

[*Cf.* Scots *cumsleesh* "a severe scolding", apparently Scots intensifying prefix *cum-* + Scots and northern English *sleech* "liquid mud", from the idea of "plastering" someone with words. With the form *cumslloosh*, *cf.* *slouster*.]

cunamar *noun* crumbs.

Cunningham: Cunningham measure *noun* a system of land measurement intermediate between the Irish acre (seven yards to the perch) and the statute acre (five and a half yards to the perch).

□ **Cunningham perch** eighteen and three quarter feet (5.72 metres); *see also* Scottish.

[Probably named after the part of Ayrshire called Cunningham.]

cunny *see* coney.

cunnygar, kinnegar *noun* a rabbit warren.

[Gloucestershire form *cunniger* of obsolete Standard English *conieger*; from Old French *coninière*, influenced by the Middle English form *conig* of coney.]

cunthrary *see* contrary.

cup: a cup an a slice a snack, *i.e.* a cup of tea and a slice of bread.

□ **cubbart** a cupboard.

□ **cup-tossing** fortune-telling from tea-leaves. The cup is passed under and over the hand and the tea-leaves tossed out onto the saucer.

□ **it's hard to carry a full cup** it is hard to bear prosperity without losing

one's head.

curant *see* **courant**.

curate *noun, jocular* a small iron poker kept in use to spare the larger ornamental one.

curchey, curchy *noun* a curtsey.

curcuddoch, curcudiagh *adjective* **1** sitting side by side around the fire.

2 friendly, on good terms. **3** kindly, good-humoured. **4** self-confident.

□ **curcuddochly** cosily, sociably, *e.g.* of two people sitting together.

[Scots *curcuddoch* "sitting close together; intimate"; Scots intensifying prefix *cur-*, *cor-*, *car-* + Scottish Gaelic *cuideachd* "in company". It has been suggested that this prefix is from Scottish Gaelic *corr-* "extraordinary, excessive".]

curcussion *noun* a fall at wrestling from a trip caused by putting out the foot.

cure *noun* **the cure** the art of healing a particular ailment by a traditional folk practice; *hence* **have the cure** possess this art; *see also* **charm**.

□ **there's a cure for everything but death** *proverbial*

□ **what can't be cured must be endured**

curfuffle *see* **carfuffle**.

curious *adjective* particular, fastidious.

□ **cure** an odd or eccentric person.

□ **curossity 1** a curiosity, an odd object or person. **2** a knick-knack.

□ **knowin curossity** a shrewd character who poses as a fool.

curk *noun* a tuft of feathers on a hen's head.

curl *noun* displeasure; bad humour.

□ **curl-doddy, curly-doddy, curl-daddy, carl-doddy** a wild flower: **(a)** the ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*. *Illustration see* **cock**¹; **(b)** the devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*; *see also* **cardies**. *Illustration see* **bachelor**.

[Scots *curl-doddy, curly-doddy, carl-doddy*; from *curl* + Scots *doddy* "a hornless cow", also applied to bald men. The form *carl-doddy* is influenced by *carl*.]

□ **curl-doddy, on the midden, turn round, an tak my biddin** *rhyme* said by a child while twisting the stalk, and letting it slowly untwist in the hand.

□ **curlicue, carlique** [carleek] a thing of no value, *especially in the phrase* **not care or give a carlique (for)** not put the least value on, not care in the least. *Also* **none of your curlicues!** none of your nonsense! [spelling pronunciation of *carlicue*].

□ **curly, corly** *adjective* curly.

◆ *noun, in plural, also* **curly kale** curled kale *Brassica oleracea*.

□ **curly-come, curly-cum 1** *childish* the letter Q. **2** anything curled or twisted.

□ **curly water** a mixture of sugar and water supposed to make hair curl.

□ **like the curl on the pig's tail, more for ornament nor for use**

□ **none of your curlicues!** none of your nonsense!

[Northern English form *corl*. *See also* **quirlie**.]

curlew, courliew *noun* **1** the curlew. **2** the lapwing.

curmud, curma *adjective, of a waiter, etc.* attentive, as if looking for a tip.

[Scots *curmud* "(over-)friendly", intensifying prefix *cur-* (*cf.* *curcuddoch*) + an unidentified element.]

curmudgeon, cyermudgeon *noun* **1** a curmudgeon, a disobliging person. **2** a naughty boy.

curmurring, cormurring *noun* **1** a rumbling, *especially* of wind in the stomach. **2** grumbling.

[Scots *curmur*, intensifying prefix *cur-* (*cf.* *curcuddoch*) + Scots *murr* "to purr".]

curn, corn *noun* a currant.

□ **a currant at every station** describing tea-bread in which there are very few currants.

- **Morra corrn, whor's yer nibour?** said on finding a rare currant in a fruit loaf.
[Scots and Northern English form *corn*, Northern English also *corn*.]
- cornaptious** *see* carnaptious.
- cornoble, cornobble** *verb* beat (a person) on the head; keep (a person) in order.
[Scots intensifying prefix *cur-* (as in *curcuddoch*) + slang *nobble*.]
- cornoodle** *noun* a small cranky person.
[Apparently Scots prefix *car-*, *cur-* (from Scottish Gaelic *car* "a twist") + *noodle*. *Cf.* *carfuffle*.]
- curragh¹, corragh** *noun* a coracle, a wickerwork boat covered with tarred linen or, formerly, hide.
[Hiberno-English, from Irish *curach* "a coracle"; also Scots *currach*, *corrach*, from Scottish Gaelic *curach*.] [ILLUS: curragh]
- curragh²** *noun* a flat, swampy, low-lying stretch of land.
[Irish *corrach* "a wet bog".]
- curry¹: curry someone's coat** beat up, thrash someone.
- currygated** *adjective* corrugated.
- curry-jerricks** rowan-berries.
- currymushy** *noun* a confused, jostling crowd of people.
[*Cf.* Scots *curriemushel*, from Scots intensifying prefix *curry-* (apparently from Scottish Gaelic *corra-* form of *corr-*, *cf.* *curcuddoch*) + Scots *mushle* "confusion".]
- curry on the goat!** *exclamation, jocular* hurry up!
[Possibly a play on Irish *corraigh ort* "move on, stir yourself".]
- curse: the curse of Colmcille** *jocular* said to befall a person who puts on one shoe before putting on both socks [translation of Irish *mallacht Choluim Chille*, alluding to an incident in the saint's youth when he was pursued by his enemies with only one shoe on].
- **the curse of the crows upon (a person, animal or thing)** a curse.
- curwheeble, curwheedle** *noun* **1** an evasion, a subterfuge, an equivocation. **2** an error in a straight line, a deviation.
[Hiberno-English *curwhibble*. *Cf.* Argyllshire *curwheeflin* "trickery", intensifying prefix *cur-* (as in *curcuddoch*) + *wheefle* (Scots form of *whiffle* "to blow in puffs; to prevaricate"). *Curwheeble* is perhaps influenced by Standard English *quibble*; *see also* *wheeble*. With the *curwheedle* form, *cf.* Standard English *wheedle*.]
- curwhiggitt** *adjective* very smart.
[Apparently Scots intensifying prefix *cur-* (as in *curcuddoch*) + Scots *whig* "to move (something) quickly; to work enthusiastically" (onomatopoeic).]
- cusc-cusc** *exclamation* a call to a dog.
[Onomatopoeic.]
- cush¹** *noun* a small breed of horse.
[Named after Cushendall in Co. Antrim.]
- cush²: at your cush** at your leisure; *cf.* *cosh*.
- cushag, cushog, cooshog** *noun* **1** a stalk of clover or grass. **2** couch grass *Elymus spp.*
[Irish *cuisseog* "a stalk of hay, etc.".]
- cushen, keshan, kishan, kishawn** *noun* **1** a type of pear-shaped, plaited straw bag, formerly used for storing knives. **2** a straw basket carried round the neck when sowing by hand. **3** a hanging basket, made of plaited straw rope, for hens to lay in. [ILLUS: cushen]
[Irish *ciseán* "a wicker basket", from *cis* (*see* *kesh*) + diminutive ending *-án*.]
- cushin** *see* pin.
- cushkina** *noun* a reed.
- cusick, qusick** *noun* a small coin.
- **not a cusick** not a penny, no money at all.

custom *verb* give your custom to (a shop).

- **custom-gate, custom-gap** an entrance to a fair.

cut *verb* move a heavy object by pushing from each side alternately; climb a steep hill by winding from side to side.

- ◆ **noun 1** a measure of linen yarn, one twelfth of a hank; *hence have only eleven cuts to the hank* be slightly deficient mentally. **2** a piece of ground under a particular crop *e.g. a cut of turnips*. **3** "the cut of his or her jib", appearance, turn-out, *usually look at the cut of him or her* Also **a nice-looking cut** *sarcastic* said of a person whose appearance is untidy. **4 cuts, also cuttings, county cuts** local taxes [translation of Irish *gearrthachai* "rates", literally "cuts"]; *hence cutman* the collector of the cuts. **5 dancing** a little kick in a jig step. **6** a lad, a young chap.

- ◆ **adjective 1** *of the feelings or a person* cut up, hurt, upset. **2** vaccinated *e.g. cut for the pox*.

- **as lucky as a cut cat**

- **cut aff yer nose to plase yer face**

- **cut-an-run** material taken from a shipwreck.

- **cut a when o' inches ahead of the point of the shears, cut an inch before the point** be very sharp or keen.

- **cut capers** carry on, fool around.

- **cut cards** tell fortunes using playing cards.

- **cut corn** *noun* corn partly ground for animal feed.

- ◆ **verb** take food, cut meat.

- **cut for the pox** vaccinated against smallpox.

- **cut meat** take food, have something to eat *usually negative e.g. I didn't cut meat the day*.

- **cut-out bog** land left after the removal of peat from a bog.

- **cut someone's throat** deceive someone.

- **cut stick** "cut your stick", run away, make yourself scarce.

- **cutter** a slate-pencil.

- **cut the gutter** an errand boy, a messenger; *also nickname*.

- **cut-throat 1** a backbiter, a malicious gossip. **2** a bird: the whitethroat *Sylvia communis*.

- **cutting, cuttin 1** substance; staying power. **2** a pain in the intestines.

- **cut-worm** any grub that eats through the roots of crops.

- **cut your stick and sned it on the road!** be off as quickly as possible!

- **draw cuts** draw lots.

- **give (a person) the cut** "cut", ignore, snub (a person).

- **good cutting to your corn** may your corn never fail.

- **how did (a person) cut up** meaning how much money did he *or* she leave when dead.

- **it wouldn't cut butter if it was hot, it would cut butter if it was hot** describing a very blunt knife.

- **near cut** a short cut.

See also cutty.

cut-along *see* cotillon.

catch-a-cutchoo, catchycutshoo *noun* a game where children clasp their hands under their knees and dance about in a squatting position.

[Hiberno-English, origin unknown.]

- **Cutchie-cut-choo, your bread's a-burnin'; / Cutchie-cut-choo, it's ready for turnin'** *rhyme* sung when playing the game.

cute *adjective* precocious; wise, knowledgeable, ingenious; active; sly, cunning, sharp, keen, shrewd, subtle.

cutlash *noun* a cutlass.

cutther *verb* talk in a low voice.

[Northern English *cutter*, onomatopoeic.]

cutty *see* cuddy¹.

cutty *adjective* short, short-stemmed, short-handled; *hence cutty knife, cutty pipe, cutty spoon, cutty shovel, cutty spade*.

◆ **noun 1** *also* **cuddy** a short-stemmed clay pipe, a *dudeen*, or one with a broken stem. **2** *also* **cuddy** a horn spoon; a short spoon; *hence* **puttin in your cutty among spoons** *of a child* attempting to join in the conversation of adults. **3** a short knife; *see also* **guddy**. **4** a small motor boat of rowing boat size. **5** any implement that has become shortened by wear or breakage. **6** a bird: **(a)** the razorbill *Alca torda*. *Illustration see* **bridle**; **(b)** the guillemot *Uria aalge*; **(c)** the puffin *Fratercula arctica*. *Illustration see* **bridle**. **7** **(a)** a short person; **(b)** a small, cheeky person, a young person; **(c)** *also* **cuddy** a young girl; a teenage girl; **(d)** a young boy; **(e)** *rare* a woman of any age. **8** a hired boy.

□ **better sup with a cutty than want a spoon**

□ **cuttycub** *derogatory* a cissy, a little boy who plays with the girls; *see* **cub**.

□ **cuttyful 1** a spoonful. **2** the fill of a clay pipe. **3** a small measure; *hence* **you haven't a cuttyful (of brains, sense, etc.)**.

□ **puttin in your cutty among spoons** *of a child* attempting to join in the conversation of adults.

□ **when ye bring yer own cutty, ye'll always get something to sup** if you bring something for the common benefit, you will be welcome.

[From *cut*. The *cuddy* form is perhaps influenced by *cuddy*¹.]

cuttyweery, cuttywerry *noun* a bird: a small type of sandpiper, *especially* **(a)** the dunlin *Calidris alpina*; **(b)** the knot *Calidris canutus*.

[Scots *kitty-wedie* "the common sandpiper" *Actitis hypoleucos*, from *Kitty* + *wedie* (imitating the bird's call); influenced by *cutty* (*see cut*).]

cyar *see* **car**¹.

cyarl *see* **carl**.

cyarnaptious *see* **carnapitious**.

cyavie *see* **calf**.

cyculum *noun* cyclamen.

cyermudgeon *see* **curmudgeon**.

Cypress moss *noun* a cultivated species of club-moss, *Selaginella*.

D *obsolete* (old) pence. *thus* **two D, three D**

da *see* **daw**¹.

da *noun* dad, father.

□ **daddy: daddy an cuddy** the "spitting image" (of someone); *cf.* **cutty** (*see cut*).

□ **daddy-hundred-feet** a centipede. [ILLUS: daddy/hf]

□ **daddy-long-legs 1** a spider. **2** the crane-fly.

□ **dad's own boy** a son who takes after his father.

dab¹ *noun* a fish: the skate *Raja batis* [in Standard English a different fish, *Pleuronectes limanda*].

◆ *verb* fish for skate.

dab² *verb* prick (your finger).

◆ *noun 1* *figuratively* a "dig", a verbal prod *e.g.* *He gave them the quare dab in the sermon*. **2** a prim, dowdy woman with a stiff manner.

□ **dab-at-the-hole** a game: a way of playing marbles.

□ **dab-at-the-stool** a meal of potatoes dipped in salt. The salt was placed on a little stool.

□ **dab-at-the-table** a form of **dab-at-the-stool** where the salt was emptied onto the table.

□ **I wouldn't take him if he was dabbed wi' diamonds**

See also **dib**.

dabberlocks *noun* an edible seaweed: *Alaria esculenta*.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

dacency, dacent *see* **decent**.

dacker in *verb* make an enthusiastic start on something.

[*Cf.* Scots and Northern English *dacker* "to potter; to have dealings", from Middle Dutch *dakeren* "to waver".]

dacket *see* **docket**.

dad *see* daud.

dad: **by Dad, bedad** a disguised oath: "God".

[Obsolete in Standard English, still U.S.A. colloquial, Hiberno-English, Scots and Northamptonshire. *Cf.* **dod**¹.]

daddle *see* doddle.

daddy *see* da.

dadge *see* daud.

dadilly, dodilly *noun* a helpless, useless person.

[*Cf.* Scots *dilly-daw* "a slow, slovenly person", from *dilly* (as in *dilly-dally*) + **daw**¹, possibly influenced by **dandilly**. *See also* *dilly-daddle*.]

dae, daeless, daen, daeny *see* do¹.

daff *verb, usually daffing* acting the fool.

[Scots and Northern English; origin unknown, *cf.* **daft**.]

daffy *adjective* silly; knocked almost senseless.

◆ *noun, contemptuous* a silly woman.

daffydowndilly *noun* a daffodil.

daft *adjective* **1** silly, stupid, weak-minded, foolish. **2** frivolous, thoughtless, unwise. **3** half-witted. **4** mentally disturbed, demented.

□ **daftie** a foolish person.

[Scots and English dialectal, from Old English *ȝedæfte* "gentle, meek".]

dag¹, **deg** *noun* **1** fog, mist. **2** drizzling rain. **3** a sudden, heavy shower, a plump.

[Scots and English dialectal *dag*, Northern English also *deg*; from Old Norse *dagg* "dew".]

dag² *verb* **1** mow the corners of (a hayfield). **2** *horse-dealing* alter the marks on a horse's teeth in order to falsify its age.

[The same word as obsolete Standard English "to cut (the edge of a fabric) into jagged shapes", origin unknown.]

dag³: **daggled** tangled, unkempt.

daho¹ *noun, Co. Donegal* **1** force, energy, "go"; efficiency. **2** a bad trait; a treacherous nature.

[Origin unknown.]

daho² *noun* a wild flower: cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*; *cf.* *hi-how*.

Illustration see bad.

daicent *see* decent.

dail *noun* a "doll", a young woman.

dailagone *see* day.

dailer *see* dale¹.

dailygan *see* day.

dainick, dake *noun* a small sum given to a card-player by one of the other players to keep him or her in the game when he or she has run out of money to bet.

[Origin unknown.]

dainty, denty *adjective* **1** dainty. **2** fine, handsome, excellent. **3** kind, courteous.

[Scots and Northern English form *denty*.]

dairy: **dairyboy, dairyman** a cattleman, a man who looks after the cows on a farm.

dais *noun* **1** a log used as a bench, placed against the gable behind a central hearth. **2** a couch.

daisy: **daisy-picker** someone who accompanies a courting couple, a "gooseberry".

□ **daisy-picking** acting as a "gooseberry".

□ **finger-ends like the daisy-tips**

□ **not the height of a daisy, not two han's higher nor a daisy** *contemptuous, of a person* short, small.

□ **put the daisy quilt over (a person)** bury (a person).

daith *see* death.

daiver *see* daver.

dake *see* dainick, dyke.

dale *see* deel.

dale *noun* rundale.

dale¹ *noun* a deal; a great deal.

◆ *verb* deal, share out.

□ **dailer** a dealer.

□ **dalin man** a dealer, a middle-man.

□ **deal small and serve all** *proverbial*

[Older form in Scots and English.]

dale² *noun* **1** deal, a type of wooden board. **2** a wooden shelf.

□ **as hard as a dale boord** very hard.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

daless *see* do¹.

dalingfall *see* day.

dall *noun* a slender stake in a **skeagh**, part of an eeltrap in a weir *Lower River Bann*. *Illustration see skeagh*².

[Origin unknown.]

dallan *noun* a standing stone or pillar.

dallog *see* dollogue.

dallop *see* dollop.

dally *verb* delay, loiter, mark time.

dalta, **dalt** *noun* **1** a foster-child. **2 dalta** a spoilt child. **3 dalt** *rare* a nephew or niece.

[*Dalta* from Irish *dalta*; also Scots *dalta*, *dalt* from Scottish Gaelic *dalta*.]

dam¹ *noun* **1** the water behind a dam. **2** a pond, a pool; *hence flax or lint dam* a pond in which flax is steeped to ret it.

dam²: **dam board** a draughtboard.

□ **dambrod pattern** a checkered pattern like a draughtboard [*dam* + Scots *brod* form of *board*].

[Scots *dam* "a piece in the game of draughts"; from French *dame*, the same word as *dame*.]

dame *noun* **1** a woman. **2** a wife. **3 usually derogatory** a young woman. **4** a bold, impudent woman.

*See also dam*².

dámh *noun* affection; liking.

damn: **And damn the long we will be building a nice room**

□ **damn but** *exclamation* expressing surprise *etc.*

□ **damnin an leavin** giving up in disgust, never finishing anything.

damnedable *adjective* damnable.

[Influenced by *damned*.]

damnify *verb* ruin, damage (something) very badly.

[Obsolete in Standard English except in legal use (still Scots and Northern English), from Old French *damnifier*.]

damp *verb* infuse, make (tea).

damsel¹ *noun* *in a mill* the iron rod that shakes the hopper.

[The same word as Standard English *damsel* "an unmarried girl".]

[ILLUS: damsel]

damsel² *noun* the damson plum.

[Scots and English dialectal, altered form; *see also damson*.]

damson, **dawmson** *noun*, *also damson-plume* a damson [Scots form *ploom*. In Standard English the *damson plum* is a variety of plum similar to the damson but larger; *see also damsel*².]

dance: **dancing mad** hopping mad, in a great rage.

□ **dance rings round (a person)** dance for joy.

□ **dance upon air** **1** "dance upon nothing", be hanged. **2** be elated, in high spirits.

□ **dance without a door under your feet** be hanged [in the days of dirt

floors, an old door would be put down to dance on].

□ **dance your lane** dance for joy; *see lone*.

□ **see the sun dance on Easter morn** it is said that on Easter Sunday morning the sun dances in honour of the Resurrection.

dandelion *noun* applied to flowers resembling the dandelion such as (a) hawkbit *Leontodon*; (b) catsear *Hypochoeris*; (c) hawkweed.

□ **dandy-lion-clock** the fluffy seed head of the dandelion which children blow and say a rhyme, "One o'clock, two o'clock *etc.*".

dander¹, **dandher**, **dauder** *noun* temper, anger, *usually get your dander up* lose your temper; **raise someone's dander** rouse someone's temper.

□ **kick up a dander** raise a commotion.

[Scots, English dialectal, and U.S.A. colloquial (hence also English colloquial); origin unknown. For the form *dauder*, *cf.* **dander**².]

dander², **dandher**, **dauder**, **danner** *verb* **1** stroll, saunter. **2** dandle, bounce (a baby) on your knee.

◆ *noun* **1** a stroll, a leisurely walk. **2** a leisurely walking pace.

□ **danderer** someone who strolls about.

□ **is this a general uprising or just a few of you out for a dandher?** *proverbial* supposed to have been said originally by a drunk man whose friends pretended to be ghosts in the churchyard.

□ **on the dander** **1** strolling idly about. **2** "on the spree", on a drinking bout.

[Scots and English dialectal *dander*, *dauder*; Scots also *danner*; origin unknown.]

dandilly *noun* **1** a self-indulgent, flabby or spoiled young person. **2** a flirtatious girl.

◆ *adjective* superficial, showy.

[Scots, origin unknown. *See also* **dadilly**.]

dandy *adjective* good, excellent; *specifically of clothes* fine.

◆ *noun* **1** a prominent or distinguished person. **2** **the dandy** the very thing, the latest fashion.

dandy-brush a whalebone brush to scrape dirt from a horse's legs before grooming.

Dane: **Danes' coves** *literally* Dane's caves: souterraines, prehistoric underground chambers; *see* **COVE**¹.

□ **Dane's fort** any mound or earthwork, whether of Scandinavian origin or not.

□ **Danish**:

□ **Danish pipes** small chalk pipes found in the ground; *see also* **pechts'** pipes.

danger: **dangersome** dangerous.

dangerous, **dangerse** *adjective* dangerous.

◆ *adverb* extremely, very.

dangleberry *noun* an angleberry.

[Influenced by *dangle*.]

danner *see* **dander**².

dannle *verb* dandle (a child).

[Scots form.]

Danny: **Danny long legs** the insect, the daddy-long-legs.

dapery, **daperry** *noun* the light grains of oats that fall through a sieve *Co. Antrim*.

[*Cf.* Argyllshire and Ayrshire *daps*, origin unknown.]

dapper *adjective* quick, active, sprightly.

dar *see* **dare**¹.

darbies *noun plural, slang* handcuffs.

dardeel *see* **deel**.

dare¹, **dar**, **daur** *auxiliary verb, negative* **darenae**, **daurna**, **durna**, *past tense used as present* **dursnae** dare, durst.

◆ *verb, past tense* **darred** dare, challenge.

- **dar ye do it!** "go on then"; said to a person making threats.
- **I dare say 1** agreeing with someone else's remark. **2** *sarcastic*.
- **well dare ye!** *literally* you may well dare: don't you dare (do something)!

[Hiberno-English, Scots and English dialectal form *dar*; Scots also *daur*.]

dare² *verb* terrify.

[Scots and English dialectal, from Old English *darian* "to crouch motionless with fear".]

dark¹, daurk, darg *noun* **1** a day's work. **2** a measure of peat: as much as can be cut in a day.

- **in the dark** always in heavy manual work.

[Scots and Northern English *dark, darg*; Scots also *daurk*; Southern Scots also *derk*; from Old English *dæȝweorc* literally "day work". *See day*.]

dark², derk *adjective* **1** dark. **2** *also* **sittin in the dark** blind. **3** haughty, cold, reserved.

- **darkavised** dark-complexioned; *see black*.
- **darken:** **darkening** twilight, dusk.
- **darken the or someone's door** *lit* cut off the light at someone's door, enter or pass a door, make a visit.
- **darkies** twilight, dusk; *cf.* *duskies*.
- **darkish** rather dark.
- **dark soled** dark-complexioned.
- **darksome** dark, obscure.
- **spending his etc. money for he etc. thought it never could be dark night** spending his *etc.* money too freely.
- **that dark ye cudna see yer fingers afore ye, as dark as a dungeon, as dark as a dungeon** very dark.
- **the dark o the moon** the absence of moonlight.

darling, darlin, darlint *noun* darling.

◆ *adjective* very good, excellent.

- **better be an old man's darling than a young man's slave** *proverbial*
- **you're not my darling, but you'll do**

darn *verb* **1** mend holes in a road with loose stones. **2** patch (thatch).

- **darn yourself in a sheskin** "paint yourself into a corner"; *see sheskin*.

darn¹ *exclamation* damn.

darr *see* *dhirum*.

darred *see* *dare¹*.

darse *see* *dass*.

dart *verb* prick (your finger).

dash¹: **dash a bit** "devil a bit", not a bit.

dash² *verb* **1** cover (the outside of a building) with a thrown coat of lime mortar; *also re-dash*. **2** *usually* **dashing** raining heavily.

- **dash-board** the splash-board of a carriage.
- **dashed** covered with a thrown coat of lime mortar.
- **pebble-dash** cover (the outside of a building) with lime and pebbles.

See also dashlin.

dashlin *adjective, of clothes* second-best.

[*Cf.* Scots *dashled* "soiled, worn"; possibly *dash² + -le*.]

dask *see* *dass*.

dass, dask, darse *noun* **1** a portion of hay cut out of a stack. **2** **darse** the space where such a portion has been cut out. **3** *also* **dass, doss** a section of hay in the hayshed.

- **dassie** a quantity of oats stacked along the wall of a barn ready to be flailed.

[Scots *dass*; possibly of Gaelic origin, *cf.* Irish *dais* "a heap, a rick". The form *dask* may be confused with Scots *dask* "a desk; a church pew; a seat".]

daub *verb* smear over.

daud, dod, dad *verb* knock about.

◆ **noun** **1** a light blow, a "clip". **2** *also* **dadge** a lump, a large piece.

□ **raw dads make fat lads** *proverbial*

[Scots and Northern English *daud, dad*; Scots also *dadge*; onomatopoeic.]

daugh *see* dough.

dauncy *see* donsie.

daunder *see* dander¹, dander².

daundered *see* donner.

daunt *verb* terrify, frighten.

daur *see* dare¹.

daurk *see* dark¹.

daurna *see* dare¹.

daver, daiver *verb* stun, stupefy, *especially* with a blow.

◆ **noun** a stunning blow.

□ **davered, daivert** stupefied, confused, bewildered; senile.

[Scots and Northern English, possibly related to *deave*.]

davy *noun* an affidavit *especially* **take** or **give your davy**.

daw¹ *noun* **1** *also* **da** a bird: the jackdaw *Corvus monedula* [the original name *daw* for the bird is now archaic in Standard English]. **2** a lazy good-for-nothing; a slattern, an untidy housewife. **3** a silly chatterbox.

□ **Saturday's washing, a daw's washing** *proverbial* because clothes would normally have been washed during the week to be ready for Sunday.

[Scots form *da*. *See also* *dadilly*.]

daw² *noun* an admirable person *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

dawg *see* dog.

dawlyie *noun* an undersized bird or animal *Co. Donegal*; *cf.* droily.

dawmson *see* damson.

dawnie, donny [rhymes with "scrawny" or "pony"] *adjective* delicate, weak, sickly, off colour, in poor health.

□ **dilly-dawny** an unthriving person; *cf.* dillon.

[Hiberno-English. *Cf.* *donsie*; *see also* *downy*.]

dawry *see* jory.

day, die *rare, noun* **1** a day. **2** a fixed period of time, *e.g.* a period of employment *e.g. when his day is done*.

□ **a day or two** a longish period of time.

□ **broad day** broad daylight.

□ **come day go day, God send Sunday** describing a careless, improvident person.

□ **day and daily** every day, constantly.

□ **day and night** *exclamation*.

□ **day in day out, day in an day oot** all day long.

□ **daylight:**

□ **daylight falling, daylit fallin, daylafallin, daylight fall, dalingfall,**

daylifell, dellit fa' nightfall, twilight, dusk.

□ **daylight going, daylit goin, dayligoin, daylight gone, dayligone, dailagone, dailygan, dayligane, dayagone, dayligo** nightfall, twilight, dusk.

□ **daylights** life *e.g. Ah'll knock the daylights out of him*.

□ **day man** a labourer who is paid by the day.

□ **day out** a holiday.

□ **day rose** a cultivated shrub: the gum cistus *Cistus ladanifer*.

□ **day watch** dawn.

□ **did all that happen in yin day?** *sarcastic* said after hearing a tall story.

□ **have a heap** or **a good deal of daylight under** or **below you** *of a horse, also figuratively of a person* be tall.

- **he or she is (a certain age) if he or she is a day** meaning that a person is at least (a certain age).
- **it wasnae the day or yesterday that I came up** *literally* it was a long time ago that I appeared out of the ground (like a plant), meaning that I have been around for a long time.
- **like a day's work** energetically.
- **many a day has the grave on us** *literally* we'll be a long time dead: said to someone in a hurry [translation of Irish *is iomai lá ag an uaigh orainn*].
- **pass the day** greet (a person), pass the time of day.
- **praise the day when the day is over** "don't speak too soon", said of the weather.
- **the better the day the better the deed** *proverbial*
- **the day after come never** not at all.
- **the day is done** the light is finished.
- **you're not a day oulder** said to a person that one hasn't seen for some time.

[For the form *die*, cf. Scots *cley* (see **clay**), *hey* (see **hay**), etc. See also **dark**¹.]

day nettle *see* **dead**.

daz *exclamation* a disguised oath: "damn".

[Scots and English dialectal, originally a form of **daze**.]

daze: **dazed**, *figuratively* half-witted, mentally disturbed.

See also **daz**.

deabhail *noun* the devil.

dead, **deid** *adjective* **1** dead. **2** unconscious, in a faint.

◆ *noun* death; *see also* **death**.

- **a dead horse** money that is already spent before it comes in, **dead** money; *hence* **make a coffin for a dead horse** "throw good money after bad".
- **at or on the dead cut** with the utmost physical exertion.
- **be dead nuts on (something)** be strongly opposed to (something); cf. **death**.
- **be dead on (a person)** be madly in love with (a person).
- **dead and gone** dead.
- **dead bell 1** the funeral bell, the death bell. **2** a ringing in the ears.
- **dead besom** ? synonym for **death coach**.
- **dead best** with all your might.
- **dead body's bite** a **dead nip**; *see* **body**.
- **dead doctor** a doctor visiting a dying person.
- **dead dress** a shroud.
- **deaden** *verb* dishearten, discourage.
- **deadener 1** a person who is discouragingly good at something. **2** a person who tends to stop a conversation when he or she joins in.
- **dead-head** a numskull, a stupid person.
- **dead heat** sultry, stifling heat.
- **dead knowledge 1** deceitfulness, cunning. **2** wisdom, discretion.
- **dead lice falling off him** said of a lazy person.
- **dead loss** a failure, an undesirable person.
- **dead low water** low tide.
- **deadly** tremendous, excellent.
- **dead man's fingers** a wild flower: the foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*.
Illustration see **sheegie**.
- **dead man's or men's creash** cod-liver oil; *see* **creash**¹.
- **dead man's or men's pinches** bruises that appear mysteriously on the body; *see* **dead nip**.
- **dead man's plunge** a way of throwing a stone into water without making a splash.
- **dead man's posy** a wild flower: thrift *Armeria maritima*.

- dead men's fingers** a soft coral: dead man's toes *or* hand *Alcyonium digitatum*.
 - dead might** with all your might.
 - dead money** money that is already spent before it comes in.
 - dead nip** a bruise that appears mysteriously on the body [a symptom of advanced scurvy]; *see also* **dead man's pinches**.
 - dead rattle** the death rattle, a rattling noise in the throat before death.
 - dead spit** the "spitting image" (of someone).
 - dead time of year** midwinter.
 - dead watch 1** the death watch, the sound of the death-watch beetle.
 - 2** the death-watch beetle *Xestobium rufovillosum*.
 - dea nettle, day nettle** a wild flower: **(a)** the dead nettle *Lamium spp*; **(b)** the common hemp-nettle *Galeopsis tetrahit*; **(c)** the hedge woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*.
 - deid cauld** chill *e.g. They shud a tuk the deid cauld aff the water; see* cold.
 - make a coffin for a dead horse** "throw good money after bad".
 - the dead of night** midnight.
 - the dead of winter** midwinter.
- [Scots and Northern English form *deid*. *Deid, dead* also occurs as a Scots and Northern English form of **death**.]
- deaf, deaf** *adjective* **1** deaf. **2** *of a seed, nut, egg, etc.* sterile, infertile; *cf.* blind. **3** *of soil* heavy, infertile. **4** *of an arm, leg, finger* numb, useless.
- as deaf as a beetle, as deaf as a cleg** *Co. Fermanagh* very deaf.
 - as deaf as a doornail**
 - as deaf as a stone** very deaf.
 - as deaf as Paddy's milestone** *proverbial*
 - deef-lugg'd** deaf-eared; *see* lug.
 - not fed on deaf nuts** well-fed.
- [Scots, Northern English and South-Western English form *deef*. *See also* dowf.]
- dean** *noun* a din.
- ◆ *verb* stun with noise.
- deán, dhan** *noun* an estuary; an inlet of the sea, *especially* one that can be crossed at low tide.
- [East Anglian form.]
- dea nettle** *see* dead.
- dear¹** *adjective, frequently* in terms of address, *thus* **man dear, woman dear, child dear**.
- ◆ *noun, also the dear* God *in exclamations of surprise, sorrow, etc., thus* **dear love you, dear be here, (the) dear forgive you**
 - for dear life** as hard as one can or could.
- dear²: a face like a dear year** *literally* a face like a year of high food prices: a miserable expression.
- buy at dear hand** buy in small quantities at retail prices.
 - dear of her money** said of a girl with money but no other attractions.
 - dear year** a famine year, a year of high prices for food.
- death, daith, deeth** *noun* death.
- at daith's dour** at death's door, nearly killed.
 - be death on** be strongly opposed to; *see also* dead.
 - be the death of (a person)** be the ruin of (a person).
 - death coach** *or* **hearse** a token of death: an imaginary hearse drawn by headless horses and driven by a headless driver.
 - death watch** the death-watch beetle *Xestobium rufovillosum*.
 - deeth comes to us a' - the young may but the oul' must** expressing the inevitability of death.
 - find death** *euphemism* die.
 - get your death of** "catch your death of" (usually cold, sometimes *figuratively* a person).

- like death warmed up**
- like grim dayth**
- there's nothing sure but death and taxes** *proverbial*
[Older form in Scots and English *daith*, Scots and Northern English also *deeth*. *See also* *dead*.]
- deave, deeve** *verb* **1** deafen, stun with noise; bewilder. **2** worry, bother *e.g. I would not deave my head with such nonsense.* **3** deaden (pain).
 - deaved** bored (with talk).
 - deavesome** deafening.
 - deaving** deafening.
[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *adēafian* "to become deaf". *See also* *daver*.]
- debate**¹ *noun* an effort, *usually* **mak a debate for yourself** make an effort on your own behalf, stick up for yourself.
 - make a poor debate** get on badly.
- debate**² *verb* decrease.
[Obsolete in Standard English, from *de-* + *bate* (shortened form of *abate*).]
- debble** *verb* **1** dabble. **2 debble out** wash (clothes) by hand.
[*Cf.* Scots form *daible*.]
- debt: die in debt** *of a farm animal* make a loss for the farmer when sold for slaughter.
 - out of debt out of danger** *proverbial*
- decate** *noun* deceit.
 - deceptious** *adjective* deceitful.
[Older form in Scots and English.]
- decay** *noun* **1** a decline in health from tuberculosis. **2** a wasting disease such as tuberculosis.
- decent, dacent, daicent** *adjective* **1** decent; *specifically* proper, respectable, upright. **2** generous, open-handed.
 - ◆ *adverb* decently; *specifically* fairly, honourably.
 - dacency** *decency; specifically (a) respectability; (b) friendly, civil treatment.*
 - dacency bed** a spare bed in the sitting-room, covered over when not in use.
[Hiberno-English, Scots and Northern English form *dacent, daicent*.]
- deck** *see* *dyke*.
- deck** *noun* a card-table set out for playing.
 - deck head** *playing cards* the card turned up as trumps.
 - sweep the deck** take all the tricks at cards; win all the money staked.
- decline: the decline of the year** autumn.
 - declinable** suffering from tuberculosis.
 - declining** a decline in health as a result of tuberculosis.
- deddin** *see* *do*¹.
- dee** *see* *die*¹, *do*¹.
- deed**¹: **deedless** helpless, lethargic, lacking energy.
 - deedy** active, industrious; painstaking.
- deed**² *exclamation* indeed *e.g. Deed ay!, Deed no!*
 - deed an doubles, double deed, dread and deed and doubles, deed an troth** indeed and doubles.
 - deed if I know** indeed I don't know.
[Scots and English dialectal, shortened form of *indeed*.]
- deedles needles** *see* *devil*.
- deef** *see* *deaf*.
- deek** *see* *dyke*.
- deel, dheel, dale, dioul, dool, dowl** *noun* **1** *also* **black dioul, dioul-duff** a rove beetle: the devil's coach horse *Staphylinus olens*.
Illustration see *Irish.* **2** an earwig; *see also* *dyeelog*. *Illustration see* *fork*.
 - dale clock** a cockroach; *see* *clock*². [ILLUS: *dale/clk*]

- **dordeel, dardeel 1** a rove beetle: the devil's coach horse *Staphylinus olens*. *Illustration see Irish. 2* a centipede. *Illustration see da.*
 [Irish *daol* "a beetle, especially a stag-beetle". The forms *black dioul* and *dioul-duff* are based on Irish *daol dubh* "a black beetle", and *dhordheel* and Hiberno-English *dardeel* on Irish *darbh-daol* "the rove beetle".]
- deem** *verb 1* suspect. **2** blame, accuse (someone) *e.g. I deemed him for it.*
- deep** *adjective 1* clever, cunning. *hence as deep as a pape of an Orangeman as deep as the Boyne 2 deep in the night* late at night.
- **as deep as a draw-well, as deep as a mill pond**
- deer:** **deer's grass** the crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*.
- death** *see* death.
- deetle-eetle-eetle** *exclamation* a call to ducks.
 [Southern English *diddle*, onomatopoeic.]
- deeve** *see* deave.
- defend** *verb* forbid, prohibit, prevent.
- deftness** *noun* acuteness.
- deg** *see* dag¹.
- deg** *verb* strike with a sharp-pointed instrument.
 ♦ *noun* a blow with a sharp-pointed instrument.
 [Scots and Northern English form of obsolete Standard English *dag* "to stab", possibly from French *dague* "a dagger".]
- deid** *see* dead.
- deil** *see* devil.
- delf, delph** *noun 1* *also delf-ware* loosely china, tableware [in Standard English, a particular kind of glazed earthenware made at Delf (now Delft) in Holland]. **2** *also delph money* broken pieces of china used by children playing shops.
 □ **not break much delph** not impress anybody much.
- dellit fa'** *see* day.
- delude** *verb* beguile, coax *e.g. He'd delude the birds from the trees* [influenced by Irish *mealladh* which means both "to delude" and "to beguile"].
 □ **deluder, deludher** *noun* a maze, something confusing.
 ♦ *verb 1* confuse, bewilder, deceive. **2** persuade, cajole.
 □ **deludhered** deceived, deluded, mistaken.
 □ **deludhering** beguiling, persuasive.
- delve** *verb* dig (the garden), dig with a spade, turn the soil over at the surface as opposed to making ridges [archaic in Standard English].
 □ **delver** a person who delves.
 □ **delving** digging.
- demand, deman'** *noun 1* a demand. **2** *in plural* commands, errands to be run.
- demean** *verb* lower, disgrace.
- demense** [demains] *noun* a demesne, an estate of land.
- demin** *adjective* rare, occasional, unusual.
 □ **demin ane** an odd one, an unusual case.
 [South-Western Scots form of Scots *daimin*, origin unknown.]
- demored** *adjective* forlorn.
 [Scots *demuired* "downcast", literally "made demure".]
- den** *noun 1* *in a mill* a cellar. **2** a form, the nest of a hare. **3** the base or "home" in children's games. **4** the hole aimed at when playing marbles.
5 dens the game of rounders.
- deng** *see* ding².
- denner** *see* dinner.
- dense**
 □ **as dense as the door** very stupid.
- denty** *see* dainty.
- deny:** **I'll no deny it** *jocular* said when commenting on an obvious fact.

deoch *exclamation* a call to pigs.

[Onomatopoeic.]

deoch-an-dorus, doch-an-dorrais, dhoch in dhorris *noun* a parting drink, a stirrup-cup.

[Irish *deoch an dorais* literally "a drink of the door", also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *deoch an doruis*.]

deor, dyor, dhaur *noun* a drop of liquid, *thus a wee dyor* a "drop" of alcohol.

[Irish *deor*.]

deory *see* jory.

depart *verb, euphemism* die.

depend *verb* be certain, "depend on it" *e.g. You may depend.*

□ **dependence** confidence, trust.

dergaboos *noun plural* rows, commotion.

[Apparently from Irish *Lámh Dhearg Abú* "Red Hand to Victory", the O'Neill motto; *cf. aboo*.]

derk *see* dark².

Derry: Derry boot a type of sturdy ankle boot with elasticated sides.

□ **Derry steamer** a clay pipe, not necessarily one manufactured in Londonderry.

desarve *verb* deserve.

[Apparently an old form, *cf. sarten (see certain), clargy (see clergy)*.]

desave *verb* deceive.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

deshort *see* dishort.

desperate, despert *adjective* desperate.

◆ *adverb* very, extremely.

□ **a desperation case** a desperate situation.

□ **desperation** a great rage.

[English dialectal form *despert*.]

destiny *noun* destination.

destroy *verb* **1** *of cattle* eat up (pasture). **2** *of a person* eat up (a meal).

□ **destroyed** injured.

destruction: destructionful destructive.

detarmined *adjective* determined.

[Apparently an older form, *cf. sarten (see certain), clargy (see clergy)*.]

detriment *noun* injury, harm.

deuce *noun, euphemism* the devil.

deval, dival, devalve, divar *verb* **1** **deval down** run down (a slope)

e.g. She divaled down the road. **2** stop, desist, *especially* from talking.

[Scots *deval, dival, devalve*; from Old French *devaller* "to go down; to let down".]

devil, divil, deil *noun* a devil, the devil.

□ **as true as the Deil's a witch**

□ **dae the Deil an a', the Devil an' all** *e.g. He was goin tae dae the Deil an a' but nathin' come o' it.*

□ **deil's fiddle** the moaning of the autumn wind, taken as a sign of a hard winter.

□ **devil a** "the devil a", not a *e.g. devil a fears* "no fear", "no chance";

devil a foot not a foot; **devil a less** nothing less; **devil a many** not many.

See also ding, have, fient.

□ **devil all** nothing.

□ **devil as much as** not so much as, not even.

□ **Devil-doubt** *noun* a character in Christmas mumming plays.

□ **devilin, devil's bird** the pied wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*.

□ **devil-mae-care** reckless, jolly.

□ **devil's bit 1** a wild flower: lords-and-ladies *Arum maculatum* [in

Standard English, a different flower: the devil's bit scabious *Succisa*

pratensis]. *Illustration see* jack. **2** a dragonfly. *Illustration see* grand.

- **devil's buckie** a mischievous, troublesome person; *see* buck².
- **devil's cap** or **hat** a toadstool.
- **devil's churnstaff** a wild flower: sun spurge *Euphorbia helioscopia*.
- **devil's coach** the centipede.
- **devil's coach man** a rove beetle: the devil's coach horse *Staphylinus olens*. *Illustration see* Irish.
- **devil's cure to ye** a curse.
- **devil's darning needle** a dragonfly; *cf.* grand. *Illustration see* grand.
- **devil's dozen** thirteen.
- **devil's graft** a rascal, scamp; *cf.* devil's limb.
- **devil's limb** a mischievous, troublesome person; *see also* limb.
- **devil's needle, deil's needle, plural deedles needles 1 also devil's big needle** the daddy-long-legs, the crane-fly (family *Tipulidae spp.*). *Illustration see* Tom. **2** a dragonfly. *Illustration see* grand. **3** a rove beetle: the devil's coach horse *Staphylinus olens*. *Illustration see* Irish. **4** a mischievous young person. *Cf.* grand.
- **devil's thimbles** a wild flower: the foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*. *Illustration see* sheegie.
- **devil's umbrella** a toadstool.
- **deviltry** *literally* devilry: devilment, mischief.
- **divil bane ye** *exclamation* expressing anger at someone.
- **divilment** mischief, practical joking.
- **give the devil his due** be just to everyone.
- **he is always pulling the divil by the tail, he always has the divil by the tail 1** be in financial difficulties. **2** be the cause of constant quarrels.
- **spake of the Deil and he'll appear** said when a person who is the subject of conversation suddenly appears.
- **tell the truth and shame the devil**
- **the deil gang wi' ye and saxpence and ye'll never want money nor company** *proverbial*
- **(the) deil perlicket (tied up in a clout), sorra haet rowled up in deil perlicket** absolutely nothing [Scots, alteration of Scots *deil be lickit*]; *see* clout³, have, roll, sorrow.
- **the devil's in ye** said in exasperation to a misbehaving child.
- **the divil could not do it unless he were drunk** said of a thing that is very difficult to do.
- **the Divvel go afther ye** a curse.
- **time eno' to shake hands wi' the deil when ye meet him**
- **what comes over the divvel's back goes away under his belly** said of ill-gotten gains.
[Scots and English dialectal form *divil*, Scots and Northern English also *deil*.]

devore *verb* devour.

[Old form obsolete in Scots and English, from Old French *devorer*.

Devour is from a different part of the Old French verb, as in *ilz devourent*.]

dheal *see* deel.

dheelog *see* dyeelog.

dhirl *noun* a good-for-nothing person *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*.

[Origin unknown.]

dhirrsagh *see* dirseach.

dhirum: neither dhirum nor dharum, neither dirr nor darr not a word *Co. Donegal*.

[Also in Irish; origin unknown, possibly a play on the various ways of pronouncing Irish *deirim* "I say".]

dhoch in dhorris *see* deoch-an-dorus.

dhooey *see* jory.

dhorko *see* durko.

dhorrie *see* jory.

dhourach *see* doorach.

dhraikie *see* drawk.

dhraliach *see* draulyegh.

dhraw *see* draw.

dhrawky *see* drawk.

dhrawrie *see* droily.

dhrebbe *see* drabble.

dhreep *see* drip.

dhreich, dhreigh *see* dreigh.

dhridde *see* driddle.

dhruill *noun* drill.

◆ *verb* drill.

dhrimadhu *noun* a slow-witted person.

[*Cf.* rare Scots *drimindu* "a cow", from Scottish Gaelic *drioman-dubh* "a white-backed black cow".]

dhrimin *see* drimin.

dhrog *see* drug.

dhrogget *see* drugget.

dhroich *see* droigh.

dhroileen *see* droileen.

dhroily *see* droily.

dhrook *see* drook.

dhroon *see* drown.

dhrooth *see* drooth.

dhrop *see* drop.

dhrum *noun* a drum.

dhruunt *see* drunt.

dhry *see* dry.

dhudheen *see* dudeen.

dhuggins *see* duggins.

dhunder, dhunner *see* dunder.

dhuragh *see* doorach.

dhure *see* door.

dhurgan *see* durgan.

dhurnie *see* durn.

dhurry, dirrh *exclamation* a call to pigs.

[Scots *durrie*, from Scottish Gaelic *durradh* "a pig; a call to a pig".]

diamond, diamon' *noun* **1** anything good of its kind. **2** *also*

diamond-bone a cut of beef containing the undercut [from the shape of the bone]. **3** the open space between roads intersecting at a crossroads, sometimes in the country, but usually forming the market square of a town. **4** a disease of pigs, in which red diamond-shaped spots appear on the animal's back. **5 diamonds** the game of hopscotch.

diaper a baby's nappy.

diarcan *noun* a plant.

dib *verb* make holes with a dibble.

◆ *noun* a dibble, a pointed tool for making small holes in the earth.

[ILLUS: dib]

□ **dibbed** *of seeds* planted with a dib.

□ **dibbing** the act or method of planting with a dib.

[English dialectal, obsolete Standard English "to dab"; alteration of dab². *See also* dibble.]

dibble *see* double.

dibble *verb, euphemism* bury (a person).

□ **dibbler** a dibble, a pointed tool for making small holes in the earth.

Illustration see dib.

□ **put your dibble in** "put your oar in", interfere.

[English *dibble* is apparently dib + *-le*.]

dibs *noun plural, also the dibs* cash, money.

dicht *see* dight.

dick: **keep dick** keep a lookout.

[English slang *dick* "to watch", origin unknown.]

dicker *verb* **dicker with** have dealings with.

dickey: **get your dickey up** lose your temper.

dickie a cock.

dicky, dickey *noun* the seat of an Irish car.

◆ *adjective* uncertain, shaky.

dicky-bird a small bird, *usually* the canary.

dictionary *noun* a dictionary.

[Scots, from French *dictionnaire*. *Dictionary* is from Medieval Latin *dictiōnārium*.]

did *see* do¹.

diddle *verb* cheat.

diddle, dowdle *verb* sing without words, as a substitute for dance music.

□ **deedlie-dee music** *derogatory* traditional dance tunes, as played in sessions.

[Scots *diddle, deedle*; onomatopoeic, influenced by Scots *doudle* "to play the bagpipes; to sing without words" (*cf.* German *dudeln* "to play the bagpipes", itself from Polish *dudlic* "to play the bagpipes badly"). *Cf.* doodle.]

diddlem-dird *noun* a person trying to walk neatly.

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

didds *noun plural* teats.

[Cheshire and Northamptonshire form of *diddies*.]

diddy

didgeen *see* dudeen.

didna, didnae *see* do¹.

dido; *plural* **didos, didoes**; *noun* **1** *usu in plural* falderals, unnecessary decorative trimmings on a dress; knick-knacks; *see also* dydry. **2** *usu in plural* tricks, antics.

◆ *verb* trifle, dally with (a person of the opposite sex).

[South of England, origin unknown.]

die *see* day.

die¹, dee *verb* die.

□ **always deein never fills the kirkyard, always dyin' nivver fills the churchyard, goin' to die's long or it fills the churchyard** said of a chronic invalid; *see* kirk.

□ **dying about** "mad about", "dying for".

□ **not let (a drink) die on you** not let the effect of a drink of alcohol pass off; *usually* encouragement to have another.

[Scots and Northern English form *dee*.]

die², plural dies, *noun, usually in plural* pieces of broken china used by children playing shops.

□ **as square as a die** "as straight as a die".

□ **the whole box and dice** "the whole bag of tricks".

diet *noun* board, your keep, *usually* **wages and diet**

difercu *noun*:

differ *noun* **1** difference *e.g.* *split the differ*. **2** a dispute, a disagreement.

□ **to the differ** to the contrary *e.g.* *Weel I know to the differ, no matter what ye say*.

different: **a different story** something better.

differs *see* odds.

difficult *adjective, of a person* peevish; hard to please.

dig *verb: past tense* **dog**, *past participle* **duggen**.

□ **digger** an earthworm.

□ **dig with both feet** **1** said of a crooked, unscrupulous person. **2** said of a clever person. *Cf.* ball.

□ **dig with the left foot** be a Roman Catholic.

- **dig with the right foot 1** be a Protestant; *cf.* dig with the left foot. **2** be of the same religious persuasion; *cf.* dig with the wrong foot.
- **dig with the same foot** be of the same religious persuasion.
- **dig with the wrong foot** be of a different religious persuasion.
- **go out and dig the dinner** go out and dig potatoes.
- **what foot does he or she dig with?** *euphemism* what is his or her religious persuasion?

[Past participle: Cheshire and Yorkshire form *duggen*.]

Diggory: **as cross as Diggory** very cross.

- **work like Diggory** work hard.

dight, dicht *verb* **dight up** dress (yourself) up.

- ◆ *noun* a wipe.

[Scots form *dicht*.]

dike *see* dyke.

dilder *verb* **1** potter, spend time uselessly. **2** amuse a child by throwing it up and down.

- ◆ *noun* the act of throwing a child up and down to amuse it.

[Orkney "to dawdle; to jerk"; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *dildra* "to trot along; to shake".]

dilling *noun* an only child.

["A favourite child" obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal), origin unknown. *Cf.* *dilly*; *see also* *dillon*.]

dillisk *see* dulse.

dillon *noun* the smallest bird or animal in a brood or litter.

[*Cf.* English dialectal *dilling*, the same word as *dilling*. *Cf.* *dawnie*.]

dilly *noun* a good child; *cf.* *dilling*.

dilly-daddle *verb* dilly-dally, dawdle, waste time; *see* *doddle*, *see also* *dadilly*.

dilly-dally *verb* loiter, delay, hesitate.

dilse *see* dulse.

dilsh *see* dulse.

dilsh *verb*, *Co. Antrim* **1** dig with short, sharp stabs. **2** dip (into food, water, *etc.*) *e.g.* *The hen was dilshin its neb*.

[Origin unknown.]

dilsy *noun* an affected, over-dressed woman, a social climber.

[Origin unknown.]

dim *adjective*, *in eyesight* going blind.

diminity *adjective* diminutive, very small.

[Lancashire "a diminutive creature", origin unknown.]

dimlick, dhimlick *noun* the smallest or weakest bird or animal in a brood or litter.

[Origin unknown.]

dimps *noun* twilight, dusk.

- **dimpsy** *adjective* dim, dark.

- ◆ *noun* twilight, dusk.

- **dimpsy brown** an indefinite shade of brown, *frequently* **dimpsy brown, the colour of a mouse's waistcoat**; *see also* *brimsy brown*, *dipsy grey*, *dun*¹, *rogram*.

[South-Western English, possibly an extended form of English *dim*.]

din *see* *do*¹.

din *adjective* dun-coloured.

- **din dipped in yella** describing a yellowish complexion; *see* *yellow*.

[Scots form of *dun*¹.]

din¹ *noun* continuous noise, talking.

dindle, dinnle *verb* **1** resound, vibrate, rattle. **2** tingle with pain or cold.

- ◆ *noun* a sharp pain.

[Scots and Northern English; onomatopoeic, *cf.* *dingle*.]

ding¹ *verb* **1** beat, strike. **2** push suddenly and forcibly. **3** **ding at** nag (someone). **4** **ding in** make an enthusiastic start on something.

◆ *noun* a din, a noise.

□ **ding** **1** a heavy blow, a heavy fall. **2** anything excellent; a person who is excellent at something.

□ **go a dinger** go fast.

□ **like (the) ding-dust**, also **ding-dust** fast, speedily *e.g.* *He drove ding-dust down the lane.*

[Scots and English dialectal, archaic Standard English "to drive (a thing) violently"; from Old Norse *dengja* "to beat, to thrash".]

ding² *exclamation*, also **deng** a disguised oath: "dang".

□ **dingin**: **great dingin!** *exclamation*:

□ **the ding a** never a, never any *e.g.* *Oh, the ding a aisier I could do it; see also devil.*

[Scots, also Warwickshire, form *ding*; Cheshire and Yorkshire form *deng*.]

dinge *verb* dent, bash, bruise.

◆ *noun* a dent.

[English dialectal, origin unknown.]

dingear *noun* death.

dingle *verb* tingle with pain or cold.

["To ring, to tinkle" rare in Standard English, onomatopoeic. *See also dindle.*]

dingle-dousie, **dingle-doosie** *noun* a child's plaything: a stick lit at one end and whirled round in a circle.

[Scots, *dingle* (*cf.* *dingle* English dialectal form of *dangle*) + Scots *doozie* "a light" (origin unknown).]

Dingle-i-couch *place-name* any very remote place.

□ **from Manle (?) Yorns to Dinglety Cootch** from the Causeway to Cape Clear.

□ **go or be sent to Dingle-i-couch** be "sent to Coventry", be excluded from other people's company.

[Dingle (in Irish *Daingean Uí Chúis*) in Co. Kerry, is the most westerly point in Ireland.]

dinna, **dinnae** *see do*¹.

dinner, **denner** *noun* dinner; *specifically* the midday meal.

□ **to see if your dinner is your own** for a siesta.

□ **ye see yer dinner afore ye! Make the best of it** said to someone enquiring if there is a second course.

[Scots form *denner*.]

dinnle *see dindle*.

dinny *see do*¹.

dint *noun* a blow, a shock. *also, figuratively*

dioul *see deel*.

dip *verb* fry lightly.

◆ *noun* **1** a small amount (of liquid). **2** *also* **dipped bread**, **dipped soda** fried bread or soda bread.

□ **dip intae yer pocket** spend rather freely.

□ **dipped**: **dipper** *jocular* a Baptist [alluding to the practice of adult baptism by immersion].

□ **dippidy**, **dippity** salt and water or milk into which potatoes were dipped before eating if there was nothing else to go with them [extended forms].

□ **dippin an dabbin** dabbling, starting many jobs and finishing none; making a half-hearted attempt.

□ **rush dip** a dip, a candle, made from a dry rush dipped in lard; *see dip*.

dipsy grey *noun, jocular* an indefinite shade of grey *e.g.* *sky-blue scarlet turned up with dipsy grey and dunducketty mud colour; see also dimps*.

dirab, **dirrib** *noun* **1** a type of worm, probably the horsehair worm *Gorgius spp.*, that lives in bog-water and (**a**) is supposed to cause illness in cattle if swallowed; (**b**) is the supposed cause of a swelling in humans. **2** the youngest of a brood. **3** a quick-tempered, stunted youth.

[Irish *doirb.*]

dirachsion *noun* direction.

[Devon form *diraxion.*]

dirdem *noun* a scolding woman.

[Scots *dirdum* "a scolding", probably onomatopoeic.]

directly *adverb* precisely, exactly, just so.

dirk *noun* a stab, a thrust with a pointed instrument.

◆ *verb* **1** prick (your finger). **2** shoot (a marble) with a jerk of the hand.

dirl *verb* tingle with pain or pleasure.

◆ *noun* a tingling sensation; a blow.

□ **dirlin** a beating, a thrashing.

[Scots and Northern English; *cf.* Middle Dutch *drillen* "to quiver; to whirl"; and Scots and English dialectal *thirl*, from Old English *þȳrlīan* (altered in Standard English to *thrill*). *Cf.* *dirr.*]

dirr *see* *dhirum.*

dirr *noun* a feeling of numbness through cramp or coldness in part of the body, "pins and needles".

[Scots; onomatopoeic, *cf.* Norwegian *dirre* "to quiver". *Cf.* *dirl.*]

dirrh *see* *dhurry.*

dirrib *see* *dirab.*

dirseach, dhirrsagh *noun* the coalfish *Pollachius virens*, when full-grown, *Co. Donegal.*

[Origin unknown.]

dirt, dhirt, durt, dort *noun* **1** dirt; dust. **2** "dirty weather" in the form of snow. **3** a worthless thing or person.

□ **dirt-bird** **1** the skua *Stercorarius spp.* [from its habit of forcing other birds to bring up the contents of their stomachs]; *cf.* **shite**. **2** a bird that cries before the onset of rain; *specifically* the lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*; *hence* **it's going to rain, I hear the dirt-birds whistling** said when someone is heard whistling. **3** *abusive* an untrustworthy person; a scoundrel. **4** a loose woman; a lascivious man.

□ **dirt-cheap, dirt chape** very cheap.

□ **dirt fly** the dung fly *Scathophaga stercoraria.*

□ **dirt-haste** the hurry of someone who needs to relieve himself or herself.

□ **dirty, dirthy** *of the tongue* fuzzy, furry.

□ **dirty furrow** knock or rake the tops of potato drills to free the stems.

□ **don't throw away the dirthy water till ye hev got the clane** *proverbial*

□ **it's going to rain, I hear the dirt-birds whistling** said when someone is heard whistling.

[Scots and Northern English form *durt*, Northern English also *dort.*]

disadmit *verb* deny, not admit to.

disase *noun* disease.

□ **disased** diseased.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

disaysed *adjective* deceased, dead.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

discharge *verb* **discharge from** prohibit from, forbid to.

dischaste *verb* vomit.

[Possibly a form of rare obsolete Standard English *dischest* "to cough up", literally "to expel from the chest".]

disciple *noun, rare* a fellow *e.g. a nice disciple i.e. a disreputable fellow ironic.*

discomfit *verb* put to inconvenience, disrupt; *see also* *discomfuffle.*

discomfuffle *verb* inconvenience, disrupt (a person), make (a person) feel uncomfortable.

[Apparently a blend of *discomfit* and *carfuffle.*]

discompose *verb* disturb, agitate (someone).

discourse, discoorse *noun* a discourse, a talk, a sermon, *etc.*

◆ *verb* talk to, converse with *e.g. Come here til I discoorse you.*

- **coorse-discoarsed** foul-mouthed; *see* **COARSE**.
- **discoursed, discoarsed**: **well-discoarsed** fluent, entertaining.
[Scots form *discoarse*.]

discover: **discover on** inform on.

discreet *adjective* courteous, polite.

- **discretion** courtesy, politeness.

disemal [dize-mal] *Co. Antrim, adverb* dismally *e.g. a disemal coul' day*.

disgest, disgist *verb* digest.

- **disgestion** digestion.

[Old form (still Scots and English dialectal) *disgest*, Scots and Northern English also *disgist*.]

disgruntled *adjective* discontented, annoyed, displeased.

dish *noun* a cup, *usually a dish of tea* [archaic in Standard English].

- **a pretty face becomes a or the dish-clout, a bonny bride becomes a dish-clout** meaning that a pretty girl would look good in anything; *see also* *bride*.
- **as common as dish-water** very common, badly brought-up.
- **dish-water**: **have more than a dish to wash** have much to do.

dishabills, dishabells, dissables, dizzybells *noun plural 1 usually in your dishabills* in dishabille, in a state of untidiness, not yet dressed. **2** in old clothes for everyday wear *e.g. Get aff yer guid clothes and get intae yer dissables*.

[English dialectal form *dishabill*.]

dishort, disshort, deshort [rhymes with "port"] *noun* a sudden interruption, a surprise.

- **at a dishort, also at a short 1** unexpectedly, at a disadvantage, unprepared. **2** in need of anything.
- **dishorted** in need of anything.
- **take someone at a short** *e.g. You would never take him at a short*.
[Scots *dishort, disshort* "a disappointment; a loss"; origin unknown.]

disimprove *verb* get worse, deteriorate.

dismission *noun* dismissal.

disna, disnae *see* **do**¹.

disorder, disordher *noun, often the disorder* any unidentified infectious disease.

disparse *verb* disperse.

[Old form (not in Scots).]

display *verb* **display one's ignorance** make a mistake.

displenish *verb* remove furniture or farm stock.

- **displenishing sale** a sale of all contents.

[Scots, *dis-* + *plenish*.]

dispossess *noun* a notice to quit (a tenancy).

disremember, disremimber *verb* forget, *especially* when a person is unwilling to answer a question *e.g. I disremember a thing about it*.

[General dialectal and Scots, also U.S.A. colloquial, *disremember*; Hiberno-English and Berkshire also *disremimber*.]

disshort *see* **dishort**.

dissle *verb, of rain* drizzle.

- ◆ *noun* a slight shower, a drizzle.

[Scots and Northern English; apparently of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian *dysja* "to drizzle".]

dissolute *adjective* desolate.

dist *see* **dust**.

distance: **keep one's proper distance** treat another person with proper respect.

- **look well at a distance, like a white cow in a bog** said of a person who is unattractive close up.

distemper *noun* the moulting of a bird.

distracted *adjective* distraught, out of one's mind *e.g. I was distracted for*

want of sleep.

distress

□ **distressful** in distress.

diswander *noun* a detour, the act of wandering off the direct route *Co. Donegal*.

[*Dis-* + *wander*.]

ditch *noun* a dyke, a wall or bank of earth or stone, usually separating fields. (A trench is usually known as a **sheugh**.)

◆ *verb* construct or mend ditches. [ILLUS: ditch]

□ **break-ditch** a cow or horse that is given to breaking through ditches.

□ **ditcher** a cow or horse that is given to jumping over ditches.

□ **like snow off a ditch** (vanish) quickly; *of a person suffering from tuberculosis* (decline) rapidly.

□ **the man in the ditch is always the best bowler, the man in the ditch is the best hurler** the onlooker thinks he is better than the players.

□ **thorn ditch** a ditch planted with hawthorn. [ILLUS: thorn/d]

[*Ditch* is used in Ireland and in various parts of England to mean "a bank" rather than "a trench"; *see dyke*.]

dither *verb* **1** tremble, shiver; *see also dumb*. **2** loiter.

◆ *noun* a tremble, a shiver.

□ **ditheramdo** a lazy, useless person.

□ **dithered** old, senile.

□ **ditherumdi** a weak, indecisive person.

[English dialectal and Scots, onomatopoeic.]

div *see do*¹.

dival, divar *see deval*.

divarsion, divarshin, devarshin *noun* **1** a diversion. **2** diversion, fun, amusement.

[Apparently an old form, *cf. sarten* (*see certaint*), *clargy* (*see clergy*), *etc.* *See also divert*.]

divert, divart *verb* **1** make a diversion *e.g. He diverted the other road*.

2 divert, amuse [archaic in Standard English].

□ **away and divart the hunger aff ye** said to children who are crying for a meal before it is ready.

□ **make divarsion** ridicule (something).

[*Divart* apparently an old form, *cf. sarten* (*see certaint*), *clargy* (*see clergy*), *etc.*; *see also divarsion*.]

divide; *past tense and past participle divid, divid* [di-vid]; *noun* a division, a share.

□ **divvy** *past tense and past participle divid*

□ **divvy small and serve all** said *e.g.* when carving a turkey at a Christmas dinner.

□ **ill-divid** unfairly shared out.

[*Past tense and past participle: divid, divid* Western Scots.]

divil *see devil*.

divine *adjective* in accordance with the tenets of one's religion *e.g. Do you think it divine to ate a pig?*

divining-rod a rod made of hazel or twigs of witch-elm, used for purposes of divination (for finding mines or water), preferably an equally forked shoot about two and a half feet long.

division *noun* a branch of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

divnae *see do*¹.

divot *noun* an individual sod, as opposed to a layer of **scraws**.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

diz, diznae, dizn't *see do*¹.

dizzen¹ *noun* a dozen.

[Scots, also South-Western English, form.]

dizzen² *noun* the lowing sound made by a cow *Co. Donegal*; *cf. drizzen*.

dizybell *see dishabills*.

do¹, *past tense done, past participle daen, verb* **1** do. **2** act (a part) *e.g. do the flunkey* act like a flunkey. **3** suit, become, agree with *e.g. The coat does her well*. **4** come up to standard. **5** *of a patient* recover *e.g. Will he do, doctor?*

◆ *auxiliary verb, past tense did* **1** do. **2 do be (doing something)** (a) expressing emphasis; (b) expressing habitual action *e.g. They do be working every day; cf. be*.

◆ *noun dos childish* "jobs", the act of emptying the bowels.

- badly done** embarrassed.
- be done but** at the end of an utterance: really, actually.
- (can or could) do wi'** (can or could) benefit from *e.g. I suppose you cud do wi' a wee drap?*
- do a line with** go out with (a girl).
- doer** a steward, an agent.
- do for** keep house for.
- doing, doin**:
- doing off** a "doing", a scolding.
- doings** festivities, exciting proceedings.
- doin his day's work** *of a workman* simply going about the business for which he is employed. *hence a man doin his day's work* a labourer as opposed to a gentleman.
- doless, daeless, daless** idle, shiftless; helpless; unhandy, ineffective, careless.
- done, doon** finished; *often never done e.g. It's never done cryin*.
- done away with** no longer existing.
- done for** worn out, finished; ruined financially.
- done up** tired, exhausted.
- do up** surpass, excel, *usually doing up* the state of being outshone by someone else.
- do well** thrive, grow, prosper.
- do well on it** wear well.
- do your own do** "do your own thing", have it your way.
- do your turn** have enough to live on.
- dunno** don't know.
- dut** do it.
- good doer** a thriving animal.
- good doer** a person or animal who is thriving.
- good doings** particularly good or plentiful food.
- have done wi' ye!** keep quiet!
- ill doers is always ill deemers** *proverbial*
- make things do** make ends meet, pay one's way.
- to do** ado, an ado.
- well-doing** thriving, recovering from illness.

[Hiberno-English, Scots and Northern English form *div*, Northern English and Argyllshire also *div* (these forms are influenced by **have**); Scots and Northern English form *dae, dee*; Scots and Northern English, also Somerset, form *diz*. Past tense: Hiberno-English and Southern English *done*; Scots and Northern English form *daen*, Scots also *din*. Past tense negative: Isle of Man and South-Western English form *diddin*. Past participle: older form *doon* (still Northern English); Scots, also Devon, form *din*. The *doanna* form is influenced by *don't*. See **no**².]

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- Usage** The past tense form is always **did** when the verb is used as an auxiliary. **Done** or **din** is used only when the verb is a main verb, *e.g. He done it*, but *He broke the window, so he did*.
-

do² *noun* an ado, a commotion.

[Old shortened form (not Scots).]

doag *see dog*.

doagh *see* dough.

doancy *see* donsie.

doannae *see* do¹.

doaty *see* dote.

dob *verb* play truant.

dochal *see* dung.

doch-an-dorrais *see* deoch-an-dorus.

dochle, doughal, dohel, duhall *noun* **1** a soft-natured, easy-going man; a stupid person, a blockhead. **2** *also* **duckle** a "dunghill", a game cock with no fighting instinct; a coward; *see also* dung, duck².

[Scots *dochle, douhall* "a soft-natured man"; possibly the same word as Scots *dachle* "to hesitate; to dawdle", itself apparently of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian *daka* "to go slowly".]

dochrai¹ *noun* gruel.

[Caithness "gruel", from Scottish Gaelic *deoch-rèith* literally "a thin, watery drink; flummery".]

dochrai² *noun* a cruet.

[Origin unknown.]

dochter *noun* **1** a daughter. **2** used as a term of address to a young girl.

[Scots form.]

dock

dock: **cock your dock** go about in a self-satisfied way.

□ **docken** a wild plant: the dock *Rumex spp.*

□ **docken spade** a weeding iron, a type of spade with a narrow, notched blade for digging up dock roots. [ILLUS: docken/s]

□ **docken-tramper** *derogatory* someone who walks just outside the ranks of a twelfth of July parade.

□ **dock fennel** a wild flower: scentless mayweed *Tripleurospermum maritimum*.

[Scots and Northern English *docken*, originally the Old English plural form *doccan*.]

□ **docken in, nettle out, nettle out, dockin in; docken, docken, in, nettle, nettle out; docken, docken inside out, take the sting of the nettle out, Nettle in, dock out, Dock in, nettle out; Nettle in, dock out, Dock rub nettle out; in docken, out nettle** said while rubbing a dock leaf on a nettle sting.

docket, dacket *noun* a restaurant bill; a check-out receipt.

doctor *noun* **1** a cleg, a horse fly [from the idea that it lets blood, *cf.*

English *leech* in the sense "a doctor"]. **2** a fish: the striped wrasse *Labrus mixtus*.

□ **doctor's shop** a surgery.

dod *see* daud.

dod¹ *exclamation* a disguised oath: "God".

[Scots and Northern English dialectal or colloquial. *See also* dad.]

dod² *noun* the sulks, the huff.

□ **doddy** sulky.

[Scots; origin unknown, also in Scottish Gaelic as *dod* "a huff".]

doddle, daddle *verb* **1** dawdle, waste time; *see also* dilly-daddle.

2 doddle, dawdle, walk feebly.

□ **doddle owre** *of a baby* fall asleep.

□ **dodding** nodding off to sleep.

[Scots and English dialectal form *daddle*. This is the original form of which Standard English *dawdle* and *doddle* are alterations.]

doddles *noun plural* sheep's dung.

[Altered form of *dottle*, also found in Galloway.]

dodilly *see* dadilly.

dodram *see* doldrum.

dofe *see* dowf.

doff¹ *exclamation* a call to a horse to go *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

doff² *verb, literally* do off: **1** take off (clothes, *etc.*) [archaic in Standard English]. **2** remove a filled spool or bobbin from the spindle.

- doffer** a girl, or sometimes a boy, employed in a spinning-mill to remove full bobbins from the spinning-frame and replace them with empty ones.

dog *see* dig.

dog, dawg, doag, dug, doog, dowg *noun* **1** a dog. **2** *also* **dog in the sky, weather-dog** an incomplete rainbow; *hence* **a dog in the morning will bark before noon** meaning that there will be rain; *see also* sun.

- a dog in the manger**
- a dog of a different hair** a person or thing of a different kind.
- a hair o' the dog that bit ye**
- as crookit as a dog's hind leg** very dishonest.
- dog berry** the guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*.
- dog-briar** the wild rose.
- dog daisy** a wild flower: scentless mayweed.
- dog-drive** *only in the phrase* **go to dog-drive** go to ruin, become bankrupt.
- dogged** **1** brutal, treacherous, cruel. **2** unfair, mean.
- dog in a blanket** a jam-roll, a swiss roll.
- dog (it) over someone** bully, "lord it over" someone.
- dog Latin** a secret language constructed by altering the words in a sentence.
- dog's blush, dog's blushin** a sore on the foot [supposedly caused by stepping barefoot on dog's dirt or dog's urine].
- dog's chamomile** a wild flower: scentless mayweed *Tripleurospermum maritimum*.
- dog's ears** corners of pages turned down in a book.
- dog's mushroom** a toadstool.
- dog's toe** a wild flower: herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*.
- dogstool** a poisonous toadstool resembling a mushroom.
- dogweed** a wild plant: the curled dock *Rumex crispus*.
- dog** *or* **dog's wilk** a shellfish: *Nucella lapillus*; *see* whelk.
- dug reuch** very rough, as rough as a dog.
- gone to see and be seen, like a dog at a burying** *proverbial*
- go to the dogs** go to the bad.
- he** *etc.* **knows no more about it than a dog of a proposition in geometry**
- he** *etc.* **wud talk a dog's hin' leg off** said of a very talkative person.
- if ye lie with dogs ye'll rise up with the fleas** *proverbial*
- if you've swallowed the dog, you needn't choke at the tail** *proverbial* said to encourage someone to follow up their actions.
- it's a folly to keep a dog and bark oneself** *proverbial*
- it's aisy to fine a stick to bate a dog, any stick'll do to bate a dog with**
- it's a poor dog that's not worth a-whistlin' on** *proverbial*
- it's a wise dog 'at knows his own father** *proverbial*
- it would make a dog strike his father** said of bad treatment.
- more respect for (a person) than a dog would have for his father**
- send a letter on the dog's tail** not send a letter at all.
- the old dog for** *or* **on the hard** *or* **bad road** *proverbial* meaning that the oldest, most experienced person should do the hardest work.
- there are more ways of killing a dog than choking it with butter** *proverbial*
- too much pudding would choke a dog** *proverbial*
- when dogs eat grass it's a sign of rain**
- when yer han's in a dog's mouth the aisyest way out is the speediest** *proverbial*

- [Southern English form *dawg*; Northumberland *doag*; Scots, also Southern English, *dug*; Scots also *dowg*.]
- dohel** *see* dochle.
- doichal** *noun*, only in the phrase **have a doichal before (a person)** have no welcome for (a person), be inhospitable to (a person) [from Irish *doicheall a bheith ort roimh dhuine*].
- doilt, doiled, dyled** *adjective* stupid and confused *e.g.* with tiredness.
[Scots, possibly the same word as *dool*¹.]
- doilyin** *see* doll.
- doiry** *see* jory.
- doit**¹ *noun* **1** a fool, an idiot; a careless, heedless person. **2** perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne* [a different species of rye-grass, to which the name *doit* was originally given in Scots, is particularly susceptible to the poisonous fungus ergot, which causes hallucinations].
♦ *verb* **1** potter about aimlessly. **2** be senile. **3** stupefy, annoy with noise or talk.
□ **doited** senile, confused.
□ **doiter, doither** **1** walk unsteadily. **2** also **dooter** potter about aimlessly; lag behind.
□ **doitered** **1** mentally confused, stupid. **2** especially of an old person feeble; tired, worn out.
[Scots and Northern English *doiter*, possibly an altered form of *dote*.
See also dootsie.]
- doit**² *noun* originally a small copper coin: a very small piece of anything.
[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), from Middle Dutch *doyt*.]
- doke** *noun* a blow on the hand with a cane.
[Southern English "the mark of a blow", origin unknown.]
- dolaghan, dolachan, dullachan, doolihan** *noun* a sub-species of trout: *Salmo ferax*.
[Irish *dúlachán*.]
- doldered** *adjective* confused, stunned, upset.
[*Cf.* Cumberland *dolder* "a confused state", origin unknown.]
- dolders** *noun plural* horse dung.
[Scots *doller*, extended form of *doll* "a lump of dung"; apparently of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *dall* "a hard lump".]
- doldrum, doldram** *adjective* **1** confused, stupid. **2** doubtful, confusing.
♦ *noun*, also **dodram** brown paper soaked in tobacco juice, formerly used as a substitute for tobacco.
[Possibly the same word as English *doldrums*. Also found in Ayrshire.]
- dole** *noun* a portion [archaic in Standard English].
- doleful** *adjective* sad, sorrowful.
- doless** *see* do¹.
- dolfer** *see* dolver.
- doll**: *verb* court, go out with a girl. **dollin bed** an area of grass on a secluded bank flattened by a courting couple.
□ **doll rags** finery, scraps of ribbon *etc.*
□ **doll's eyes and dabbities** small, cheap, non-essential things.
□ **dolly**, also **dollion, doilyin** a stitch of clothing [*dollion* and *doilyin* are apparently *dolly* + *on*].
□ **dolly**:
□ **dolly's cabbage** Brussels sprouts.
- dollian** *noun* a tray made from sheepskin stretched on a hoop, resembling a bowraun, used for holding the rowings (*see* roll) of wool for a spinning wheel.
[Irish *dollán*.]
- dollion** *see* doll.
- dollogue, dallog** *noun* **1** blinkers; a covering put over an animal's eyes. **2** the game of hide and seek.

[Irish *dallóg*, from *dall* "blind" + *-óg*.]

dollop, dallop *noun* **1** an unpleasant mixture. **2** a slattern, an untidy, dirty housekeeper.

[Southern English form *dallop*.]

dolly *see* doll.

dolly *verb* dally; dawdle.

[Devon form, mistaken "correction" of *dally*.]

Dolly's Brae an Orange song, named after a skirmish in 1849 at Dolly's Brae in Co. Down.

dolver, dolfer *noun* something unusually large; *specifically* a large marble.

[Scots; origin unknown, *cf.* *dolders*.]

domell *noun* flannel cloth with a cotton warp and woollen weft.

[Origin unknown.]

domino: that bates domino

dommen-laive plenty (of money). "I heard an unusual expression used by a man on Cleenish Island lately:- He was describing a man who had plenty of money - he said he had 'dommen-laive' o' money" (Enniskillen correspondent, Adams letters 18/3/59)

don *verb* dress; put on (an article of clothing) [archaic in Standard English].

don' *see* do¹.

donack *noun* a small brown fish, resembling an eel, found in holes in rocks.

donagh-dearnagh the Sunday before Lammas.

donan *noun, affectionate* a delicate person.

doncy *see* donsie.

done *see* do¹.

Donegal:

Donegal: Donegal-red a red-headed girl.

□ **Sweet Donegal, where they ate the pitaties, skin an' all**

donkey, dunkey *noun* a donkey; *also figuratively* a fool.

□ **donkey lawn-mower** a lawn-mower worked by a donkey.

□ **donkey's mash** *figuratively* a messy dish of food; *cf.* *hag's-mash*.

□ **dunkey's lug** a sweet, oval-shaped bun with sugar on top; *see* *lug*.

□ **mare donkey** a female donkey.

[Older pronunciation *dunkey*.]

donnell *noun* a fool *e.g.* *He's no donnell*; he is no fool.

donner *verb* stun, stupify.

◆ *noun* a hard, stunning blow.

□ **daundered** dazed.

□ **donnering** stupified; staggering.

[Scots; possibly from Middle English *donen* "to resound", itself from Middle Dutch *donen*. The form *daundered* is probably influenced by *dunder*.]

donny *see* dawnie.

donse *noun, euphemism* the devil.

[Irish *donas* "bad luck", *see* also *donsie*.]

donsie, doncy, doancy, dauncy, duncey *adjective* **1** unfortunate, unlucky. **2** neat, elegant; dressed in an affected, showy way.

3 impertinent, cheeky. **4** mean, miserly. **5** *of a person or animal* small, weak, stunted; *of a thing* defective. **6** frail, delicate, weakly; *see also* *dawnie*. **7** *of a person* sickly, ill; very ill; *of a leg, arm, finger, etc.* bad, weak. **8** dull, stupid, lifeless.

□ **better rough and sonsie than fair and donsie** *proverbial* better a plentiful condition, though not so neat and nice, than too much cleanliness with penury.

[Irish *don(a)sai*, formed on *donas* (*see* *donse*); also Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *donas* + *-ie*. The form *duncey* and the sense "dull, stupid, lifeless" are probably influenced by English *dunce*.]

doo *noun* a dove, a pigeon.

□ **doocot** a dovecot, a pigeon loft.

[Scots form.]

doosal *see* deel.

dooble *see* double.

doodeen *see* dudeen.

doodle *verb* **1** sing (a child) to sleep. **2** dandle (a child).

[Scots and Northern English; onomatopoeic, *cf.* diddle.]

doof, doofart *see* dowf.

doofer: **doofer-daffer** a "doofer", a nameless object.

doog *see* dog.

dooghs *noun*, also **dooghers** the beating received by the loser in the game of cap-ball; *cf.* doosey.

dook *see* duck¹.

dool *see* dull¹.

dool¹ *adjective* sad-looking.

[Scots, from Old French *dol*. The later French form *duil* may be the source of doilt.]

dool² *noun* **1** a dowel, a headless peg, bolt, *etc.* **2** *specifically* an iron spike sharpened at both ends used to fasten together the segments of a solid wheel for a wheel car.

□ **dooled** *coopering* fastened together with dowels.

[Scots form.]

dool³ *noun* the base or "home" in children's games.

[Scots, from Middle Dutch *doel* "a boundary marker".]

doolama *noun* a left-handed person.

doolaman, dulaman *noun* **1** an edible seaweed, horned wrack *Fucus ceranoides*. **2** broad-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton natans*.

[Irish *dúlamán* "a type of seaweed: channelled wrack".]

doolihan *see* dolaghan.

doon *see* do¹, down.

doop *see* dowp.

door, dorr; dour, dure, dhure [rhymes with "poor"] *noun* a door.

□ **be out on the door** be heavily in debt.

□ **door-cheek** the door-post.

□ **door cleek** a latch.

□ **door head** the top of a doorway, the lintel.

□ **door jamb** the door post.

□ **door snack**:

□ **door staple** an iron hook driven into the door post which secures the bar or bolt of the door.

□ **doorstone** the doorstep.

□ **give the door or the outside of the door to someone, put someone out the door** turn someone out of doors, throw someone out.

□ **go etc. across the door** go *etc.* outside, *especially* after an illness.

□ **kiss the door-cheek** *figuratively* leave a house never to return, make a last farewell.

□ **out of doors** outdoors.

□ **put someone to the door** make someone bankrupt; *hence, jocular* early rising is the first thing that puts a man to the door.

□ **show someone the doore** put someone out.

□ **take the door on your back** go.

□ **when wan dour shuts another opens** said if a master threatens to discharge a servant.

□ **within doors** inside.

□ **ye wud think ye were born in a fiel'** expressing impatience at a person's failure to close a door behind him or her.

[Older pronunciation (not Scots) with the vowel as in *do*.]

doora *see* doorach.

doorach, dhourach, douragh, duragh, dhuragh, doora *noun* something

given in addition to a purchase, a little over the measure thrown in.

[Irish *dúthracht*.]

doorney *noun* a wild flower: wood sage *Prunella vulgaris*, *Co. Antrim*.

doose *see* douse¹.

doosey, doozy *noun* **1** a punishment inflicted by boys on each other:

running the gauntlet; *see also* dooghs. **2** anything forceful or large

e.g. That's a great doozy o a fire ye hae on.

□ **doosey-cap** the game of cap-ball.

[Scots "a harvest field game where several people grab a worker of the opposite sex and bump him or her up and down on the ground", origin unknown.]

doot *see* doubt.

doot *noun, also* **apple doot** an apple core.

[*Cf.* Western Scots *dowt* "a cigarette end"; itself possibly from English dialectal *dout* literally "do out: extinguish", but *cf.* *dowp*.]

dooter *see* doit¹.

dootsie *adjective, childish* old-fashioned, corny *L'derry city*.

[*Cf.* Fife *doutit* form of *doited* (*see* *doit*¹).]

doozy *see* doosey.

dopy *adjective* silly, foolish.

dorbie, dorby *adjective* undersized; weak, not thriving.

◆ *noun* the smallest or weakest bird or animal in a brood or litter; a weak, undersized animal or child.

[North-Eastern Scots "delicate, weak", origin unknown. *See also* *durbly*.]

dordeel *see* deel.

dorker *noun* a six-inch nail *e.g. sugh a dorker into something*.

dorkin *noun* the smallest bird or animal in a brood or litter.

[Probably East Ulster Irish *duircín* (Standard Irish *dorcán*) "a young pig".]

dorn *noun* a narrow stretch of water, too deep to ford, between two islands or between an island and the mainland *e.g. Ballydorn in Strangford Lough*.

dornach *noun* **1** a big stone. **2** a big, awkward person or thing.

[Highland English *dornack* "something unusually big", from Scottish Gaelic *doirneag* "a round stone of a size to be held in the fist"; *cf.* *dornog*.]

dorneen, durneen *noun* the cross-piece forming a hand-grip at the top of the shaft of a spade; one of the hand-grips on the shaft of a scythe.

Illustration see *sned*².

[Hiberno-English *durneen*, from Irish *doirnín*, itself from *dorn* "a fist" + diminutive ending *-ín*; *see also* *dornog*.]

dornog, dornyag *noun* an unshapely mass.

[Irish *dornóg* "a handful", from *dorn* "a fist" + diminutive ending *-óg*; *cf.* *dornach, dorneen*.]

dorr *see* door.

dorragehow *see* durko.

dorry *see* jory.

dort *see* dirt.

dose *noun* **1** a large quantity; a crowd of people. **2** a bad attack (of the cold, or any disease).

dosh *also* **doshy** **1** daughter. **2** *usually* **doshy ban** *literally* "my white daughter", an endearment.

doshie *noun* a small, neatly-dressed person.

[Scots *dossie*, from Dutch *dossen* "to dress".]

doss *see* dass.

dossan *noun* **1** the forelock. **2** a coward.

[Irish *dosán*; *also* Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *dosan*.]

dot *verb* walk with short steps; *see also* *dotter*.

- **dotty** lame, limping.
- **off your dot** *slang* out of your senses.
- **to a dot** exactly.

See also dottle.

dote *noun* **1** a foolish or weak-minded man. **2** *also* **dotey, doaty** a term of endearment, *especially* for a child.

- **doatin** *noun* a foolish person.
- **dottered, dotard** senile.
- **dotterel** a dotard, a senile person; a silly person.

See also doit¹.

dotter, dother *verb, usually of an old person* **1** totter, stagger. **2** tremble, shake.

- **dottering, dotterin, dothereen** **1** tottering, trembling. **2** drunk.
- **dottery** shaky on your feet, tottering.

[Scots and English dialectal *dotter*, Northern English *also dother*; onomatopoeic, *cf.* dot.]

dottle *noun* **1** a plug, a stopper. **2** the remains of tobacco in the bottom of a pipe. **3** **dottles** the droppings of hens; *see also* doddles.

[Scots and Northern English, probably dot + *-le*.]

dotty *adjective* crazed; half-witted.

double, dooble, dibble *adjective* double.

- ◆ *verb* **1** double. **2** put a second run of poteen through a still.
- ◆ *noun, also* **doublaght, doubling, doublings** the second run of poteen through a still; double-distilled poteen.
- **bent two double** bent double, bent right over.
- **carry double** *of a horse* carry two riders.
- **doobled up, dibbled up** doubled up, *e.g.* with rheumatism.
- **double (a person) up** *of a blow* render a person helpless.
- **double-breasted** *of a plough* having two mouldboards; *see* breast.
- **double plough** a plough with two mouldboards.
- **double sib** related to someone through both parents.
- **double snipe** a bird, the common snipe.
- **double tree** the swingletree immediately attached to the plough.

[ILLUS: double/t]

- **double-ye, dubbya** the letter W.
- **in double deed** indeed and doubles.
- **three double** *of a cord, etc.* three-ply, plaited with three strands.
- **work double tides** do a great deal of extra work.

[Scots form *dooble*.]

doubt, doot *verb, also* **doubt but** expect, believe, think, fear [in Standard English, if you doubt that something will happen, you expect that it will not happen].

- **and not a doubt** without a doubt, and no mistake.
- **doubtful** expecting, fearing *e.g.* *Will it rain? I'm doubtful it will.*
- **doubtsome** doubtful, uncertain.

□ **I hae me doots** *literally* I have my doubts: said when expressing reservations or reluctance to agree with something.

[Scots and Northern English form *doot*.]

douce, douse *adjective* **1** gentle, kind. **2** sedate, quiet, solemn; sober, wise, prudent. **3** tidy, neat, well-dressed. **4** prosperous, comfortable.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old French *douce* "sweet, pleasant".]

doucey *noun, in playing marbles* a shot made by flicking the thumb over the forefinger; *cf.* doosey.

dough, daugh, doagh *noun* **1** dough. **2** *also* **oaten-dough** oatmeal mixed with water.

- **doughy** silly, foolish; *see also* dyagh, dowey.

[Scots form *daich*, obsolete Scots form *daugh*. *See also* duff.]

doughal *see* dochle.

dour *see* door.

dour *adjective* **1** stubborn, obstinate. **2** harsh, stern, severe. **3** sullen, sulky; unsociable, gloomy, disagreeable.

[Scots and Northern English, from Latin *dūrus* "hard".]

douragh *see* doorach.

douse *see* douce.

douse¹, doose *verb* **douse a person** push a person's head under water.

[Yorkshire form *doose*.]

douse², dowse *verb* trip (a person) up, throw (a person) down.

□ **dousing** a beating, a thrashing.

[Obsolete Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal) "to strike", possibly from Middle Dutch *dossen* "to beat".]

douty *adjective* left-handed.

dover *verb* doze, slumber.

[Scots, extended form of Scots and northern English *dove* "to doze"; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian *dova* "to fall asleep".]

dowd *noun, also dowd cap, dowdy cap* a type of white cap without a frill, formerly worn by women.

[Obsolete in Standard English (latterly Scots, also Devon), the source of *dowdy*.]

dowdle *see* diddle.

dowdy *noun* an awkward person.

dowey *adjective* silly, foolish.

[Possibly the same word as *doughy*, *cf.* English dialectal *dow* form of *dough*.]

dowf, dofe, doof, duff *adjective* **1 dofe** dull, stupid *e.g.* with a cold.

2 dowf deaf. **3 dowf** ponderous. **4 dofe** *of a sound* dull, heavy.

◆ *noun* **duff** a dull, heavy blow.

◆ *verb* **doof** beat up, thrash.

□ **dowfart, doofart, duffert** a dull, stupid, incompetent person.

□ **dowfness** deafness.

[Scots, from Old Norse *daufn* "deaf" (hence *dowf*) and Middle Dutch *doof* "deaf; foolish" (hence *dofe*). The form *duff* is perhaps influenced by *duff*.]

dowg *see* dog.

dowie *adjective* dismal, sorrowful; *cf.* *dough*.

[Scots *dowie*, Older Scots *dolly*; from Old English *dol*, which gives *dull*².]

dowl *see* deel.

down, doon *preposition, adverb* **1** down. **2** *of direction* the opposite of up [Irish *síos* "down" also has the sense "to the north"]. **3** *in an old-fashioned house* in or towards the part of the house in front of the hearth.

□ **down with (an illness)** ill, laid up with (an illness).

□ **down-blast, down-blow** the down-draught in a chimney.

□ **downbye, doonbye** down the road.

□ **down-come** a downfall, a comedown.

□ **down drop** *or* **rain** a leak in a roof.

□ **down-faced** brazen-faced, bold.

□ **down in the heels** "down at heel".

□ **down in the mouth, doon in the mooth** in low spirits; in the sulks.

□ **down-lookin** **1** guilty looking. **2** *of a person* "ugly", threatening.

□ **down-lying** the confinement of a woman having a baby.

□ **down-mouthed** disheartened, "down in the mouth".

□ **downright** completely.

□ **downside up** upside down.

□ **down-sit, down-sitting** financial provision for someone, *especially* a marriage settlement.

□ **down spout, doon spoot, down spouting, doon spootin, down pour spouting, down spouting pipe, down spurtin** a down pipe, a pipe running down the wall of a house to drain water from the roof gutter; *see*

spurt.

□ **down the house** near the door; towards the door; towards the outer part of a house, **but**.

□ **down-with** a steep slope, a precipice.

□ **go down** go further into the house, go **ben**.

[Scots and Northern English form *doon*.]

downy *adjective*, of a person weak, undersized.

◆ *noun* a weak, undersized person.

Cf. *dawnie*.

dowp, doop *noun* **1** the backside. **2** the stub of a candle.

[Scots and Northern English *dowp*, Orkney *doop*; origin unknown, *cf.* Middle Dutch *dop, dup* "an eggshell". *See also* *doot*.]

dowse *verb* use a divining rod to look for water. *hence* **dowser** someone who uses a divining rod to discover water. **dowsing** the act of using a divining rod.

dowse *see* *douse*².

dowsy *adjective* in poor health; very ill.

◆ *noun* the youngest of a brood.

Cf. *dowie, donsie*.

doxey *noun* an old woman.

doze *verb* **1** of a spinning top sleep (spin so fast that it seems to be standing still). **2** of wood, leather, etc. rot, decay.

□ **dozed** **1** of wood or leather decayed, rotten. **2** of a person stupid with age or drink.

□ **dozer**:

□ **no dozer** a wide-awake, alert person.

See also *dozen*.

dozen *verb* daze, make numb.

□ **dozened** dazed, stupified.

[Scots and Northern English, probably from *doze*.]

dra *see* *draw*.

drab a small quantity of anything.

drab¹ *noun* mud, dirt, *especially* on the hem of clothes.

□ **drab-jock** *historical* a greatcoat.

[Scots "a stain", *cf.* Low German *drabbe* "dirty liquid" (hence Low German *drabbeln* "to wade in mud; to bespatter", which gives English *drabble*). *See also* *drab*².]

drab² *noun* **1** a fall of dew. **2** mist.

□ **drabby** of the weather cold and wet.

Cf. *drab*¹.

drabble, dhrebble *verb* drabble, bedraggle.

□ **dhrebbled** drabbled, bedraggled, wet and dirty.

□ **drabble beards** *jocular* broth.

□ **drabloch** leftovers, rubbish [Scots *-och* ending, modelled on Scottish Gaelic *-ach*].

[*Cf.* Scots form *draible*. *See also* *drab*¹.]

drachie *see* *drawk*.

drachle *noun* a slow-moving, easy-going person.

□ **drachling** lazy, easy-going.

[Scots, *cf.* *trachle*.]

dracht *adjective* draught *e.g.* a *dracht* horse.

[Scots form.]

drackie *see* *drawk*.

dra'd *see* *draw*.

draft *noun* a drawing, a picture.

draft *noun* a draught, a drink.

drafts, draft, draught *noun plural* cart-traces made of chain; cart traces.

drag *verb*, also *dreg* **1** bring (peat) in partly-filled carts from the bank where it is cut to higher ground for drying out; *cf.* *draw*. **2** *in general*

divide (a load) in order to proceed more easily on a bad road.

◆ **noun 1** an incomplete load, *especially* of peat. **2 also dreg** a fork with a long shaft and four prongs at right angles to the shaft, used for cleaning sheughs; a muck-hoe. [ILLUS: drag]

□ **dragging** the act of dividing a load on a steep hill.

□ **drag-home** the bringing home of the bride; *see also* haul.

□ **drag to or til** *of the appearance of the weather* threaten (rain or snow).

[Scots and Northern English form (usually the verb) *dreg*. As a noun, *dreg* may actually be the Scots form of *dredge*. *See also* drug.]

draggle: draggled wet, dirty and dishevelled.

□ **draggle-tail** a sheep with a ragged tail.

draghy *adjective, of a road or journey* deceptively long, longer than anticipated *Co. Donegal*.

Cf. drawk.

dragon *noun* a dragonfly. *Illustration see* grand.

□ **dragon-fish** *noun* the dragonet *Callionymus lyra*.

draik, draiky *see* drawk.

drain: drainings strippings, the last drops of milk obtained from a cow when milking her.

draliach *see* draulyegh.

dram *noun* a quantity (of spirits).

drammock, drummock, drommack, dhrommack *noun* a mixture of oatmeal and water; oatmeal dough before it is baked into oatcakes.

□ **as wet as drammock** very wet.

[Scots *drammock, drummock*; from Scottish Gaelic *dramag*.]

drans *noun plural* the weaks of oats *etc.*

drant *verb* speak slowly, drawl.

◆ *noun* a slow, drawling tone.

[Scots and English dialectal, onomatopoeic.]

drap *see* drop.

drapisy *noun* a disease: dropsy *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*.

drat *exclamation* a disguised oath.

draughty *adjective, of the weather* windy.

draulyegh, draliach, dhraliach *noun, Co. Antrim 1* the smallest or weakest bird or animal in a brood or litter. **2** an undersized person.

Cf. droily.

draw, dhrav, dra; past participle dra'd; verb 1 bring home (peat) from the bog when dried; *cf.* drag. **2** lift or raise (the fist) for the purpose of attack. **3** close (a door) *e.g.* *Draw the door after ye*.

◆ *noun 1* a "drag", a puff at a pipe, *etc.* **2** two pailfuls of water carried at once. **3** the up-draught in a chimney.

□ **draw (a person) out** make a person more talkative.

□ **draw bit** pull on a horse's bit.

□ **draw-bone** a wish-bone.

□ **draw-boy** the boy who drew up the woven cloth on to the beam of a loom.

□ **draw cuts** draw lots.

□ **draw hoe** a muck hoe. *Illustration see* claut.

□ **draw in a seat** pull up a chair.

□ **drawn** *present part* drawing-. *thus* **drawn-room** drawing-room.

□ **drawn:**

□ **drawn butter** a white sauce.

□ **draw-net** *noun* a type of fishing net, legal for use in rivers but not in tidal estuaries.

□ **draw on** go towards, approach.

□ **draw to or til 1** approach. **2** *of the appearance of the weather* threaten (rain or snow); *hence, figuratively* **if it doesn't stop dropping it'll draw to a shower** meaning that small signs act as a barometer of serious incidents to come.

- **draw well** an open well with a windlass to draw up water.
- **draw your hand over** strike (a child).
- **the drawn image of** the exact likeness of.
- **two dra's an' a spit** *contemptuous* describing a cigarette as opposed to a pipe.

[Scots, also South-Western English, form *dra*. Past participle: Somerset form *dra'd*.]

drawer: **pair of drawers** a chest of drawers.

draw hook:

drawk, draik *verb* **1** soak, drench. **2** trail about through the rain.

- **drawky, dhrawky, drokey, droghey, draiky, drackie, dhrakie, draghy, drachie** **1** *also droghery of the weather* damp, misty.

2 drizzling; murky, dull, dreary.

[Scots and Northern English *drawk*; Scots also *draik, drack*; Orkney and Caithness *droke*; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Old Norse *drakkja* "to submerge", related to *drook*.]

drawl: **drawly** slow-moving, dragging along the ground.

drawleen *see* droileen.

drawlie *see* droily.

drawlyeen *see* droileen.

dray *noun* a vehicle without wheels for drawing hay-heaps.

dread: **he or she is the dread** said of a person who "puts his or her foot in it".

dream: **dreams goes by contraries** *proverbial*

drean-bawn *noun* the white-thorn.

drean-dhu *noun* the black-thorn.

dredge¹, drudge *verb* dredge for oysters.

- ◆ *noun* **1** a dredge. **2** a dredger, a boat used for dredging in harbours.

[South of England form *drudge*.]

dredge², drudge *verb, cooking* dredge, sprinkle flour.

- ◆ *noun* a flour dredger.

[English dialectal and Scots form *drudge*.]

dree *see* dreigh.

dree¹ *verb* **1** suffer, endure (something). **2** drawl, speak slowly.

- **dreeing** mourning for the dead.
- **dree your weird** endure your destiny.

[Scots and Northern English; from Old English *drēoƷan* "to endure", related to *dreigh*.]

dree² *noun* a type of illegal fishing implement: a weighted hook fastened to a line reaching across a river.

[Shortened form of rare Standard English *dree-draw*, origin unknown.]

dreech *see* dreigh.

dreep *see* drip.

dreg *see* drag.

dreich *see* dreigh.

dreigh, dreich, dreech, dhreich, dhreigh, dree *adjective* **1** tedious, dreary, monotonous. **2** *of a road or journey* long, slow, tortuous; *of a field* much larger than appears at first sight; *cf.* *draghy*. **3** *of a person* slow to do anything.

- ◆ *noun* weariness, loneliness.

- **dreigh o drawin** slow to come when called.
- **dreighy** **1** tedious, dreary, monotonous. **2** in the huff, sulking.

[Scots and Northern English *dreigh, dreich, dreech*; Northern English and Galloway also *dree*; from Old English **drēoƷ* "long-suffering", related to *dree¹*. *See also* *drew*.]

dreimire muire, dramwe na murrogh *noun* the centaury, the pink gentian *Erythroea centaurium*.

drench, drinch *verb* **1** drench. **2** give (a cow) an enema.

- ◆ *noun* an enema.

- **drenchin**: **drenchin wet** very wet.
 - **drinched** drenched, soaked.
- [English dialectal, also Ayrshire, form *drinch*. See also *drilch*.]

dress: **dressed**:

- **dressed cailleach** a harvest plait finished in a decorative way, especially for a thanksgiving service; see *cailleach*. [ILLUS: dressd/c]
- **dressed for death** dressed for a funeral.
- **dressed to the ninety-nines, dressed to kill, dressed to all's no more, dressed to death**
- **dressed up to Dick and down to Richard** very well dressed.
- **dressin doon, dhressin doon** a dressing down, putting a presumptuous person in his or her place.
- **dressing, dressin** *weaving* the length of warp that can be dressed at one time, a measure of weaving done.
- **dress someone's jacket** "dust someone's jacket", beat up, thrash someone.

dresser, dhresser *noun* a type of sideboard, a long kitchen sideboard fixed to the wall on which crockery *etc.* is placed; a a wooden cabinet with open shelves and hooks, for crockery, usually in the kitchen of a country house.

dreuthed drenched, soaked (with rain).

drew, druh *adjective, of a conversation* boring.

[Berkshire *droo* "drowsy", possibly the same word as *dreigh*.]

dribble *noun* a drop, a small quantity of liquid.

- ◆ *verb* drizzle, rain gently.
- **drib 1** a drop, a driblet, a small quantity of liquid; a small quantity of anything. **2 dribs**, also **dribbin** strippings, the last drops of milk obtained from a cow when milking her; *verb* milk the last drop from (a cow).
- **dribbler** a baby's bib.

driddle, dhridde *verb* delay, loiter, potter about.

- ◆ *noun* a person who is always behind in his or her work.

[Scots *driddle*, onomatopoeic.]

driffle *verb* drizzle, rain gently.

[Scots; probably of Scandinavian origin, cf. Norwegian dialectal *drivla* "to drizzle".]

drift *noun* **1** a shower of snow, rain, *etc.* driven by the wind. **2** a flock (of sheep).

drig *noun* a small quantity of liquid; a short drink, a mouthful, especially a **drig of tea**.

- ◆ *verb, also drig out* strip (the last drops of milk from a cow).
 - **driggle** a small amount (of liquid).
- [Scots form of *dreg*.]

drilch *noun* a long, satisfying drink.

- ◆ *verb* give a drink to.

[Cf. *drinch* form of *drench*.]

drim see *drum*.

drimin, dhrimin *noun* a crowd (of people).

[Cf. Devon *drim* "to crowd together", origin unknown.]

drimindhu *noun* the Irish (Grattan's) Parliament.

drig *noun* **1** a tall, slow-moving person; see also *drink*. **2** a lazy, idle fellow.

- ◆ *verb* delay, linger, dawdle.

[Scots; apparently the same word as historical English *dreng* "a free tenant in ancient Northumbria", from Old English *dreng* "a fellow".]

drink *verb* give a drink to e.g. *Drink the cows*.

- **drinkable** *noun* a drink. often **aitables and drinkables**
- **drink-a-penny** a bird: (a) the little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*; see also *penny*; (b) the coot *Fulica atra*.
- **have some drink** be the worse for drink, but not drunk.

- **he** *etc.* **would drink Lough Erne dry, drink O'Donnell's gallon, drink lik' the Devil, drink the ducks of a lint dam** said of a heavy drinker.
- **in drink** drunk.
- **like something you would blow off a drink** said of someone very small and insignificant.
- **long drink (o water) 1** a tall man; *cf.* **dring. 2** an insignificant, tiresome person.
- **no small drink** of considerable importance, "no small beer".
- **she wud drink Jordan dry** said of a drunkard.

drip, dreep, dhreep *verb* drip.

- **dreepie** dripping.
- **dreeping, dreepin, also dhreepin, dreeping wet** very wet, soaked.
- **drippings** strippings, the last drops of milk taken from a cow when milking her.
- **dripple** ebb out.

[Scots and Northern English form *dreep*.]

drisag *noun* the common blackberry *Rubus fruticosus*.

dritty *adjective, of work* slow, tedious *Co. Donegal*; *cf.* **drawk**.

drive; *past tense and past participle* **driv, druv**; *verb* drive.

- ◆ *noun* a passenger vehicle, a trap, a carriage.
- **as white as the driven snow** *proverbial*
- **drivers** driving wheels, the large, powered, central wheels in the chassis of a locomotive.

[Past tense: Scots, also East Midland, *driv*; Scots and English dialectal *druv*. Past participle: Southern English *druv*.]

drizzen *verb 1* of a cow low, especially plaintively; also figuratively, e.g. of a child crying. **2** hum, sing absent-mindedly.

- ◆ *noun, also drizzening* a quiet, plaintive lowing.

[Scots, *cf.* Middle Dutch *druyssen* "to make a hollow roaring sound".

See also **dizzen**.]

drizzle *noun* a light shower.

drock *see* droigh.

drog *see* drug.

drogged, drogget *see* drugget.

drogh *see* droigh.

drogh, droigh *adjective* bad, evil.

[Irish *droch*- "ill-".]

droghery, droghey *see* drawk.

droghy *see* droigh.

droigh *see* drogh.

droigh, droich, dhroich, drogh, drock; drow [rhymes with "now"] *noun, also droghy 1* a dwarf; *derogatory* an undersized person. **2** the smallest or weakest in a litter or brood, especially of pigs.

[Scots *droigh, droich, droch*; forms of *dwerch, dorche*, themselves Older Scots forms of dwarf, from Old English *dweorh*. These Scots forms have possibly passed through Scottish Gaelic, which borrowed the word as *droich*. *See also* **durgan**.]

droileen, dhroileen, drawleen, droleen, drawlyeen, drooleen *noun 1* the smallest or weakest bird or animal in a brood or litter. **2 drooleen** an undersized person.

[Irish *dreoilin* "the wren", apparently influenced in sense by **droily**.]

droileen¹ *noun* the wren.

droily, dhroily, drawlie, drolly, dhrawrie *noun 1* the smallest or weakest bird or animal in a brood or litter. **2 droily** the smallest person in a family.

[Origin unknown, *see also* **draulyegh, droileen**.]

droit a runt, the youngest of a brood.

drokey *see* drawk.

droleen *see* droileen.

droll *noun* a tale or story.

◆ *verb*, only in the phrase **droll from droler** play the fool, carry on in an amusing way.

drolly *see* droily.

drommack *see* drammock.

drone *noun* **1** a dull monotonous sound. **2** a dull speaker or preacher.

Drontheim *noun* a type of boat: a double-ended clinker-built yawl.

[German form of the place-name *Trondheim* in Norway.] [ILLUS:

Dronth'm]

drook, dhrook, drook *verb* **1** drench, soak. **2** pour boiling water over (oatmeal) to cook it for pigs or hens. **3** *of the rain* pour.

□ **as drookit as a duck in April** wet through.

□ **as wet as a drookit rat** very wet.

□ **drookin, drooking** a soaking, a drenching.

□ **drookit, drooked, also drookit-looking** wet through, soaked, drenched.

□ **drookit stour** wet dust; *see* **STOOR**.

□ **drooky** *adjective* wet.

◆ *noun* name given to a person who is wet through.

[Scots and Northern English *drook, drook*; from Old Norse *drukna* "to drown", related to *drawk*.]

drooleen *see* droileen.

droon, drooned, droondit *see* drown.

droop: drooped round-shouldered.

□ **droop-rumpit** *of a cow* having down-sloping hindquarters.

drooth, drooth, dhrooth *noun* **1** drought, a spell of dry weather. **2** thirst, *especially* for alcohol. **3** a habitual drunkard.

□ **a binding for drooth, feeding o drooth** a fine drizzle of rain in summer, *especially* in the evening, taken as a sign of dry weather to come.

□ **droothy** **1** thirsty. **2** *figuratively* drunken, given to drink.

□ **hardening of the drooth** thin, streaming clouds during a drought, taken as a sign of a dry wind.

[Scots form *drooth, drooth*.]

drootle *verb* shoot (a marble).

[Probably onomatopoeic.]

drop, dhrop, drap, dhrap *noun* **1** a drop; something to drink, *frequently* a drop in the hand a cup of tea taken informally, not at a table. **2** **drap**

sheep's dung.

◆ *verb* **1** drop. **2** plant (potatoes).

□ **a bad drop** **1** an element of badness in a person's nature. **2** anger.

3 "bad blood", resentment between people.

□ **a constant dhrap wears a hole in a stone** *proverbial*

□ **a dhrap on your nose like a thravellin'rat**

□ **dhrap a foal** *of a mare* give birth.

□ **dhrap in** visit.

□ **dhrapping off** *of numbers of people* dying.

□ **dhrap that or it** stop it, cease, desist, leave off.

□ **dhrap with hunger** die of hunger.

□ **drap on (a person)** take (a person) by surprise; *hence* **drapped on** taken aback, surprised.

□ **drappie** a small drop, a small amount (of liquid).

□ **drappins, drappings** droppings, *especially* the dung of fowl.

□ **drop asunder** *of a woman* give birth.

□ **drop-calf, drap-calf** a newly-born calf.

□ **drop down** *of darkness* fall.

□ **dropeen** a small drop, a small quantity (of liquid) [*drop* + Irish diminutive ending *-in*].

□ **drop of tea, drap o tay** a snack between meals.

□ **dropping ripe** *of fruit* ripe and ready to fall.

□ **droppin weather** showery weather.

□ **dropsies** a game played with cigarette cards, the aim being to drop a

card from a height so that it covers one already on the ground.

- **drop someone a line** write someone a letter.
- **good or brave drop** a considerable quantity (of liquid).
- **not a drop's blood to (a person)** not related to (a person) in any way.
- **not the droppin of a finger** not so much as would drip from a wet finger.
- **take a drop** take drink.
- **there's a drop in the evenings** the evenings are getting shorter; *cf.* stretch.
- **while there's a drap in the worm**
[Scots, also Southern English, form *drap*.]

drouk *see* drook.

drouth *see* drooth.

drover: **cattle-drover** a driver.

drow *see* droigh.

drown, droon, dhroon, drownd; *past tense and past participle*

drowned, droondit, droonded; *verb* **1** drown; *also figuratively* soak, drench. **2** steep (flax).

- **droonin** a soaking, a drenching.
- **drowned, drooned, drownded** *figuratively* **1** soaked, drenched. **2** *of the weather* overcast, gloomy.
- **drowning moon** the moon amongst rain-clouds [translation of Irish *gealach bháite*].
- **drown the miller** put too much water to a glass of grog, or tea.
- **if ye're born to be hang'd ye'll niver be dhroundet** *proverbial*
- **that lazy he or she wudnae help ye if ye wir a droonin**
- **they would not drown much that reared you** an insult, meaning that your parents made a mistake in letting you live.
[Scots and Northern English form *droon, droond*; English dialectal *drownded*.]

droyey the youngest of a brood; the youngest of a litter of pigs.

drubbing a beating, a thrashing. *also, figuratively*

drucken *adjective* drunk; drunken.

[Scots and Northern English; from Old Norse *drukinn*, which corresponds to Old English *druncen*, hence Modern English *drunk(en)*.]

drudge *see* dredge¹, dredge².

drug *verb, of a car, etc.* move along jerkily.

- ◆ *noun, also drog, dhrog* a slow, heavy swell of the sea.

[Scots, also Southern English; apparently a form of *drag*.]

drugget, drogget, dhrogget, drogged *noun, literally* drugget, a type of cloth made of silk and wool mixed: *figuratively* of mixed religious persuasion, *thus* a **drogget match, drogget blood, drogget weans**; *see* wee.

- **speak drugget, speak silk and drugget** attempt to speak "proper" English but end up with a mixed accent or dialect.

[Scots form *drogget*, from French *droguet*. Standard English has altered the vowel.]

druh *see* drew.

druked *adjective* dull-looking.

drum, drim *noun* **1** the ridge of a hill. **2** a person's or animal's back.

- **drumlin** a mound of glacial gravel [also adopted in Standard English as a geological term]. [ILLUS: drumlin/P]
[Irish *droim*; also Scots *drum* from Scottish Gaelic *druim*.]

drum¹

- **give someone what Paddy gave the drum** give someone a good beating.
- **put that in your big drum and bang it** "put that in your pipe and smoke it".

drumadudgeon *noun* a slow-moving, lazy person *Co. Antrim*.

[Onomatopoeic.]

drummock *see* drammock.

drummond *noun* **1** one of the props used in an eel trap in a weir.

*Illustration see skeagh*². **2** a horizontal pole used in an eel trap in a weir.

*Illustration see skeagh*².

[Irish *dromán* "a horizontal rail".]

drunk: **as drunk as nine wheel-cars** very drunk.

drunt, dhrunt *noun* **1** *usually in plural* the huff, the sulks. **2** an awkward, slow person.

□ **drunted** disappointed, in a bad mood.

[Scots *drunt*, onomatopoeic.]

druther *noun* a doubt.

druv *see* drive.

dry, dhry *adjective* crafty, subtle.

□ **as dry as a kiln, as dry as a lime kiln, as dry as a whistle, as dry as the heel of a lime-burner's boot, as dry as the rafters of hell** **1** *also as dry as ashes, as dry as bedding, as dry as powder* very dry. **2** very thirsty.

□ **as dry as a stick** describing an insipid person.

□ **dry bargain**

□ **dry drizzle** a very fine shower of rain, not enough to keep a person indoors.

□ **dry dust** stoor.

□ **dry heifer** a young cow that has not had a calf.

□ **drying**: **drying cloth** a tea-towel.

□ **dry lodging** a lodging where sleeping accommodation, but no food, is provided.

□ **dry money** ready money.

□ **dry moolin** a disease of cows *Co. Donegal* [the second element is unidentified].

□ **dryness** coldness (between people).

□ **dry stone wall** a wall built of stones without mortar.

□ **dry talk** a conversation without a drink.

□ **dry up** stop talking.

□ **it's better than atin' them dry** meaning that you have to eat, even if it means doing menial or degrading work.

□ **let the dry light of day on someone** astonish someone.

□ **no' dry for water, no' water dry** thirsty, not for water, but for alcohol.

□ **there will be many a dry cheek at or after (a person's) funeral** meaning that there will be no sorrow for (a person).

dub *noun* **1** a puddle. **2** mud, dirt. **3** a pool; *hence flax dub* a lint hole, a lint dam.

[Scots and Northern English, from Low German and West Frisian *dobbe* "a puddle".]

duban-ealla *noun* a spider.

dubya *see* double.

dube *see* jubous.

duce *noun* juice.

□ **ducey** juicy.

[Devon form.]

duce¹ *noun* the deuce in cards.

duchal *see* dung.

duck¹, **duke, juke, jouk, jook** *verb* **1** *also dook* duck (the head or body); *specifically* bow. **2** crouch out of sight. **3** dodge, avoid, evade; *specifically* play truant from (school). **4** deceive, evade by cunning. **5 duck, dook** plunge into water.

◆ *noun* **1** a swerve or stoop to avoid a blow. **2** a quick look. **3 duck,**

dook a dip in the sea, a bathe.

□ **dook and dive** swim with short dips of the head into the water.

- **duck for apples** bob for apples: a custom at Hallowe'en. Apples are floated in a tub of water and children try to catch them with their teeth.
- **duker, jooker 1** a dodger, a person who evades his or her duties; an elusive character; a truant from school. **2** a trained sheep-dog.
- **dukery-pockery, dukery-packery, jookery-packery, joukery-pawkery, also joukery** trickery, double-dealing; deception, sleight of hand [Scots *joukerie-pawkery*. For the second element, *see pawky*].
- **duke-the-beetle, juke-the-beetle 1** a lump in mashed potatoes [from the idea that it has dodged the beetle or masher]; *also* a lump in porridge. **2** mashed potatoes with beans in it. **3 figuratively (a)** a person who dodges his or her duties, or dodges punishment; **(b)** a person who escapes something unpleasant because he or she has been overlooked; **(c)** a patch of hair that escapes the razor.
- **jooking** cunning, deceitful.
- **jooky:**
- **juke and let a jaw flee** take no notice of angry words; stoop and let it pass over you.
- **take and let the jaups go by, jook, an' let the jaups go by, juke an' let the jaups go by** said when a person avoids a can of water fired at him. [Scots and Northern English forms *duke, juke, jouk, jook, dook*. Mostly the same word as *duck*², but the *duke, juke, jouk, jook* form may originally be a different word, of unknown origin.]

duck² *noun, also duke, dyuck, juck* a duck.

- **a fine day for young ducks**
 - **duck all** a disguised swear-word: nothing.
 - **duck at the table, duck at the table as hard as yer able, duck and granny** a game: duckstone, played by knocking a small stone (the duck) off a large stone (the table or granny) and racing to recover the stones fired.
 - **duck-hoose door** *jocular* a very thick slice of bread.
 - **duckie 1** a cockerel with no fighting instincts; *see also dochle*. **2** a large round stone used in a children's game.
 - **duck lamp, also duck** a type of oil lamp, often home-made.
 - **duck nebs** *literally* duckbills: broad-toed boots; *see neb*.
 - **duck plough** a type of drill plough with a sock shaped like a duck's bill.
 - **duck's frost** a slight frost that has thawed by morning.
 - **duck's meat, duck meat** the mucus that dries in the corners of the eyes during sleep; *see meat*.
 - **duckweed:**
 - **like water aff a duck's back**
 - **make ducks and drakes of (money)** squander, throw away (money).
 - **make duck's meat of someone** give someone a beating; *see meat*.
 - **take to something like a duck to water**
 - **they're fond of greens that dip their noses in duckweed** *proverbial*
 - **turn up your eyes like a duck in thunder, look like a duck in thunder** open your eyes wide and cock your head in surprise.
 - **wud a duck swim?** used to express a ready acceptance of an offer of drink.
- [Scots forms *duke, dyuck, juck*. *See also duck*¹.]

duckle *see dochle*.

ducklyd *adverb, also dhuch by dhuch* singly, one at a time *e.g. I won't sell by the dozen, but ducklyd*.

ducks, dux *noun* a type of plough, a Yankee plough (i.e. a horse-drawn wheel plough).

dud *noun 1* a rag, a piece of cloth. **2** a "stitch" of clothing.

- **dudeens** "duds", clothes; *specifically* shabby, ragged clothes [*dud* + Irish diminutive ending *-ín*].
- **pile your duds, stack your duds** *literally* put your clothes in a pile: a

challenge to fight.

dudeen, dudyeen, dhudheen, doodeen, dudgeon, didgeen *noun* **1** a short, clay pipe; *also, jocular* a tobacco pipe in general. **2** *figuratively* the penis.

[Hiberno-English *dudeen, dudyeen, dhudheen, doodeen*; from Irish *dúidin*.]

dudeens *see* dud.

dudgeon, dudyeen *see* dudeen.

due: **due sober** completely sober.

duff *noun* **1** a soft, spongy surface in a bog. **2** *also* **duffs** spongy, inferior peat or peats.

[Scots "a soft spongy peat", the same word as Standard English *duff* (as in *plum-duff*), originally an English dialectal form of *dough*. *See also* dowf.]

duff *see* dowf.

duff¹ *noun* a pudding, a suet pudding. *thus* **apple duff, plum duff**:

duffer *noun* a coward, a fool, someone who gives in easily.

duffert *see* dowf.

dug *see* dog.

duggen *see* dig.

duggins, dhuggins, dyuggins *noun plural* rags, tatters.

[Ayrshire *dyuggins*; from Scots *deugs* "shreds", itself possibly from Dutch *doek* "a rag".]

duhal *see* dung.

duhall *see* dochle.

duke *see* duck¹, duck².

duked hiding.

dukery-pockery *see* duck¹.

dulaman *see* doolaman.

□ **as dull as a dulbert** very stupid.

dull¹, dool *noun* a loop, a noose of rope or cord, *especially* a running knot; *specifically* a snare in this form for birds, rabbits, hares, fish, *etc.*

◆ **verb** **1** loop. **2** poach.

□ **dulling** a method of rescuing a sheep from a cliff by means of a noose; a method of catching trout.

□ **dulling boat** a boat fishing for herring using a method where one end of the net is held by someone on the shore.

[Irish *dol, dul* "a trap, a snare". *See also* dulog.]

dull² *adjective* deaf, hard of hearing, *frequently* **dull of hearing**.

□ **dulbert** a blockhead, a stupid person [the second element is possibly beard].

See also dowie.

dullachan *see* dolaghan.

dullis *see* dulse.

dullivarin *noun* the forelock, *especially* of a boy.

dulog *noun* a forked stick used when cutting a thorn hedge, to keep the thorns off.

[Possibly Irish *dul* (see *dull¹*) + *-óg*.]

dulse, dullis, dilse, dilsh, dillisk *noun* an edible seaweed: *Rhodymenia palmata* [*dulse* also adopted in Standard English].

[Hiberno-English *dulse, dullis, dillisk* from Irish *duileasc*; *dulse* also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *duileasg*; Scots form also *dilse*.]

dumb: **dumb craythurs** the lower animals.

□ **dumbfounder** *verb* confuse, amaze.

□ **dumbfoundered** stunned by a blow or fall.

□ **dumdithered** dumbfoundered, left speechless [the founder of *dumfoundered* has been understood as "perished with cold" and replaced with *dither*].

□ **dum' folks gits or heirs nae land** said when a thing is to be obtained

by asking for it.

□ **dummy**:

dummy, dummy tit a false teat for infants.

□ **"I see," says the blind man. "Ye're a liar," says the dummy** *jocular* reply to someone who says "I see".

dump *noun* a thump on the back.

□ **dumper** a post rammer for firming earth round fence posts. *Illustration see stake.*

[Scots; from Old Norse *dumpa* "to strike", possibly the same word as Standard English *dump*, which is also of Scandinavian origin.]

dumplin *noun* a dumpling; *figuratively* an affectionate word for a small, fat girl.

dumps: in the dumps in the huff, sorrowful.

dumpts *noun plural* the dumps, a depressed state of mind; the sulks.

□ **dumpled** surprised and disappointed.

□ **dummy** in the huff, sulky.

[Extended form.]

dummy *adjective* short and thickset.

◆ *noun* a short, thickset person.

dun¹ *adjective, of human or animal hair* brown [not only a greyish brown as in Standard English].

□ **dunduckity: dunduckity mud colour** *jocular* an indefinite shade of brown; *see also* dimps.

□ **dunne** a bird: the knot *Calidris canutus*; *cf.* dunny¹.

See also din.

dun² *noun* an earthen fort, a *rath* *common in place-names. Illustration see rath.*

[Irish *dún* "a hill fort".]

duncey *see* donsie.

dunch *see* dunsh.

duncle *see* dung.

dundeen, dundon *noun* a slice of bread without butter *Co. Londonderry.*

[Origin unknown.]

dunder, dhunder, dundher, dunner, dhunner *verb* **1** rumble, thunder, pound. **2** stun with a blow. **3** thump (a person) on the back.

◆ *noun* **1** a reverberating sound. **2** a violent blow, a thump, a loud knock (at a door). **3** a heavy fall *e.g.* *She fell a dhunner.*

□ **dundered** stunned, dazed; *cf.* donner.

□ **dundering, dunderin** **1** a loud thundering or rumbling noise.

2 *specifically* a pounding (at a door).

□ **dunderin-in** a tumbledown house.

[Scots *dunder, dunner* "to rumble; a loud rumbling noise"; apparently of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian *dundre* "to thunder", *dunder* "a banging".]

dunderhead, dhundher-heid *noun* a blockhead.

dung: dung clock a dung beetle such as *Geotrupes stercorarius*; *see* clock². *Illustration see* bum¹.

□ **dunghill** [dung-ghill with "gh" as in "lough"], **dunghal, dunkil, duncle, duchal, dochal, doughill, duhal** **1** a dunghill, a midden, a manure pit. **2** a "dunghill", a coward; *see also* dochle.

□ **dunghill-stead** a manure pit.

□ **dung-hunter gull** the young herring gull *Larus argentatus*.

□ **dung out** remove dung from (a byre); *also figuratively* clean up, redd out (a place of any kind).

□ **every cock can crow** *or* **crow's loudest on his own dunghill** *proverbial*

□ **them 'at loves the dunghill sees no motes in it** *proverbial*

See also dunny².

Dungannon: come in, Dungannon, I know your knock *catchphrase*

said to someone knocking at a door by those inside.

[Dungannon is in Co. Tyrone.]

dunkans *noun plural* a type of children's trousers *South Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

dunkil *see* dung.

dunner *see* dunder.

dunny¹ *noun* a fish: the skate *Raia batis*; *cf.* dun¹.

dunny² *noun* a dump, a midden.

[*Cf.* English slang "a privy"; origin unknown, possibly from dung.]

dunsh, dunch *verb* **1** push, shove, nudge, prod with the elbow or shoulder.

2 butt with the head.

◆ *noun* a shove, a dunt, a thump.

□ **duncher** **1** a hornless cow with a habit of butting. **2** a man's flat cap.

[ILLUS: duncher]

□ **dunching** a butting with the head.

□ **take care or the ducks will dunch you** said to tease a child who is afraid of animals.

[Scots and English dialectal; probably onomatopoeic, *cf.* dunt.]

dunt *noun* a blow, a bump, a thump, a prod with the elbow.

◆ *verb* **1** shove. **2** *of an animal* butt. **3** strike (doors) with a wisp of straw, demanding money: a New Year custom.

□ **dunty** *adjective*, *of an animal* liable to dunt.

◆ *noun* an awkward, cantankerous person.

[Scots and English dialectal, apparently a form of *dint*.]

durable *adverb* tolerably *e.g.* *She worked durable hard at all times.*

duragh *see* doorach.

durby *adjective* in a weak or delicate state, shaky in the legs.

[Possibly a strengthened form of *dorbie*.]

dure *see* door.

durgan, dhurgan *noun* **1** an awkward, irregular mass of something.

2 mealy-creashy, oatmeal fried in lard, sometimes flavoured with leeks, *etc.* **3** an awkward, clumsy fellow. **4** a dwarf, an undersized person or animal.

[It is possible that more than one word is involved here. Scots *durkin*, *durgon* "something short and thick; a short, thick-set person" is possibly from Scottish Gaelic *durcan* "a lump". English dialectal *durgan* "a dwarf" may, however, be a form of *dwarf* (*cf.* *droigh*).]

during: **during ash** *or oak*, **during ash and oak** for a very long time; forever.

durko, dhorko, durka *noun* **1** an otter. **2** *also* **dorragehow** an imaginary monster living in remote loughs.

[Irish *dobharchú* literally "a water hound": in Standard Irish "an otter", but in Donegal Irish "a mythical animal". *Cf.* *water*.]

durn *noun*, *also* **durnyin, dhurnie** a stupid person; a slow-witted, fat, lazy person.

[Origin unknown.]

durna *see* dare¹.

durneen *see* dorneen.

durrie *see* jory.

dursnae *see* dare¹.

durt *see* dirt.

dusheen *noun* just deserts, deserved punishment.

[*Cf.* Scots *dush* "a violent blow"; probably onomatopoeic, but *cf.* German dialectal *duschen* "to beat". This would then be **dushin(g)* altered as if containing the Irish diminutive ending *-ín*.]

dusk: **duskies, duskiss, duskus** dusk, twilight; *cf.* dark².

dust, dist *noun* **1** dust. **2** **a wee dust** a small amount (of snow, hay, tea, sugar, grain, *etc.*).

□ **dust someone's jacket** beat or thrash someone.

- **kick up a dust** fight, quarrel.
- **not move a dust of (something)** not even begin to move (something).
[Orkney and North-Eastern Scots form *dist*.]

dut *see* do¹.

dutch *verb* dye (Irish flax) a darker colour, to resemble flax grown in Holland.

- **Dutch auction** *noun* an auction at which the prices decrease.
- **Dutch doll** a jointed wooden doll.
- **Dutch oven** a portable tin oven in which food is roasted before the fire.
- **talk double Dutch** talk indistinctly, incoherently, unintelligibly.

duthchas *noun* an innate characteristic or trait.

duty *noun, Roman Catholic* attendance at confession.

- **dutiful** having lots of duties to attend to.
- **duty days, duty fowl, duty hens, duty oats, duty yarn** rent paid in kind in various ways.

duv *see* do¹.

dwable, dwaible, dwible, dwyble [vowel as in "rabble", "able" or "bible"]
adjective **1** infirm, feeble, weak. **2 dwible** weak, yielding, flexible.

- ◆ *verb* walk feebly, walk shakily, totter.
- **dwably, dwaibly, dwibly, dwyibly** *adjective* **1** feeble, shaky, infirm, tottering. **2** *of an overgrown plant* weak, unable to stand without staking.
- ◆ *adverb* **dwibly** feebly, in a tottering way.
- **dwiblin** in a weak or delicate state, shaky in the legs.
[Scots, onomatopoeic, *cf.* *dwam*.]

dwam, dwaum *noun, also dwamle, twamle, a fit o the dwaums* a faint, a sudden feeling of faintness; a weak turn, a sudden fit of sickness.

- ◆ *verb* faint (away); fall ill.
- **dwamer: dwamish, dwamy** feeling sick; sickly, inclined to faint.
- **dwamly** delicate.
[Scots and English dialectal *dwam*; Scots also *dwaum, dwamle*; related to Old English *dwolma* "confusion".]

dwang *noun* a transverse piece of wood between joists.

- ◆ *verb* **dwang in** knock (something) in as a chock or wedge.
[Scots, *cf.* Dutch *dwang* "compulsion, restraint".]

dwarf: dwarf wall a jamb-wall (a low wall screening the fireplace from the door of a traditional house). *Illustration see* jamb.

See also droigh, durgan.

dwarie *see* jory.

dwelling-house the house where people live.

dwible *see* dwable.

dwine *verb* waste away with sickness or sorrow [archaic in Standard English].

- ◆ *noun* a wasting disease such as tuberculosis.
- **dwiney** *of a person* declining in health, pining, sickly; *of a plant* withering.

dwoury *adjective, of a person* delicate.

dwyble *see* dwable.

dyagh *noun* a blockhead, a stupid person; *cf.* dough.

dydry *noun* any very small thing; *cf.* dido.

dyeelog, dheelog *noun* an earwig. *Illustration see* fork.

[Irish *daológ, daol* (see *deel*) + diminutive ending *-óg*.]

dyke, dike *noun* **1** *also* **deck, dake** a dyke, a dike, a ditch, a raised bank or wall of earth, stones, *etc.* **2** *also* **dyke sheugh** a dyke, a dike, a sheugh, a drainage channel in a field or at the roadside.

- ◆ *verb, also deek* build a dyke.
- **dikeside cuttings** roadside hay.
- **dyke balk, dyke bawk** the back, or earth side, of a wall with a stone face [either *bauk* or *back*]. [ILLUS: *dyke/blk*]
- **dyke sheugh** a trench alongside a raised bank.

- **dyke-sleugh** a trench alongside a fence.
[Shetland form *deck*, Argyllshire and Wigtownshire form *dake*, Southern English form *deek*; from Old Norse *diki*, corresponding to Old English *dīc*, which gives *ditch*.]

dyled *see* doilt.

dyor *see* deor.

dyorrie *see* jory.

dyuck *see* duck².

dyuggins *see* duggins.

each-uisge *noun* a fairy water-horse.

ealins *see* eelins.

ear¹ *noun* a pea-pod.

- **ears like a jackass** the opposite of soo-luggit.
- **not hear your ears** not be able to hear *e.g.* *Be quate, weans, A canny hear my ears for you.*
- **warm someone's ears** box someone's ears, hit someone about the ears.
- **what the ear does not hear doesn't trouble the heart** people may speak badly of someone, but as long as he *etc.* does not hear it, he is not vexed.

ear², ere *adverb, adjective* early.

[Scots; from Old English *•r*, the same word as *ere*.]

eariewig, eeriwig *noun* an earwig. *Illustration see* fork.

[Midland English, also West Central Scots, form.]

earl *see* arle.

early, airly *adverb* early.

- **early hearts** a variety of cabbage that matures early.
- **he that has a name for early rising may lie in bed all day** *proverbial*
[Older form in Scots and English *airly*.]

earnest: earnest penny *noun* money given to bind a bargain [obsolete in International English].

- **in earnest** certainly, for certain.

earning *noun* livelihood, way of making a living.

earock *see* errock.

earth, irth, yirth, yird *noun* earth, the earth.

- **ye would think the earth was open** said when someone is making a fuss about something unimportant.
[Scots and Northern English form *yird*, Scots also *yirth*.]

ease, aise *noun, verb* ease.

- **aisiest hid isn't aisiest foun' always** *proverbial*
- **as easy as kiss yer hand, as aisy as kiss**
- **ask me an aisier one** *joc* said by someone who is unable to answer a question.
- **be aisy** calm down.
- **be at ease** wait patiently.
- **easement** relief *especially* from pain.
- **ease off** move, turn.
- **ease up** *verb* assist.
- ◆ *noun* assistance.
- **easy, aisy** *adjective* **1** easy. **2** **be aisy** calm down.
- ◆ *adverb* **1** easily. **2** slowly, quietly, gently, *thus* **speak easy** speak softly.
- 3** sparingly, *especially* **go easy on**
- **easy milked** *of a cow* easily milked.
- **easy milker** a cow that is easily milked.
- **make (a woman) at aise for the rest of her days** *euphemism* marry (a woman).
- **make yer mind aisy** be satisfied or contented.
[Older form in Scots and English *aise*. *See also* unaise.]

easing, easin, aisin, aizin, eezin *noun, usu in pl* **1** the eaves of a roof or thatched haystack. **2** a gutter along the edge of a roof.

- **easing birds** birds nesting under the eaves.
- **easing-drop** rainwater dropping from the eaves.
- **easing-dropper** an eavesdropper, a concealed listener.
[Old forms (still Scots and English dialectal) of obsolete Standard English *eavesing*, itself an extended form of *eaves*.]

east, aist *adjective* **1** east. **2** on the right hand side.

- ◆ *noun* the east.
- **easterlin** the easterly wind.
- **when the wind is in the aist, it's neither good for man nor baste**
rhyme
[Older form in Scots and English *aist*.]

Easter, Aister, Aisther *noun* Easter.

- **Easter house** a playhouse made of branches, sacks, *etc.* where children boil eggs at Easter.
[Older form in Scots and English *Aister*.]

easy *see* ease.

eat, ate; *past tense* **ett**; *past participle* **etten, ate, ett**; *verb* eat.

- **an atin' horse never or rarely founders** meaning that a good appetite is the basis of good health.
- **ate-the-bolts** a name for a person who is a glutton for work.
- **eat, drink and give the house a good name**
- **eaten: eaten bread's soon forgotten** people are apt to forget favours done them.
- **eat the face off someone, also eat someone** scold someone severely, "snap someone's head off".
- **if you've little to eat you'll have a fine view, said the man when he tethered his horse on the top of a rock**
- **when all's ate, supper's over** meaning that there is nothing more to be said or done.

[Older form in Scots and English *ate*. Past tense: the pronunciation *ett* is accepted in Standard English, but not written as such. Past participle: Scots and English dialectal form *etten*, Warwickshire also *ett*. *See also* unatable.]

eave *see* eaves.

eaves: eave pipe, eave rone, eave spout, eave spouting, eave spurtin
a gutter running under the eaves.

See also easing.

echt, echty *see* eight.

ecker, acker *Belfast, noun* homework.

[Possibly a mangled and shortened form of *exercise*.]

eddis *noun, also eddises* an eddish, an after-crop, a second crop of grass, *etc.*

eddy, aidy *noun* **1** an eddy. **2** a down-draught in a chimney.

- **eddy wind** a wind coming in gusts.

edge *see* aitch.

edgy, edgie *adjective* quick-tempered, easily provoked.

ee *see* eye.

eediot, eedyit, eejit *noun* an idiot.

- **half-boiled idiot** someone who is not very right-wise.
[Scots form, preserving the vowel of French *idiot*.]

eel: eel-backed *of a horse* having a black line along its back.

- **eel oil** oil from eels, used as a cure for deafness.
- **eelskin** used raw as bandages for sprains.
- **eelweed** *noun* a wild flower: the pond water crowfoot *Ranunculus peltatus*.
- **he etc. is like the eels, he's got used to it** a reference to the skinning of eels.

eelans *see* eelins.

ee-lasher *see* lash.

eelins, ealins, eilings, eelans *noun plural* equals in age.

[Scots, from *eild* "age" (from Old Northumbrian *eldu* "old age") + *-ing*.]

een *see* end, eye, one.

eenagh *noun* ivy.

eeriwig *see* eariewig.

eeroch, airach *noun* pain in children's legs thought to be caused by the east wind, *especially* in March and April.

[Hiberno-English *ira*, from Irish *oighreach* "sores caused by cold or chafing". *See also* ayre.]

eezin *see* easing.

efter, efernin, efther *see* after.

efernin *see* after.

efther *see* after.

egg, agg *noun* an egg.

◆ *verb* **agg someone up** "egg someone on".

□ **as full as an egg is of butter**

□ **egg-milk** beaten egg used in place of milk.

□ **egg nog** egg whisked and fried in bacon fat.

□ **egg wrack** a seaweed: knotted wrack *Ascophyllum nodosum*.

□ **peeled egg** a soft job, "an easy number".

□ **there's a rayson for roastin' eggs** cf. "est modus in rebus".

eggravate *verb* aggravate, annoy.

eight, ett, echt, aicht *numeral* eight.

□ **echty** eighty.

□ **eight days, aidays** a week *e.g.* *Friday aidays* a week on Friday.

□ **Thursday, etc. was eight days, Thursday, etc. a eight days** a week ago on Thursday, *etc.*

[Scots forms *echt, aicht*.]

eilings *see* eelins.

eireog *see* errock.

either, ether, ayther *adverb* either.

□ **eitherways** either way, in any case.

[Scots, also Isle of Man, form *ether*; Scots and English dialectal form *ayther*.]

eke *noun* **1** an extra bit or portion; *specifically* an addition *e.g.* to a building. **2** a slender stake used in the framework of an eel trap in a weir.

Illustration see skeagh².

□ **ekes and ends** odds and ends, fragments.

ekker *noun* homework.

elaiven *see* eleeven.

elaskit *noun, adjective* elastic.

[Scots form.]

elbow, elba, elbuck *noun* the elbow.

□ **elbow grease, elba creash** hard work with the arms *e.g.* *Put more elbow grease into it*.

□ **more power to your elbow** expressing encouragement.

[Scots forms *elba, elbuck*.]

elder¹, eldher, alder *noun* **1** *also* **elder bag** an udder. **2** one of the teats of an udder.

[Hiberno-English and English dialectal *elder*, from Middle Dutch *elder*.]

elder² *noun* the alder tree *Alnus spp.* [in Standard English, a different tree, *Sambucus niger*.]

elder³ *Presbyterian* eldership *e.g.* *They tuk the elder aff him*.

eleeven, elaiven [rhymes with "Stephen" or "raven"], **leven** *numeral* eleven.

□ **he etc. has only eleven cuts to the hank** *he etc.* is mentally deficient.

□ **'leven o'clock dinner** an early dinner (*i.e.* the midday meal).

□ **leventh** eleventh.

[Scots forms.]

elegant, illigant *adjective* very good, excellent.

element: that's the element! "that's the stuff!": expressing approval.

elf: elf-shot *noun* **1** an elf-bolt, a prehistoric flint arrowhead, chisel *etc.*, supposedly a fairy weapon used to cause disease in cattle, in revenge for the destruction of trees by cattle rubbing against them. **2** illness, lack of appetite in cattle supposed to be caused by (a) an elf-bolt. (b) a witch's spell.

◆ *adjective, of a cow* affected in this way.

□ **elfstone** **1** an elf-bolt (actually a prehistoric flint arrowhead, chisel, *etc.*). **2** a fossil resembling an arrowhead.

See also horse.

elk *noun* the whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*.

[Obsolete in Standard English (latterly Northern English), origin unknown.]

else *adverb* otherwise.

□ **me and me else** **1** myself and the other(s) with me. **2** me and others like me.

□ **you and you else** you and the others with you.

elsin, elshin *noun* **1** a shoemaker's awl; a bradawl. **2** *figuratively* a sharp-tongued, nasty person.

□ **lade the sea with an elsyn** perform an impossible task.

□ **the height o' nonsense is supping sour milk wi' an elsyn**

[Scots and Northern English *elsin*, Scots also *elshin*; from Middle Flemish and Middle Dutch *elsen* "a shoemaker's awl".]

emmer *noun* an ember.

[Scots form, from Old English •*merzæ*. The *b* of Standard English *ember* is an insertion.]

emmet *noun* an ant.

[Archaic in Standard English. *Ant* is an altered form of the same word.]

empy *adjective, verb* empty.

□ **an empy house is better nor an ill tenant**

□ **the oftener empied, the sooner filled**

[Scots form.]

emsha *see* amsha.

encient *see* ancient.

encounter make it *e.g.* *He was too lazy to encounter the rent.*

end, en', een *noun* **1** an end, the end. **2** a room; *specifically* an additional room, an extension.

□ **end land, end ridge, end rig** the strip of land where the horse or tractor turns in ploughing, afterwards ploughed at right angles; *see* rig⁴.

□ **end room** the sitting-room in a traditional house.

□ **endways:**

□ **endways on** with the end turned towards you.

□ **he or she doesn't know which en' of him or her is up** **1** said of a child or adult who is in high spirits; *cf.* fling. **2** said of someone flustered or upset.

□ **on en', on your en'** ready for a fight.

[Scots form *en'*, English dialectal form *een(d)*.]

endeavour: do your endeavour do your utmost, try as hard as you can [archaic in Standard English].

□ **his etc. endeavour** his *etc.* utmost.

end's errand *see* errand.

endue *see* indue.

eneugh, eneuch, enyuch, enooch, enyooch, enoch, enow, enoo *adjective, adverb* enough.

[Scots forms *eneugh, eneuch, enyuch, enooch, enyooch, enoch; enow* archaic in Standard English; *enoo* English dialectal and, rarely, Scots.]

engage *verb* (I'll) bet [rare in Standard English].

□ **engagement** a written warranty given to the buyer of a cow or horse.

See also gage.

enjain *noun* **1** an ingenious contrivance or invention. **2** the base of the framework of an eel trap in a weir; (for illustration of *eel trap*, see *skeagh*²).

[Scots form of *engine*. For the sense, cf. Standard English *ingenious*.]

enkle *noun*, also **anklet**, **aunklet**, **ankler** the ankle.

[Scots form *anklet*, possibly *ankle* + archaic English *lith* "a limb".]

enoch, **enoo**, **enooch**, **enow** *see* *eneugh*.

enterduction *noun* an introduction.

entertainment *noun* **1** board and lodging (for people or horses). **2** food *e.g. lodging and entertainment, entertainment for man and beast*.

entherals *noun plural* entrails.

entire, **intire** *adjective* financially independent, retired from business.

◆ *noun* [**en-tire**] an entire (a stallion).

□ **entirely** *rare* used at the end of a sentence for emphasis *e.g. He was a desperate villain entirely*.

[Old form (still Lincolnshire) *intire*.]

entize *verb* entice.

[Altered on the model of verbs in *-ize*.]

entry *noun*, in a built-up area a narrow lane or passage between buildings; also **back entry**

□ **entry mouth** the entrance of a narrow lane or passage, where it opens onto the street.

enyooch, **enyuch** *see* *eneugh*.

er *see* *away*, *back*, *be*.

ere *see* *ear*².

ere: **ere yesterday** the day before yesterday.

*See also ear*².

erig *see* *errock*.

erish, **errish** *noun* a loop of rods worked into the top of a creel to allow it to hang from a saddle.

[Irish *iris*, *eiris*.]

ern *see* *errand*.

ern: **have an ern for** have a flair for, be good at *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

errand, **erran'**, **ern**, **arran'**, **airn** *noun* an errand.

□ **a poor arran' t' this worl'** an unfortunate life; ill-luck, a bad marriage.

□ **go an arran'** run an errand.

□ **he or she will do anything but work or run arran's** said of a lazy person.

□ **if A make an' erran' tae yer face, it'll no be tae kiss ye** a threat.

□ **if my hands make an errand to your face they will mark it well for you** a threat.

□ **once errand, one's end errand, one errand, an end's errand, one end's errand** *noun* a single errand, a sole errand.

◆ *adverb*, also **on one end's errand** on purpose, specially *e.g. He came an end's errand to tease me* [cf. Irish *d'aonturas* literally "for one journey"]; *see also one*.

[Scots forms *erran'*, *ern*, *airant*; North-West Midland form *arrand*.]

errish *see* *erish*.

errock, **errick**, **eireog**, **erig**, **earock**, **eyrick**, **ayrick**, **erruch** *noun* **1** a pullet (a young hen just beginning to lay). **2** *figuratively* a lively, pretty girl.

□ **what scrapin's in an erruck's eggs?**

[*Errock, etc.* from Irish *eireog*; also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *eireag*; Scots form also *ayrick*.]

erse *see* *arse*.

ert *see* *airt*, *art*.

es go brah off, away. *usually es go brah with him* off he went.

esh *see* ash¹.

esker *noun* a ridge of gravel left behind by a glacier.

- **bar-esker**: *geological* **shoal-esker**: *geological*
[Irish *eiscir*, also adopted in Standard English as a geological term.]

esp *see* aspy.

espaicially *adverb* especially.

espibawn, espibaun *noun* a wild flower: the ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*.

- [Irish *easpag bán* literally "white bishop", itself an alteration of *easpag speatháin* literally "bishop of the shrivelled stem"; *cf.* bishop.]

ess: **ess-hook** a hook shaped like the letter S.

esscuse *noun* an excuse.

estated *adjective* landed, property-owning.

eternal, etarnal, tarnal, neternal, naternal, natarnal *adjective emphatic* infernal *e.g.* *He's an eternal villain*.

- **an eternal time** a long time.
- **eternally** *emphatic* extremely [influenced by Irish *síoraí* (*see* murder), which means both "eternally" and "extremely"].
[Old form *etarnal*, Hiberno-English and English dialectal also *tarnal*.
The forms with *n* are by wrong division of *an eternal*, *etc.*]

ethen *see* and.

ether *see* either.

ett *see* eat, eight.

etten *see* eat.

ettercap *see* attercop.

ettle *verb* **1 ettle to** intend, aim to, have it in mind to. **2 ettle for** try to obtain, aim for.

- [Scots and northern English, from Old Norse *ætla* "to purpose".]

eumour duck's meat.

even *verb* **1** lower, demean (yourself). **2** hint at, suggest. **3** suspect, guess. **4** lack, want for.

- **anoo** "even now", right now; *see* noo.
- **even ash** an ash leaf with an even number of leaflets, used for fortune-telling. A girl who finds one repeats a rhyme, "This even ash I hold in my han', The first I meet is my true man". She then asks the Christian name of the first man or boy she meets, and this will be the name of her future husband. [ILLUS: even/ash]
- **even-down** *adjective, of rain* heavy, continuous.
- ◆ *adverb* downright.
- **evenlier** more even.
- **even on** *of rain* heavily, continuously.
- **evens** even, quits.
- **even someone to someone else** **1** compare, put someone on the same level as someone else. **2** hint that someone is going to marry someone else.
- **even something to someone** impute something to someone, accuse someone of something.
- **even your wit to** lower yourself to bandy words with, condescend to argue with.

evening, evenin *noun* the afternoon.

- **evening goat** a bird: the common snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
[translation of Irish *gabhairín oíche* literally "little goat of the evening"];
cf. air.
- **evening tea, evenin' tae** high tea.

evenyie *see* avenyie.

ever, iver, ivver *adverb* **1** ever. **2** always, on all occasions *e.g.* *It came from Athlone, so they just ever called it Athlone* [archaic in Standard English]. **3** used in polite requests *e.g.* *Have you ever ten pence on you?*

- **always and everly** *emphatic* always.
- **ever and always** *emphatic* always.

□ **ever a one** any, anyone at all.

□ **everly:**

[Scots and English dialectal form *iver*, *ivver*.]

every *adjective* each (of two).

□ **everyhow** "anyhow", in disorder.

□ **everyways** in every way.

□ **every week days** on weekdays.

evet *noun* a newt.

[Southern English form, see **neft**.]

evil *noun*, *usually* **the evil** a disease: tuberculosis of the lymphatic glands, also called the "King's Evil".

ex *see* **ax**.

ex *noun* an axe.

□ **taking the axe out of the carpenter's hands** said of an incompetent person taking any business out of the hands of someone better able to do it.

[Scots form.]

exact *adjective* expert.

example *noun*, *derogatory* a "sight", someone badly or oddly dressed.

exceptin *adverb* except.

exclaim *verb* **exclaim on** blame, find fault with.

□ **exclaimings** accusations.

exekitor *noun* an executor (of a will).

[Scots form.]

exercises *noun plural*, *also* **family exercises** worship, prayer.

exle *see* ashel-tree.

expect: not expected not expected to recover from an illness.

expose *verb* expound, explain.

extortioners, extortions *noun plural*, *jocular* nasturtiums.

extraordinary *adjective* extraordinary.

[Scots form.]

ey *see* **aye**.

eye, ee, *also incorrectly* **een**; *plural* **een**; *noun* **1** the eye. **2** *auctioneering* the amount of hay contained between the two pillars of a hayshed.

□ **all my eye and Betty Martin** expressing incredulity.

□ **do ye see any green in the fat of my eye?**

□ **eebroo** eyebrow; *see* **broo**³.

□ **every eye forms its own beauty**

□ **eyebright** a wild flower: the germander speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys* [in Standard English, a different flower, *Euphrasia officinalis*]; *see also* **Billy**.

□ **eyeful: eyesight:**

□ **eyes like burnt holes in a blanket, eyes like two burnt holes in a blanket** describing red-rimmed eyes, as from crying.

□ **eyesore** *figuratively* a cause for regret.

□ **eyesweet** pleasant to look at, handsome.

□ **eye-tooth:**

□ **eye-winker** **1** an eyelash. **2** *in plural* blinkers.

□ **have a bad ee in your head** be untrustworthy.

□ **have (a person) in your eye** have your eye on (a person of the opposite sex).

□ **he or she has cut his or her eye-tooth, he or she has all his or her eye-teeth about him or her** he or she is shrewd, capable, wise.

□ **if it caught his or her eye** if it occurred to him or her.

□ **not have an eye** said of a child going over to sleep.

□ **please your eye if your heart should ache for it** describing someone in love with a beautiful, though useless, person.

□ **put your fingers in your eyes and make starlight** ignore a thing of true worth for something trivial.

□ **when the right eye itches, it is a sign of crying, when the left eye itches, it is a sign of laughing**

□ **yes, and keep your eyesight** said by a pious person when someone wishes they could never see something again.

□ **your eye was your merchant** said to a person who has bought something unwisely.

[Scots and Northern English form *ee*. Plural: Scots and Northern English form *een*.]

eyrick *see* errock.

fa' *see* fall.

face *verb* **1** face (a person) down; confront (a person). **2** pay court to (a woman).

□ **a face as long as a coachman's whip**

□ **a face like a funeral** a sad expression.

□ **a face on him or her a yard an' a half long**

□ **face card** *playing cards* a court card.

□ **faced: faced around like a beetle** "two-faced", hypocritical.

□ **face dyke** a field boundary wall with a single vertical face of sods or stones; *see* dyke. [ILLUS: face/dyk]

□ **facing, facin** something you have to face up to.

□ **facings** *in a flax mill* scutching blades. *Illustration see* targe.

□ **facing stick** a forked stick.

□ **have a hundred faces, have more faces than the town clock, etc.** be "two-faced", be a hypocrite.

□ **have no face** be modest, self-effacing.

□ **have no face on it** *of a rumour, excuse, etc.* be unlikely, implausible.

□ **I hae seen shorter ones haltered afore now** referring to a person's horse-like face.

□ **out of the face, out of a face, out of face** *adjective* **1** *of a place* upset, disordered *e.g.* by the wind. **2** back to front.

◆ **adverb** **1** steadily, incessantly; straight off. **2** methodically, in an orderly way. **3** *figuratively, of eating* greedily.

□ **the face of clay** any living person.

faceable *adjective* plausible.

□ **faisant** *adjective, of a person* reliable, obliging.

[Scots *faisible* "neat, tidy, presentable", from Old French *faisible* (which is also the source of Standard English *feasible*.)]

faceoge *see* fizog.

fack *see* feck¹.

fack *noun* **1** a type of spade. **2** a blackboard pointer.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *feac* "(the shaft of) a spade".]

factor *noun* a land agent, a person who collects rent, lets out land, *etc.* on behalf of the landowner.

[Scots; from Latin *factor*, French *facteur*.]

factory, factory *noun* **1** a factory. **2** **factory** a group of workers gathered to do communal work; *specifically* to help the blacksmith with his farmwork.

fad *see* fod¹.

fada: fada go leor an taobh sin that is enough of that; we do not want to hear any more of that.

faddle *noun* **1** a fool *usually* **make an oul' faddle of someone** trick someone. **2** a mess, a botched job.

[Possibly a form of *fiddle*.]

faddom *see* fathom.

fadge *noun* **1** *also* **fadge bread** a thick loaf of wheaten bread baked on a griddle. **2** *also* **potato-fadge, etc.** bread made of mashed potatoes and flour baked on a griddle. **3** a large piece broken off an oatcake.

4 *figuratively* an irregularly shaped bundle of goods.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

fae *see* frae.

fag: **fagged out** *of cloth* frayed, ravelled.

□ **faggie** *adjective* tired.

See also fegs¹.

fagary, figary, figeery *noun* **1** a vagary, a whim, a fixation. **2** *in plural* unnecessary decorations on clothing, *etc.*

[General dialectal and Scots form of *vagary*. *See also* fleegarie.]

faggot *noun, abusive, of a woman or child* a useless person; *specifically, of a woman* (**a**) a slattern, a dirty housekeeper; (**b**) a scold.

[The same word as Standard English *faggot* "a bundle of sticks".]

fahal *verb* stagger, lurch around; fall over yourself in pointless, flustered activity.

faich *see* fech.

faiks, faix, fex *exclamation* a disguised oath: "faith", indeed; *cf.* fegs².

fail *verb* grow weak, decline in health.

□ **failed**, *superlative*, **faildest**, very ill, having lost weight or aged suddenly.

□ **it fails** *or* **will fail you to** you are or will be unable to.

fain *adjective* **1** willing, inclined. **2** happy, pleased *only in the saying an east rain makes fools fain (they think it's goin to fair, but it rains the mair)*; *see* fair¹, more.

fair¹, fer *adverb* **1** thoroughly, completely, very *e.g.* *I'm fair surprised.*

2 exactly, just *e.g.* *Look fair in front o ye.*

◆ *adjective* complete, utter.

◆ *verb, also fair up* *of the weather* clear up, stop raining.

□ **fair and easy** what is right *e.g.* *Don't be hasty, for fair an' aisy goes far in the day.*

□ **fair-faced** *of a photograph* front on.

□ **fairish** **1** considerable in amount; fairly large. **2** tolerably well in health.

□ **fairly** completely.

□ **fair ring** a fairy ring (a circle of darker grass in a field).

□ **fair shed** *in the hair* a straight parting.

□ **fair to middlin, fair to middling** *especially of health* tolerable.

□ **fair to yer face an' false behin' yer back**

fair²: behind the fair too late.

□ **fairing** a gift bought at a fair.

□ **take (a person) to the fair** astonish (a person).

fairfochan *see* forfoughten.

fairgorta, fer-gorta, feargartha, far-gortach, fir-gortach, farra-gortach

[the "ch" is not pronounced] *noun* **1** hungry grass, a kind of coarse grass supposed to grow: (**a**) where a person has eaten and not left anything for the fairies; (**b**) where someone died of hunger during the Famine. Anyone who steps on it becomes suddenly hungry and faint. **2** an unnatural hunger that attacks a person even after a meal.

[Irish *féar gorta*, from *féar* "grass" + *gorta* "hunger, famine".

Sometimes identified as quaking grass *Briza media* (*cf.* fairy).]

fairlie *noun* a fairing, a present bought at a fair; *cf.* fair², ferly.

[Perhaps influenced by ferly.]

fairy: fairies' corn a wild flower with edible roots: the bitter vetchling *Lathyrus montanus* [*corn* may be a mistake for *corm*, *cf.* mash-corns].

□ **fairy cap** a wild flower: the foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*. *Illustration see* sheegie.

□ **fairy changeling** a child supposed to have been left by the fairies.

□ **fairy dart** an elf-shot.

□ **fairy finger(s)**, *also* **red fairy fingers** the foxglove. *Illustration see* sheegie.

□ **fairy flax** a wild flower: eyebright *Euphrasia officinalis* [in Standard English, a different flower: *see* fairy lint below].

□ **fairy flowers** a wild flower: stitchwort *Stellaria spp.*

□ **fairy grass** quaking grass *Briza media*; *cf.* fairgorta.

- **fairy green** a fairy ring (a circle of darker grass in a field).
- **fairy horse** a wild flower: the ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*.
- **fairy lint** a wild flower: purging flax *Linum catharticum*, also known as fairy flax.
- **fairy pipes** clay pipes dug up in the fields.
- **fairy sheaf** the last sheaf of the harvest, formerly offered to the fairies.
*Illustration see churn*².
- **fairy soap** a wild flower: common milkwort *Polygala vulgaris* [the roots and leaves can be used to give a lather for washing the hands].
- **fairy stool** a toadstool.
- **fairy-stricken, fairy-struck** *of a person* supposedly struck by elfshot, *i.e.* bewitched.
- **fairy thimble** *or thimbles, fairies' thimble* a wild flower: (a) the foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*; *see also sheegie. Illustration see sheegie*; (b) the harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*.
- **fairy thorn** *or tree* a hawthorn bush left standing in the middle of a field in the belief that misfortune would result from cutting it down. [ILLUS: fairy/th]
- **fairy tickles** freckles; *cf. ferntickles*.
- **fairy umbrella** a toadstool.
- **fairy wind** a sudden gust of wind [translation of Irish *sí gaoithe* "gust of wind", misunderstood as containing *sí* "fairy"].
- **you're not a fairy** said when someone sneezes [fairies are not susceptible to cold]; *see also founder, skin*.

faishin *see faysant*.

faith, feth *exclamation* a mild oath: "faith", indeed.

- **faith and sang** *exclamation, literally* faith and blood; *see sang*¹.
- **faith and troth** *exclamation*

*See also fegs*², haith, hech, hegs.

faither, fether *noun* a father.

[Scots and Northern English form *faither*, Scots also *fether*.]

faix *see faiks*.

fake: **fake about** waste time, potter about.

- **faked up** dressed up.

falahan *noun* food *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

falaira *see valaira*.

fall, fa'; *past participle faun*; *verb* **1** fall. **2** fell, throw down; *hence*

falling-hatchet an axe used for felling trees.

◆ *noun, also fall of the leaf, fall o leaf* autumn [*fall* archaic in Standard English, except U.S.A.].

- **fa' lek a hunderd o' bricks, fa' lek a ton o' brees**
- **fall away** grow thin, decline.
- **fallen-star** *noun* the jelly tremella *Tremella nostoc*, a gelatinous plant found after rain on paths, *etc.*
- **fall-flap** the front opening of an old-fashioned pair of men's trousers.
- **falling: falling asunder** the time of confinement of a woman giving birth.
- **fallin' ground** the downward slope *e.g.* of a road on a hill.
- **falling-sickness** *noun* epilepsy.
- **fall in pieces** fall to pieces, break apart.
- **fall into 1** come into (a legacy, *etc.*). **2** lapse into, *thus fall into flesh* grow stouter.
- **fall of day, fall o' day** evening.
- **fall off your feet** fall, drop with exhaustion.
- **fall of the night:**
- **fall on your right side** "fall on your feet" (*i.e.* be fortunate).
- **fall over** fall asleep.
- **fall to pieces, fall in two pieces, fall in two** *of a woman* give birth.

- **fell to other, fell out** quarrel.
- **he'll not fall out wi' his own company**
- **he or she will not fall in a hole** said of a person late in rising in the morning.

[Scots form *fa'*.]

fallidols *see* fal-the-dals.

falloch *noun* a lump, a large piece, *especially* of food.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

fallow *see* fella¹.

fallow: **fallow chat** a bird: the wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* [*chat* as in *whinchat, stonechat, etc.*].

false, fause *adjective* **1** false. **2** of a horse vicious. **3** of a person lazy [influenced by Irish *fallsa*, which means both "false" and "lazy"].

- **false-face, fause-face** a mask *especially* one worn by children at Hallowe'en.
- **false nail** a loose piece of skin below or at the side of a fingernail, a hangnail.
- **false oat** the false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*.

[Scots and English dialectal form *fause*; from Old French *fals, faus*, Latin *falsus*.]

fal-the-dals, fallidols *noun plural* falderals.

famar, famarach *noun* a species of dogfish.

- **famar oil** dogfish oil, used as a cure for sprains.

[Irish *fámaire*.]

familagh *see* feamain liagh.

famished, femished *adjective* **1** famished. **2** famished for "dying for".

3 perished with cold.

famlach *see* feamnach.

fammaliagh *see* feamain liagh.

fammanyagh *see* feamnach.

fammelled *see* whammel.

famous *adjective* excellent, very good.

- ◆ *adverb* excellently, splendidly.
- **famously** excellently, splendidly.

fan *verb, of a dog* fawn; *see also* fandough.

fan' *see* find.

fan¹ *noun* **1** an instrument for winnowing corn. **2** fans a bellows.

- ◆ *verb* winnow (corn).

- **fanner, fanners** **1** an instrument for winnowing corn. **2** *also* fan bellows a type of bellows.

Fanad: out of the world into Fanad (or Inis Eoghain) to a remote place.

fancy: fancy buys the ribbon, fancy buys the ribbon, but taste wears it

find *see* find.

fandough *verb, of a young man* trail after (a young woman); *cf.* fan.

fang *verb* hold, grip, catch.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal); Old English *fōn*, past participle *fangen*. *See also* fank².]

fangle *verb* become entangled.

- **fangled** entangled.

Cf. fang, fank².

fangs *noun plural* the roots of the teeth.

fank¹ a sheepfold, an enclosure for sheep.

[Scots; origin unknown, also in Scottish Gaelic as *fang*.]

fank² *verb* entangle; become entangled.

- ◆ *noun* an entanglement.
 - **fanked, also fanked up** entangled; *of knitting wool, etc.* tangled.
 - **fankle** *verb* entangle; become entangled; *see also* fangle.
 - ◆ *noun* a tangle (of knitting wool, *etc.*).
- [Scots *fank*, a form of *fang*.]

fannacey *noun* the space between the two upper front teeth *Mid Ulster*.

[*Cf.* Irish *fánas*.]

faoilleachs *noun plural* variable weather in January and February.

[Irish *faoilleach*.]

- **as far as ye could throw a bird by the tail** a measure of distance.
- **so far!** goodbye.

far¹, **fer** *adverb* far.

◆ *noun* distance, *e.g.* *all the far I got*.

- **far and away, far away** by much, by far.
- **far away birds have fine feathers, far aff birds have fine feathers**
- **far-downer**, *also wee far-downer* *nickname, literally* someone from far north: a person from Co. Donegal; *see* **down**.
- **far end** the point farthest away.
- **far-land**:
- **farness** distance *e.g.* *What farness off do you live?*
- **far out** *of people* distantly related.
- **far side** the offside: **(a)** the right-hand side of a field or a horse; **(b)** the left-hand side of a cow.
- **far through 1** exhausted from fatigue and hunger; far advanced in a fatal illness, nearly dead. **2** *of supplies of commodities such as sugar* nearly finished.
- **far too nice to be wholesome** said of a person with ostentatiously good manners.
- **fill the far-lands** take enough food to travel on.
- **I could see him or her far enough** expressing a wish to get rid of someone's company.

[Scots and English dialectal form *fer*.]

far² *noun* a farrow, a litter of pigs.

[Southern English, shortened form of *farrow*.]

faratee *noun* **1** the man of the house. **2** the master of ceremonies.

3 *sarcastic* applied to a woman speaking out with authority in a normally male-dominated situation.

[Ulster Irish *fear an toighe* (Standard Irish *fear an tí*). *Cf.* *banati*.]

farbrayge, far brague *noun* a scarecrow.

fardel *noun* a bundle, a burden.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal), from Old French *fardel*.]

farder, fardher, ferder *adverb* farther, further.

[Scots and Northern English form *farder*.]

fardin, farden, ferdin *noun* a farthing.

- **a pound hat an' a farden tail** said of a girl with a nice hat and a hole in her stocking.
- **fardin candles** *or dips* *jocular* snot dripping from the nose.
- **oul' split-the-fardin** *nickname* a miser.
- **rue without time is not worth a farden**

[Scots and English dialectal forms.]

fardle, farl *noun* **1** **(a)** a quarter of a circular griddle scone, *etc.*, *thus* **soda farl, wheaten farl, potato farl, etc.**; **(b)** a quarter of an oatcake. **2** loosely, a portion of a griddle scone, oatcake, *etc.* **3** a griddle scone. [ILLUS: fardle]

- **oat farl, also oaten farl** a piece of oatcake.

[Scots, from Old English *fēorða d* "fourth part".]

fare

- **fare thee well, an' if for ever, fare thee well**
- **fare ye well, Killevy (I'll never see you more)** *catchphrase*

fareer *exclamation* alas!

far-gortach *see* *fairgorta*.

farin *noun* fare, food.

[*Faring* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots).]

farl *see* fardle.

farl *noun* **1** a ferrule, the tip of a walking stick. **2** a washer, a ring used to tighten taps or bolts.

farly *see* ferly.

farm, ferm, form *noun* a farm.

- by the holy farmer** *exclamation* a disguised oath.
- farmer, fermer, former** **1** a farmer. **2 farmer** the hare.
- farmer's friend** a scarecrow.
- farmer's plague** a wild flower: ground elder *Aegopodium podagraria*; *see also* garden.
- farm holding** a farm with its buildings and land.
- farm o lan'** a farm.
- farmstead** a farmyard.

farntickles *see* ferntickles.

farra *see* forrow.

farrabun *noun* the buttercup and various other flowers of the same genus, *Ranunculaceae*.

farrach *noun* strength, energy, stamina.

[Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *farrach* "force".]

farra-gortach *see* fairgorta.

farrah *noun* the wild war-cry of the Irish Celt.

farran, farrand, farrant *see* old.

farrantickles *see* ferntickles.

farry, farra *noun* **1** a half-loft; *loosely* a roof-space used for storage. **2** a loft over the hearth, between the chimney canopy and the front of the house, or on either side of the chimney canopy.

[Irish *fara*.]

fase *see* faze.

fash *verb* **1** annoy, trouble, harass. **2** bother, trouble **yourself**; *hence* **canna be fashed** "can't be bothered". **3 fash at** become tired of, get annoyed with.

◆ *noun* trouble, worry; disturbance, bother.

◆ *adjective* shy, bashful.

- don't fash your lug** pay no attention, never mind; *see* lug.
- fashed** **1** troubled in mind. **2 fashed with** annoyed with, troubled by.

3 fashed with or **on** fed up with, tired of.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old French *fascher*. *Cf.* *fasheous*.]

fasheous *adjective* troublesome.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old French *fascheuse* "offensive".

Cf. *fash*.]

fashion *noun* **fashion for** a liking, a fancy for.

◆ *verb* resemble *e.g.* *He fashions his father*.

- fair-fawsoned** "smooth" in speech.
- fawsoned** *adjective* fashioned; *hence* **fair-fawsoned** "smooth" in speech.
- in the fashion** *of a woman* pregnant.

[Scots form *fawson*.]

fassagh, fassah, whassah *noun* roadside grass, used for pasturing livestock.

◆ *verb* herd (cattle) along the roadside verge.

[Irish noun *fásach* "uncropped pasture".]

fast: a monkey wud brak (break) his neck there, afore his fast *sarcastic*

- break yer fast** have breakfast.
- fasting spit, fasting spittle** spittle produced before a person has eaten, used as a cure for boils, warts, ringworm, *etc.* [*fasting spittle* archaic in Standard English].

faste, faist *noun* a feast, a big meal.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

Fasten: Fasten e'en, fasten's e'en Shrove Tuesday.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *fæsten* "fasting".]

fasten: **fastened**, **fessent**, **fezzent** *of a person* set in his or her ways; advanced in years; *hence fastened girl* a confirmed old maid.

□ **fasten (the) life in (a person)** *of food or drink* strengthen, revive (a person).

[Scots and Northern English form *festen*.]

fat *see* what.

fat¹: **as fat as a fool** stout and healthy looking.

□ **cut it a bit fat** put on airs.

□ **well-fatted** *of a child* well-nourished.

fate: **he whose fate it is to be hanged will never be drowned**

□ **the father (and mother) of (a thing)** a big, excellent or excessive (thing).

fathom, **faddom** *noun* a measure used for measuring round a haycock: a fathom (the length of the two arms outstretched); *hence five-fathom rick* a large haycock.

◆ *verb* fathom.

[Scots and English dialectal form *faddom*.]

fatigue *noun* hard wear, rough usage.

fattin-stone: *e.g. sooner nor become a fattin-stone for you.*

faught *see* fight.

fauld, **foul'** *noun, verb* fold.

□ **fowlin table** a folding table.

□ **two-fauld**, **twa-faul'** *of a person* very stooped.

[Scots and Northern English form *fauld*, Scots also *faul'*, English dialectal also *fowld*.]

faun *see* fall.

faured *see* well².

fause *see* false.

faut *noun, verb* fault.

□ **your pardon's granted, but the fault's the same**

[General dialectal and Scots form; from Old French *faute* *noun*, *fauter* *verb*. The *l* of Standard English *fault* is an insertion.]

faver *see* fever.

favour

□ **-favoured** -looking. *thus ill-favoured* ugly. **well-favoured** handsome, beautiful.

□ **kissing goes by favour** *pun*

fawlkie, **folkie** *adjective* welcome.

□ **ceud míle fáilte** a warm welcome.

□ **ceud míle fáilte romhat** an expression of welcome; *lit* a hundred thousand welcomes (before you).

□ **folkie for** interested in *e.g. I wasn't that folkie for the fish anyway.*

[Irish *fáilte* *noun* "welcome".]

fawney *noun* a ring.

[Irish *fáinne*.]

fawsoned *see* fashion.

fay, **fey** *noun* a fairy.

faynig *see* finag.

faysant, **faysan**, **faishin**, **fesan**, **phaisan** *noun* a pheasant.

[Scots forms *faysan(t)*, *etc.*, English dialectal *fesan*; from Anglo-French *fesant*, Old French *fesan*.]

faze, **fase**, **feeze**, **fizz** *verb, usually faze on, frequently of alcohol* take effect on, act upon, stir (someone) up.

[Scots and English dialectal "drive, disturb", from Old English *Jēsian*.

Hence American - and now British - English *faze* "upset (a person)".]

feadoge *noun* **1** the waterpipe *Equisetum limosum*. **2 feedogue** *jocular* a spider.

feal *verb* hide, conceal.

[Northern English, from Old Norse *fela*.]

fealltach, fealltac *adjective* **1** treacherous; dangerous. **2** deceitful, that which would deceive.

feam *noun* the stump to which the sea-weed is attached.

feamain liagh, fammaliagh, familagh *noun* a seaweed: (a) dabberlocks *Alaria esculenta*; (b) horned wrack *Fucus ceranoides*.

[Irish *feamainn* "seaweed" + *leathach* (see *liagh*).]

feamnach, fyamnach, femnagh, fammanyagh, famlach *noun* **1** seaweed in general. **2** *specifically* bladderwrack *Fucus vesiculosus*. **3** long green growth on stones in a river.

[Irish *feamnach* "seaweed".]

fear *verb* frighten, scare [archaic in Standard English].

- divil a fear!, no fears!** *emphatic negative* "no fear", "no chance"!
- feardie** a coward.
- feardie** easily frightened.
- feared, feard, feart** afraid, frightened.
- fearful** very, extremely.
- fearsome** timid, frightened.
- fearsomeless** fearless.
- for fear** for fear that, lest.
- for feard, also feard** for fear that, lest; *cf.* *afeard*.
- in fear** afraid (that).

fear-deirce *noun* a beggar-man.

feargartha *see* *fairgorta*.

fearkan *noun* the primrose *Primula vulgaris*.

feat *adjective* neat, tidy.

[Scots and English dialectal "suitable, proper", from Old French *fait*.]

feather *noun, in plural* the grain, the markings seen in polished wood.

- feathered** **1** *figuratively* dressed, clothed. **2** *of a bush* having new growth of green twigs.
- I doubt the feathers carried the game away** said of a missed shot.
- in high feather** in good spirits.

featherfew *noun* a herb: feverfew *Tanacetum parthenium*.

[Scots and English dialectal, alteration of *feverfew* as if containing *feather*.]

Febberwerry, Februeer *noun* February.

- all the months in the year curse a fine Febberwerry**
- if the weather in Febberwerry be fine, there's likely to be two winthers instead of wan**

[Scots and English dialectal form *Febberwerry*, Scots also *Februar*.]

fech, faich *exclamation* a disguised oath: "faith", indeed; *cf.* *fegs*.

fecht *see* *fight*.

feck¹ *noun* **1** efficiency, ability. **2** *also* **fact** a part, a portion, *especially* the greater part; a lot.

- feckfu'** sturdy, vigorous.
- feckless** *of a person* helpless, inefficient, incompetent [also adopted in Standard English].
- fecklessness** worthlessness.
- maist feck, most feck** the greater part.

[Scots and Northern English, shortened form of *effect*.]

feck² *noun* a fit of anxiety; a bad mood *Co. Armagh*.

[Origin unknown.]

factory *see* *factory*.

feddin, fidin *noun* a plot of land, held in *conacre* *Co. Armagh*.

[Origin unknown.]

feed *noun* a good deal (of drink).

feel, past tense and past participle feeled, verb perceive; *specifically* smell, taste, see.

feen *see* *fient*.

feenahait *see* have.

feeorin *see* fiorin.

feerdy *adjective* strong, able-bodied.

[Scots, a blend of Scots *faird* "impetus" (formed on *fare* "to go") and Scots *ferē* "strong" (from Old English **fēre*) + *-y*.]

feersy *noun* farcy, a disease of horses, causing swollen legs.

□ **fiercied, fersied** **1** *of an animal* sick with farcy. **2** *of a horse's legs* swollen, affected by farcy *also, figuratively, of a person*.

feety-feety *see* wheet.

feeze *see* faze.

fegs¹ *noun plural* coarse, dry grass.

[English dialectal *fags* "odds and ends of pasture grass", the same word as Standard English *fag-end* (*see* **fag**).]

fegs² *exclamation, also in fegs* a disguised oath: **faith**, indeed.

[Scots and Northern English; shortened form of (*by my*) *faykins*, from Old French *fei* **faith** + English *-kins* suffix. *See also* **trogs**.]

feint *see* fient.

felan *see* felon.

fell: *past participle* **felt**

□ **luk like a felt hare** look stunned.

fell¹ *adjective* grave, serious *e.g.* *a fell blow*.

fella¹, **fla**, **fallow** *noun* **1** a fellow. **2** the equal of.

◆ *verb* match, find the fellow of *only in the phrase you couldn't fallow her in a fair*

□ **young fella me lad** term of address to a young man.

[General dialectal and Scots form *fella*, Scots *also follow*.]

fella² *noun* a felloe, a felly (one of the sections forming the wooden rim of a cartwheel). [ILLUS: *fella*]

felon, felan *noun* **1** a boil, an inflammation. **2** mastitis, a hardening in a cow's udder.

[English dialectal and Southern Scots, from Old French **felon*.]

fel't *noun* a thump, a heavy blow.

felt *see* fell.

felt *noun* a bird: (a) *also* **grey felt, blue felt, large blue felt** the fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*; (b) *also* **small felt** the redwing *Turdus iliacus*; (c) *also* **blue felt, felt thrush** the mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. *Illustration see* shriek.

[Scots and English dialectal *felt* "the fieldfare; the redwing; the mistle thrush", shortened form of dialectal forms *feltieflier, feltyfare, etc.*]

felter *verb* entangle; become entangled.

◆ *noun, only in the phrase he or she has a felter on his or her tongue* said of a person who speaks indistinctly (*e.g.* because of drink).

□ **feltered** entangled.

[Scots and English dialectal, from Old French *feltrer*.]

femished *see* famished.

femly *noun* a family.

[Scots form.]

femnagh *see* feamnach.

fen *see* when.

fen' *verb* fend, *usually* **fen' for yersel**.

□ **fendy** *adjective* able to look after yourself, managing, active, lively; cunning.

[Scots and Northern English form of *fend*, itself a shortened form of *defend*.]

fence *noun* a hedge, dyke or any field boundary.

◆ *verb, also* **fench** fence.

□ **fencer** *noun* a cow or horse that is given to jumping over fences.

□ **fence the tables, fence the Lord's table** *Presbyterian* ensure, in various ways, that only those entitled to receive communion approach the

communion table.

fench *see* fence.

fencible *adjective, historical* liable for defensive military service.

◆ *noun in plural, historical* a paid government militia.

□ **may the first who thought of Fencibles die without benefit of clergy**

[Scots, shortened form of *defensible*.]

fender *noun*: **he'll get a seat in the fender**

fendy *see* fen'.

feniach *noun* a traditional storyteller.

[Origin unknown.]

Fenian, fenian *adjective 1* a name adopted by the Irish Republican

Brotherhood (a nationalist organisation) in the mid nineteenth century.

2 *now abusive* Roman Catholic.

◆ *noun 1 historical* a member of the Fenian movement. **2** *now abusive* a Roman Catholic.

□ **fenian steak** fish [alluding to the practice of eating fish on Fridays].

[Based on Irish *Fiann* "a warrior band", particularly associated with the mythological warrior Fionn macCumhaill.]

fennel *noun* the grating over a drain opening.

fenster *noun* a window.

[Middle English and Older Scots *fenester*, from Old French *fenestre*.]

fer *see* fair¹, far¹.

ferbacka *noun* a lame man.

ferder *see* farder.

ferdin *see* fardin.

fer-fia *see* fir-fia.

fer-gorta *see* fairgorta.

ferly, farly *noun* a wonder, a remarkable occurrence, a strange sight; *of a person, abusive* a freak.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *ferligr* "monstrous, dreadful".]

ferm *see* farm.

fermeara *noun* a madman.

fermer *see* farm.

fern *noun* bracken.

fernent *see* fore.

ferntickles, farnickles, farrantickles, fernytickles *noun plural* freckles; liver spots on an elderly person's skin.

□ **ferntickled** freckled.

□ **The farnickles niver said a word but yin, That they wouldn't light on a din skin** *rhyme*

[Scots, Northern English and Somerset; perhaps from their resemblance to the spores of ferns.]

fersied *see* feersy.

fesan *see* faysant.

fessent *see* fasten.

fest *verb* fasten, make fast.

[Northern English *fest*; form of obsolete Standard English *fast*, from Old English *faestan* (replaced in Standard English by *fasten*).]

festers *noun plural* boils on the skin.

fetch¹ *verb 1* take *e.g.* *The train fetched me to Belfast* [outside Ireland, this means "bring"]. **2 fetch on** bring on (crops).

◆ *noun* a story, a piece of gossip.

fetch² *noun 1* a spectre, a wraith, the apparition of a living person. This is believed to be an omen of long life if seen in the morning, of death if seen in the evening. **2** a "double".

[English dialectal and Hiberno-English, origin unknown.]

feth *see* faith.

fether *see* faither.

fettle *verb*, also **fettle (something) up** **1** put to rights, settle (a thing).

2 *figuratively* polish off, finish off, get done with.

□ **fettler** a person who trims rough metal castings after they are taken out of the moulds.

[General dialectal and Scots; from Middle English *fetlen* "make ready", itself possibly an altered form of Old English *fetian* "to fetch".]

feug, **feuggy**, **feughy** *see* fyuggy.

fever, **faver** *noun*, usually **the fever** fever, a fever.

[English dialectal form *faver*.]

few *noun* a moderate amount. *frequently* **a brave few**, **a good few** *etc.*

fex *see* faiks.

fey *noun* ? some species of fish.

fey *adjective* **1** fated to die or to suffer a calamity. **2** possessing second sight.

□ **fidom**, **fidum** a presentiment or omen of death or disaster; an untypical action performed by a person shortly before his or her death, *frequently*

there is a fidom before (a person)

[Scots, from Old English *fīge*.]

fezzent *see* fasten.

fiaha *noun plural* rushes.

fich *see* which.

ficht *see* fight.

fid *noun* a little piece *especially* of tobacco.

fiddern *adjective* of no importance.

fiddle: **a face as long as a fiddle** long-faced, as from ill-humour.

□ **fiddle-diddle** fiddle about, work to no purpose [*cf.* Standard English *fiddle-faddle*].

□ **fiddle-faced** long-faced.

□ **fiddle-faddle** *noun* "fiddlesticks", nonsense.

□ **fiddle-faddles** *noun plural* whims, silly notions; trivial pastimes.

□ **fiddler**

□ **Fiddler's Green** also **Fiddler's Green - five miles beyond hell** an imaginary place.

□ **hang up your fiddle**, **hang your fiddle behind the door** be in a bad mood; leave your good humour behind.

□ **out and in** or **in and out like a fiddler's elbow** **1** crooked. **2** said of a thing that is frequently in use.

□ **says the fiddler to the flies**, / **Ax no questions, an' ye'll be towl' no lies**

□ **when he comes home, he hangs his fiddle behind the dure** suave abroad, cross at home.

fidge *verb* fidget, move restlessly.

◆ *noun* a restless person.

□ **fitchy coos** wild rosehips.

[Scots and English dialectal, replaced in Standard English by the altered form *fidget*. *Cf.* *fike*.]

fidin *see* feddin.

fidom *see* fey.

field, **fiel'** *noun* **1** a field. **2** **Protestant the Field** the destination of a parade or demonstration.

□ **fiel' bed** a box-bed.

□ **field daisy** a wild flower: the ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*.

□ **field mouse** a shrew.

□ **field sparrow** a bird: the dunnock *Prunella modularis*, also called the hedge sparrow.

□ **field stone**, **fiel' stane** *N/E Uls* stone cleared from the fields, used in buildings or dykes and recognisable by its rounded appearance, in contrast to quarried stone.

[Scots and English dialectal form *fiel'*.]

fient, feint, feen, fin, fine *noun* the fiend, the devil, *thus fient a devil a, not a (bit, etc.); see also devil, have.*

- **feen a hair** not at all.
- **fine the fears!** "no fear", "no chance"!
[Scots forms *fient, feen.*]

fierce *adjective* very, extremely.

fiery *see* fire.

fifteens *noun plural* a tray-bake made with fifteen digestive biscuits, fifteen marshmallows, fifteen glacé cherries and a tin of condensed milk.

fiftie:

fiftpenny *see* five.

fig *verb* meaning unknown *e.g. He began to curse them and to fig prayers on them.*

figary, figeery *see* fagary.

fight, ficht, fecht; *past tense and past participle focht, foght, faught, foughted, fit;* *verb, noun* fight.

- **fight gentle shy of (a person)** fight shy of (a person), be distant, cold, unfriendly.
- **fightin' is better nor loneliness** *proverbial*
- **fightin's bad for the eyes** *proverbial*
- **he's a boy would fight with his own nails, he would fight with his own shedda**
- **he wud fight wi' his own nails** he is very quarrelsome.
- **it's a hard fought fight when none returns to tell the tale**
- **the fighting of the hornless cows** a mock fight.
- **them 'at fights laste fights best** *proverbial*

[Scots forms *fecht, ficht.* Past tense and past participle: Scots *focht, faucht;* Northern English *fit.* *See also* forfoughten.]

figure: figuring, figurin *noun, usually the figuring* arithmetic.

- **in her figure** *of a woman* without an outer garment, wearing only light clothes that show the shape of her figure.

fike, fyke *verb* fidget, fuss about, busy yourself with unimportant things.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *fikja* "be restless". *See also* fidge.]

file *see* while.

filgarry *see* fleegarie.

fill, full *noun* fill *e.g. the full o a basket o praties.*

- ◆ **verb fill out** pour out [archaic in Standard English].
- **fill and fetch more** describing reckless spending on entertainment.
- **filled up** ready to cry.
- **filler** a small funnel.
- **fill the bill** "fit the bill", be suitable.
- **the full of a door** describing a very stout person.
- **the full of your eye** describing a good-looking person.

[Scots form *full.*]

fillara *see* valaira.

fillybeg *noun* a kilt.

[Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *fèileadh-beag* "little kilt".]

filly-filly *exclamation* a call to a horse.

filoury, falorey: the wee filoury man *catchphrase (a)* an imaginary person blamed when things go missing; *(b)* a name for an odd-looking little man.

[It is not clear whether the catchphrase is earlier or later than the nonsense song that begins, "I am the wee filoury man"; origin unknown.]

fin *see* fient.

fin *see* when.

fin' *see* find.

finag, faynig *noun* a simple pannier for carrying peat, *etc.* on a horse or donkey. *Illustration see* bardock.

[Irish *feadhánóg*.]

finch *noun*, specifically (a) also **finchy** the chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*.
Illustration see chaff; (b) the yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*. *See also* finch.

find, fin'; *past tense and past participle foun', fun', fand, fan'*; *verb* **1** find.

2 feel, sense, perceive. **3** specifically smell, hear.

◆ *noun* the "feel" of a thing.

[Scots and English dialectal form *fin'*. Past tense and past participle:

English dialectal *foun'*; Scots and English dialectal *fun'*; Scots and

Northern English *fand, fan'*.]

fine *see* fient.

fine: **finely** very well, in good health.

□ **fine well, fine rightly** "fine", well, very well.

fine²: fined:

□ **fined in** fined to the amount of.

finger *noun* **1** a segment of an orange. **2** a pea pod. **3** *in plural* the five symbols on the five of any suit of playing cards.

□ **be all fingers and thumbs, have one's fingers all thumbs** be clumsy.

□ **Billy Winkie's leaden fingers** sleep.

□ **finger lady** the foxglove.

□ **finger rope** a hand-made straw rope.

□ **fingers and toes** a disease of turnips [the root is deformed and resembles fingers and toes].

□ **fingerstill, fingerstail** a fingerstall, a covering used to protect a sore finger [Scots *fingerstuil*].

□ **finger-stone** a small pebble.

□ **five fingers 1** the five of hearts. **2** a card game.

□ **he'd be a cliver chap that wud put his finger in (a certain person's) eye** said of a person hard to cheat.

□ **not take your finger off your nose** hurry, not delay.

□ **not the five fingers** "not cricket", not fair and square.

□ **tip the wee finger, be fond of the wee finger, crook your wee finger, lift your little finger** "turn up the little finger", be a habitual drinker.

□ **why burn your fingers when you have tongs?**

[Scots pronunciation rhyming with "singer".]

finicky *adjective* **1** faddy, particular. **2** trifling, small.

[General dialectal and Scots, also adopted in Standard English; origin unknown.]

finish: finished *of a type of person* perfected, completed *e.g. a finished blackguard, a finished scholar*.

□ **finished boy** a young man.

Finlay: Finlay's hawk the sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*.

finternach *noun* purple moor-grass, *Molinia caerulea*.

[Irish *fionntarnach*.]

fiorin, feeorin, florin, also fyoran-grass *noun* a grass: creeping bent

Agrostis stolonifera.

□ **a memory as long as a fiorin** a very long memory.

[Irish *fiorthán* "long coarse grass".]

fipping *see* five.

fir *see* fur.

fir¹, fur *noun* the wood of the fir tree *Pinus sylvestris*, frequently **bog fir** fir wood preserved in peat; *cf. illustration at moss*.

□ **fir cradle** a box hung on the wall in which fir splints were kept to keep them dry.

□ **fir hatchet** a hatchet with a narrow, heavy blade for cutting bog timber.

□ **fir searcher** a long piece of pointed iron driven into a bog to search for bog fir.

□ **fir splint, also bog-fir splint** a form of lighting: a sliver of wood held in an iron clip.

- **fir-split** a sliver of wood burnt as a source of light; *see* **split**.
[Scots and Northern English form *fur*.]
- fir²**: **fir bush** a furze bush *Ulex spp.*
[Southern English *fur*, mistaken singular form as if *furze* was plural.]
- firch** *see* **fitch**.
- fircock** *see* **fork**.
- fire**: **fiery**:
 - **fiery-edge** *noun* **1** the edge on a new knife. **2** *figuratively* the first eagerness of a new worker.
 - **fire and water are good servants, but bad masters**
 - **fire (a person) out** dismiss, fire (an employee).
 - **fire-back** the first row of peat when setting a fire in a hearth.
 - **fire block** a block of firewood.
 - **fireboard** **1** a hinged wooden flap hanging across the top of the fireplace. **2** *loosely* the mantelpiece.
 - **fired** *adjective* **1** *of a person's feet* hot and uncomfortable. **2** *of crops* affected by drought. **3** *of flax, oats, etc.* diseased, mildewed.
 - **fire jamb** one of the side pieces of a hearth, which support the mantelpiece.
 - **firelight** a firelighter, a stick of wood used for kindling a fire.
 - **firemark** a birthmark [in Standard English "the mark of a branding iron"].
 - **fire measles** measles.
 - **fireplace** *loosely* the mantelpiece.
 - **fireside**:
 - **fireside example** a simple, homely simile or comparison.
 - **fire up** get annoyed.
 - **firing** a mildew that affects young flax.
 - **have a fire yourself, or warm yourself at the sun**
 - **his or her claes look as if they had been fired at him or her** he or she is carelessly dressed.
 - **people livin' in glass houses shouldn't fire stones**
- fir-fia, fer-fia** *noun* a wild flower: the bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*.
[Possibly Irish **féar fia* literally "deer-grass".]
- fir-gortach** *see* **fairgorta**.
- firkel** *abusive* a dirty fellow.
[Low German *ferkel*, abusive "a wee pig".]
- firkin** *noun* a pail, a small barrel.
- firm, furm** *noun* a form, a bench.
[Southern English form *firm*.]
- firrim** *adjective* firm.
- first, furst, fust** *adjective* **1** first. **2** *of days of the week* next, coming *e.g.* *Tuesday first*.
 - **first an' foremost** *emphatic* firstly.
 - **first floor** the ground floor.
 - **first foot** the first person met on a special occasion; *specifically* the first person to enter a house on New Year's Day; *hence* **first footing** the custom of visiting neighbours early in the New Year, perhaps bringing an omen of good luck such as coal.
 - **first grass** the first crop of grass after a field is broken in.
[Scots and Northern English form *furst*, English dialectal *fust*.]
- firwoan** *noun* the best peat, the bottom layer of a bog.
[Irish *fíormhóin*, from *fíor* "true" + *móin* "peat".]
- fish**: **fish-breaking** the disturbance of the sea by shoals of fish breaking the surface.
 - **fish rook** a bird: the oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. *Illustration see* **pyot**.
 - **fish swallow** a bird: the tern *Sterna spp.*, also known as the sea swallow [from its swallow-like tail]. [ILLUS: fish/sw]

fissake *see* fizog.

fissle *see* whistle.

fissle, fistle, fussle *verb* **1** make a rustling noise. **2** *of water on a hot surface* hiss, sputter.

◆ *noun* a rustle.

□ **fistle out** fizzle out; *figuratively* come to nothing.

□ **(not) fissle on** (not) bother, (not) affect (a person).

[Scots and English dialectal, onomatopoeic.]

fist: fisty *adjective* left-handed.

◆ *noun, nickname* a one-handed person.

□ **make a (good, bad etc.) fist of** make a (good, bad etc.) job of.

fistle *see* fissle.

fit *see* fight.

fit *see* foot.

fit *verb, of an item of clothing* suit (a person).

□ **fit for anything** would stoop to anything.

□ **fit it on** "try it on", start bossing other people about.

□ **fit on** pretend, let on.

□ **fits find fits, but fancy buys the ribbon**

□ **fitter** a good wife.

□ **fit to be tied** very angry.

□ **it fits him or her (to do something)** it suits him or her (to do something).

□ **it fits you to a hair in the water** *of a garment* it fits exactly; it suits you.

□ **no fit** not able.

□ **no fit to take a herring off the tongs, no fit to draw a herring off the brander** physically very weak; in the last stages of weakness.

fit² *noun* an operation in saving flax.

fitch, firch *noun* a wild flower: various species of vetch.

□ **as full as a fitch**

□ **fitchy beans, fitch peas** vetch seeds [these are in long pods like miniature pea-pods]; *cf.* mouse.

[General dialectal and Scots form *fitch*]

fitchy coos *see* fidge.

fitless *see* foot.

fitter *see* footer.

fittick *noun* an adze.

[Origin unknown.]

fittin *see* foot.

five: as five as fippence

□ **fiftpenny, fipping** fivepenny, of the value of fivepence in old money [Hiberno-English and Northern English form *fippenny*].

□ **fippence** fivepence in old money.

fixfax, fixflax *noun* gristle in meat.

[Scots and English dialectal "a neck tendon in cattle and sheep", from Old English *feax* "hair" + **weax* "growth".]

fizen *see* fushion.

fizog, fissake, faceoge *noun* **1** the "physog", the face. **2** a Hallowe'en mask.

[Colloquial *physog*, shortened form of *physognomy* "the physiognomy, the face".]

fizz *noun* hurry, bustle.

fizz *see* faze.

fla *see* fella¹.

flabbergast *noun* **1** a person who tries to talk everyone down with a flow of nonsensical talk. **2** a flow of (nonsensical) talk.

flacht *noun* **1** a flock of birds. **2** a large number of creatures or things.

[Scots; a form of Scots *flocht* "a state of excitement, a flutter", from Old Norse *flótti*, **flohte*.]

flachter *see* flaught.

fladge, fladyin *noun* a large roughly-cut piece of beef or bacon; a large flat slice *e.g.* of butter.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

flaff, floff *verb* flap, flutter; *specifically, of geese* flap the wings.

◆ *noun* **1** a sudden gust of wind. **2** *also* **lichtnin flaff** a flash of lightning; *see* light¹.

□ **flaffer, floffer** a duckling before its adult feathers have grown.

□ **flaffing** palpitation (of the heart).

[Scots, onomatopoeic. *See also* fliff.]

flafter *see* flaught.

flag *noun* a slab of frozen snow.

□ **flagging** pavement laid with flagstones.

[*Cf.* English dialectal "a slice of earth, a sod", from Old Norse *flag* "the place where a sod has been cut out". *Cf.* also Scots and Northern English "a flake of snow", possibly from a Scandinavian form of *flake* as in Danish *sneflage* "snowflake".]

Cf. flaught.

flagger, flaggan *noun* a wild flower: the yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*.

[*Cf.* Standard English *flag* "iris", but possibly from Old French *flagiere* "water plants collectively".]

flahool *adjective* generous, hospitable.

□ **flahooler** a generous, light-hearted, good-natured person.

[Irish *flaithiúil*.]

flail: **flailin** a beating, a thrashing.

□ **flail leg** a leg that is wobbly at the knee joint.

flair *see* floor.

flaith *noun* a prince.

flake¹ *noun* **1** a wooden or wattled frame or rack for drying food or flax.

2 a wattled chimney hood. *Illustration see* chimney. **3** a barrel containing water through which the worm passes to cool and condense the alcohol in making poteen.

[Scots and English dialectal, from Old Norse *flaki* "a wicker hurdle".]

flake² *verb* beat up, thrash.

◆ *noun* a blow.

□ **flaking, flakin** a beating, a thrashing.

[Hiberno-English, *cf.* flake¹.]

flam *see* flan.

flam *noun* nonsense, idle gossip, unfounded rumours.

◆ *verb* flatter, cajole, *frequently* **flam someone up**.

[Possibly a shortened form of *flim-flam*.]

flame, flem *noun* a fleam (a lancet).

[Southern English *flem*, older form in Scots and English *flame*; from Old French *flieme*.]

flammery *see* flummery.

flan, flam *noun* a sudden gust of wind.

[Scots; probably from Scandinavian, *cf.* Icelandic *flan* "a rush".]

flannel, flannen, flannin *noun* flannel.

□ **flannel-bread** bread made with maize meal.

□ **flannel-pot** a pot in which home-made flannel was boiled.

[General dialectal and Scots form *flannen*; from Welsh *gwlannen*; replaced in Standard English by the altered form *flannel*.]

flanter *noun* a flaunter, an over-dressed, showy person.

□ **flandrickin** showy, gaudy.

□ **flantery** over-decorated.

[From *flant*, an old form of *flaunt*.]

flap *noun* **1** a slap with a soft article. **2** the front opening of an old-fashioned pair of men's trousers.

□ **flapper** *noun* a young woman.

flappers a name given to full-fledged wild ducks on the shores of Lough Neagh.

flarry, florry *noun* a flurry, a puff of wind.

◆ *verb, of the wind* come and go.

□ **big flarry** a squall.

flash: powder flash a powder flask, used with an old-fashioned gun.

flat the flat of the back the broad of the back.

flat, flet *adjective* flat.

◆ *verb* flatten [archaic in Standard English].

□ **as flat as a griddle**

□ **flat pan** a gridiron.

□ **flats** playing cards.

□ **the flat world** the whole wide world [translation of Irish *an domhan cláir*].

[Scots form *flet*.]

flat¹: nae flat no fool, not easily taken in.

flatter *verb* coax, wheedle *e.g.* *Away and flatter him for the loan of his wheelbarra*.

flaught, faucht *noun* **1** a flash, a gleam. **2** the quantity of wool carded at a time.

◆ *verb* pare the top layer of sod from the ground or from a bog.

□ **flauchering, flacherin** pared sods used as fuel.

□ **flaughter, flachter, flafter** **1** *also* **flaughter-spade** a type of spade used in paring the ground. **2** *also* **flaughterer** the person who uses the flaughter. **3** the top slice of sod. [ILLUS: flaughttr]

[Scots, from Old English *flēan* "to flay".]

Cf. flag.

flauk, flyauk *verb* flatter, wheedle, coax by a display of affection.

[*Cf.* Irish *placadh* *noun* "the act of devouring greedily".]

flavers *noun plural* the slavers of a dog.

flax, flex *noun* flax.

□ **flax-hole** a **flax-dam**, an artificial pond in which flax is steeped to ret it.

□ **flax-ripple** a **flax-comb**, a comb with large iron teeth used to remove the seeds from flax. [ILLUS: flax/rpl]

□ **flax-spinning-wheel** a bird: the nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*.

[Southern English form *flex*.]

flay, fley *verb* frighten.

□ **flayed, flied, fliet** frightened, scared.

□ **flaysome, flysome** frightening, terrifying.

[Scots and Northern English; from Old English **flēgan*, Old Norse *fleyja*. *See also* fleg.]

flea, flay *noun* a flea.

□ **a flea in someone's stocking** a source of trouble for someone.

□ **as thick as flays on a dog's back**

□ **not make many fleas** not make much delay.

[Older form in Scots and English *flay*.]

flee *see* fly.

flee *noun* a fly.

[Scots and English dialectal form.]

fleech¹ [rhymes with "leech"] *verb, usually* **fleech at** coax, wheedle, usually with the implication of flattery.

□ **fleeching** begging and imploring.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

fleech² *verb* flick, with a whip or similar object.

□ **fleechin** a stroke with the tawse.

[*Cf.* English dialectal *fleece, fleesh* "thrash, beat up".]

fleegarie, filgarry *noun* **1** a whim, a foolish idea or action. **2** a person who is fond of knick-knacks.

□ **in a fleegarie** in a state of confusion.

[Scots *fleegarie*, altered form of *vagary*. Cf. *fagary*.]

fleer *see* floor.

fleer *verb* act in a flirtatious and playful way.

□ **cut a fleer** show off.

□ **fleery** silly, flighty.

[English *fleer*; possibly from Scandinavian, cf. Norwegian and Swedish dialectal *flira* "grin, guffaw".]

fleesh *noun* a fleece.

fleet *see* flight.

fleet-line a line used in a method of sea-fishing with the hook floating mid-way between the surface and the bottom.

fleg *noun* a sudden fright.

[Scots, probably a form of *flay*.]

flegged *adjective* tired out.

[Northern English form of *flag* "grow weary".]

flém *see* flame.

flerr *see* floor.

flesh: **flesh bag** a woman's vest.

□ **flesher** a high street butcher, in the business of selling rather than slaughtering.

□ **flesh grub** a flesh worm, a maggot.

□ **flesh-meat** butcher's meat as opposed to bacon.

flet *see* flat.

fleutered *adjective* drunk.

flex *see* flax.

fley *see* flay.

flicht *see* flight.

flichter *see* flighter.

flichty *see* flight.

flick *noun* a flitch (a side of bacon).

[English dialectal; from Old Norse *flikki*, corresponding to Old English *flicce* (which gives Standard English *flicht*).]

flickén *adjective* a disguised swear-word e.g. *It's none o yer flickén business*.

flied, **fliet** *see* flay.

fliff *verb* rush about.

[Onomatopoeic. Cf. *flaff*.]

flight, **flicht**, **fleet**, **flit** *noun* **1** a flight. **2** *specifically* a flock of birds. **3** a large number, *especially* of small children.

□ **flichty** flighty, unreliable.

[Scots form *flicht*, Northern English form *fleet*, East Anglian form *flit*.]

flighter, **flichter** *verb* flutter; quiver, tremble.

[Scots, possibly from *flicht* form of *flight*.]

flin *noun* **1** a naughty child, *especially* a girl. **2** a flighty girl.

[Cf. Scots *flinder* "flirt, run about", from Low German *flindern* "flutter".]

flinch *noun* a finch; *specifically* the chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*; also bullfinch, chaffinch, goldfinch. *Illustration see* chaff.

[English dialectal, altered form of *finch*.]

flinch¹ *verb* shoot (a marble).

fling *noun*, *in plural* **1** a type of step-dance. **2** the sulks.

□ **flingin end** *jocular* (a) **his** or **her flingin end's up** of a child he or she is over-excited; (b) **keep his** or **her flinging en' doon** keep a mischievous person out of trouble with hard work or discipline.

□ **let fling** of a horse kick, throw up the heels.

flinner, **flindher**, **flunner** *noun*, *usually in plural* flinders, smithereens, splinters.

□ **break, fly, go, etc. into flinners** break into fragments.

[Scots form *flinner*.]

flint: **flint taw** a type of taw used in the game of marbles.

- **flinty** *of a person*. **1** stubborn and disobedient. **2** hardy.
- flip** *noun* **1** an immoral young woman. **2** a cheeky girl.
[*Cf.* obsolete Standard English *flip-flap* "a flighty woman".]
- flip**¹ *noun* a flick (with a whip *etc.*).
- flipe** *noun* **1** a bit, a piece, a shred (of cloth, *etc.*). **2** a large chunk; a big irregular piece (of bread, land, *etc.*). **3** the brim of a hat. **4** *derogatory* (**a**) someone who changes sides or switches loyalties; (**b**) *specifically, of a girl* a flirt. **5** self-conceit, a tendency to "show off" *e.g.* *She has a great flipe with her.*
- **flipper** a wild, lively girl.
[Scots and Northern English, probably from Low German *flīp* "a broad, drooping lip".]
- flipper** *noun* an unkempt, dirty man.
[Origin unknown.]
- flird**¹ *noun* a foolish, fickle person.
[Scots; probably a form of *flirt*, but *cf.* *flird*².]
- flird**² *noun* a tall, thin person.
[Scots "something thin and flapping", origin unknown.]
- flisk** *verb* switch, whisk.
- **flisky** *of a horse* skittish.
[General dialectal and Scots, onomatopoeic.]
- flister** *see* fluster.
- flit** *see* flight.
- flit**, *past participle flit*, *verb* **1** move house. **2** *of a removal firm, etc.* carry out a removal for, move the household of (someone).
◆ *noun* a removal, the act of moving house.
- **flitting** **1** a removal, the act of moving house. **2** the furniture and household goods in the process of being moved.
- **flitting-day** *or* **-time** a fixed day when farmworkers' contracts ended and they were required to flit out of their tied cottages.
- **moonlight flitting**, **moonlight flit**, **midnight flit** a secret departure by night to avoid paying debts or rent arrears.
- **Saturday's flittin's a short sittin'**, **Saturday flit a short sit** *proverbial* meaning that moving on a Saturday is an omen of a short stay.
- **three flittings are as bad as a burning** *proverbial*
[General dialectal and Scots, from Old Norse *flytja*.]
- flitch** *verb* shoot (a marble).
[Onomatopoeic, *cf.* English *flick*.]
- flite**, **flyte** *verb* scold, rant.
- **flytin** a scolding.
[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *flītan*.]
- flitter** *noun* **1** a strip of cloth, a scrap of clothing. **2** *usually in plural* shreds, fragments *e.g.* *torn to flitters*.
- **flitterjigs**, **flitherjigs** **1** shreds, tatters. **2** rubbish, useless things.
[General dialectal and Scots, origin unknown.]
- flittermouse** *noun* a bat (the mammal).
[Scots and English dialectal, translation of Low German *vledermuis*.]
- fliucteen** *noun, usually in plural* small particles of fluff left on the skin after it has been dried with a towel; *cf.* **flocoon**.
- floan** *see* flow.
- float** *noun* **1** a low deep cart for carrying livestock. **2** a low vehicle without sides for carrying haycocks.
- flocoon** *noun* a large, stout, loosely-made person.
[*Cf.* Standard English "a tuft of wool", from French *flocon*. *See also* *fliucteen*.]
- floff** *see* flaff.
- floof** *noun* fluff.
- floor** *see* flour, flower.
- floor**, **flure**, **fleer**, **flair**, **flerr** *noun* the floor.

- ◆ *verb*, in a *smithy* fit shoes to horses' hooves.
- **floorman** in a *smithy* the man who fits the shoes to the horse's hooves.
[Scots forms *fleer*, *flair* (but traditionally spelled *flure*); English dialectal form *flure*, rhyming with *poor*.]
- flooster**, **floosther** *see* fluster.
- flooter**, **fluter** *noun* an awkward person.
- ◆ *verb* behave in an awkward way, mess about.
- **flooter-futtid** *especially of a footballer* awkward, unskilful.
Cf. footer.
- florin** *see* fiorin.
- florrish** *see* flourish.
- florry** *see* flarry.
- flouen** *see* flow.
- flough** *see* flow.
- flough** *verb*, of ducks or geese flap the wings and roll about in water; *cf.* flacht.
- floughan** *see* flow.
- flour**, **floor** *noun* flour.
- **flour-boiled milk** a porridge made of wheat flour, milk and sugar.
[Scots and Northern English form *floor*, from Old French *flour* literally "the flower (of the meal)"; *cf.* flower.]
- flourish**, **florrish** *verb*, of flowers bloom.
- ◆ *noun* a head of flowers, an inflorescence.
- **flourishin curn** a cultivated shrub: the flowering currant; *see* curn.
[Northern English form *florrish*.]
- flouster** *see* fluster.
- flow**, **flough** *noun* **1** a bog; *specifically*, also **floughan**, **flow bog**, **flow moss** a lowland bog, a waterlogged swamp. **2** the top of a peat bank. **3** in plural light, spongy peat. **4** fragments and dust from peat; in some areas, tramped in a pit and dried for burning.
- **flow-dam** a body of surface water in a flow bog; *see* dam¹.
- **flowin**, **flowan**, **floan**, **flouen** **1** dust from peat. **2** a particle of dust, fluff, *specifically* in a flax-scutching mill. **3** **flowan** cotton-grass *Eriophorum spp.*
- **flow peat**, **flow turf** the upper layer of light, spongy peat from a flow bog; *see* turf.
[Scots pronunciation rhyming with "plough".]
- flow¹**: **flow beard** a curly, sandy beard.
- flower**, **floor** *noun* **1** a flower. **2** a bunch of flowers.
- **flowering** sprigging, the act of embroidering flowers on muslin.
- **flowering fern** the royal fern *Osmunda regalis*.
[Scots and Northern English form *floor*. *See also* flour.]
- fluff**: **fluff to** "cotton on to", understand.
- flug**, **fluggy** *see* fyuggy.
- fluken** catch trout *etc.* by groping for them with the hands.
- flummery**, **flammery** *noun* **1** flummery, sowens (a kind of thin porridge made from fermented oatmeal husks). **2** flummery, flattery.
- **blood and flummery** *exclamation* .
- **Some people call me Henry Cooke and some Henry Montgomery; / But when at Hillsborough, we're both Harry Flummery**
[English dialectal form *flammery*.]
- flummo** *verb* bewilder, astound.
- **flummoed** bewildered; confused, upset.
- flunk** *noun* the hole aimed at in playing marbles.
[Onomatopoeic.]
- flunner** *see* flinner.
- flunse** *verb* **flunse down** fall down in a heap, flop down.
[*Cf.* obsolete Scots *flounge* "plunge, flounder", a blend of *plunge* and *flounce*.]

flure *see* floor.

flush¹ *noun* **1** a piece of marshy ground, a bog. **2** a large shallow puddle on the road.

[Scots, possibly from Old French *flache* "a puddle". *See also* fresh².]

flush² *adjective*, *of a young bird* fully-feathered, fledged.

flush³ *adjective* frush.

fluster, flooster, flooster, fluster, flister *verb* **1** fluster, worry, agitate (a person). **2** flatter, make much of, coax, wheedle. **3** *of a dog* play, gambol, fawn. **4** swarm.

◆ *noun* **1** a timid, nervous, easily confused person. **2** an awkward, useless person. **3** a person making an unnecessary fuss of any kind, *specifically* a person petting an animal, child or sweetheart; an overfriendly person; an overfriendly child or animal, *especially* a dog. **4** *also* **floosterer, philflouster** a flatterer, a charmer. **5** a swarm.

□ **flustered** **1** **floostered** flustered, harassed. **2** *of the skin* irritated, reddened.

[Scots forms *flooster, flister*.]

flute: **oh flute!** a disguised oath.

fluter *see* flooter.

flutter: **flutter-guts** someone overly fussy or pernickety.

flutterick *noun* a fish: the butterfish *Pholis gunnellus*.

flux *noun* diarrhoea, dysentery.

fly, flee *verb* fly.

- **fleein Nancy** *jocular* influenza.
- **flyabout** *noun* an unsettled person, a gadabout.
- **fly-away** a flirt, an overdressed girl.
- **fly from you** *of the feet* slip.
- **flying clock** a large black beetle.

[Scots form *flee*.]

fly¹ *adjective* cunning, sly; wary.

- **fly member** an unreliable person; someone who is sly or crafty; *specifically, of a woman* flighty and grasping.

flyauk *see* flauk.

fly-blow a no-good person.

flysome *see* flay.

flyte *see* flite.

foagy *noun* a large, heavy person who is rather soft and of little account when it comes to tough physical exertion.

foal: **foal face** *nickname* a person with a large nose.

foaly-foaly-foaly *exclamation* a call to a horse; *Cf* filly-filly.

fobogue *noun* an exaggerated story.

focht *see* fight.

focl *noun* a pile of turf.

fod¹, **fad** *noun* **1** a bundle (of hay, straw, *etc.*). **2** a pile (of snow, *etc.*).

- **fodog** a sheaf of lighted straw used to show the way at night [apparently *fod* + Irish diminutive ending *-óg*].

[Yorkshire "a bundle (of hay, straw, *etc.*)", origin unknown.]

fod² *noun* a sod.

[Irish *fod*.]

fodar, fodarer *noun* a player, in football or hurling, who is good in the attack; *cf.* hoozle².

[Irish *fuadaire* "a bustler".]

fody *adjective* talkative, gossipy.

[*Cf.* obsolete Standard English *fode* "beguile with a show of kindness", origin unknown.]

fog *noun* **1** an after-crop, a second crop of hay, clover, *etc.* **2** moss.

3 lichen. **4** a type of green, mossy seaweed. **5** *also* **fog-meal** a heavy meal.

◆ *verb* **1** search for apples left unpicked. **2** eat heartily.

- **fog-cheese** a soft, inferior type of cheese made late in the year from the

milk of cows fed on the after-crop.

- **fog-fill** an excess of food.
- **fog-full** overfed, too full.
- **foggy** mossy.
- **foggy bee** a variety of wild bee.
- **fog-harrow** a harrow used to clear the ground of moss.
[General dialectal and Scots "an after-crop; moss, lichen", origin unknown.]

fog¹ *noun*, *specifically* a mist rising in the evening from a low-lying meadow.

- **the fog was so thick that you could have cut it into strips, as the saying is, and rolled it up like linoleum**

foggy *adjective* niggardly, stingy.

foghan *noun* a shellfish: the peppery furrow shell *Scrobicularia plana*.
[Origin unknown.]

foght *see* fight.

fogo an unpleasant odour, a strong smell.

fohanan *noun* a wild flower: the coltsfoot *Tussilago farfara*.
[Irish *fothannán* "a thistle". *See also* foughlan.]

folk, fowk *noun* **1** people [*folk* archaic in Standard English]. **2** your own people, *specifically* the members of a family.

- **bonny folk and ragged folk are aye easy caught**
[Scots and Northern English form *fowk*.]

folkie *see* fawlkie.

follow, folly *verb* follow. **1** *of a disease* infect (people). **2** take (a person) to court; *of a creditor* press (a debtor) for payment.
[Scots form *folly*.]

fond *adjective* foolish, silly; foolishly affectionate, sentimental [archaic in Standard English].

foof, fuff *verb* **1** *of a dog* howl, whine. **2** *of a child* cry peevishly.

- **foofing, foofin** a melancholy howling.
[Onomatopoeic.]

foofle *verb* fumble.

[Yorkshire, onomatopoeic.]

fool, fule *noun* a fool.

◆ *adjective* foolish *e.g.* *fool talk, fool nonsense*.

- **a fool an' his money's aisy traited**
- **fool-body** a fool.
- **foolidge** foolish.
- **foolidgeness** foolishness.
- **Fool's Day** April Fool's Day, All Fools' Day.
- **give him or her a fool's pardon** pay no attention to him or her.
- **if ye burn him for a fool, ye'll hev wise ashes, whoever burns him for a fool will have wise ashes**
- **if ye fry me for a fool, ye will lose the gravy** I'm not as simple as you think I am.
- **whozivver takes you for a fool'll hev a knave in halther**
[Scots form *fule*.]

foons *see* foundings.

fooran *noun* a bird: the puffin *Fratercula arctica*. *Illustration see* bridle.
[Rathlin Island Gaelic *fuaran* literally "little cold one", from *fuar* "cold" + diminutive ending *-an*.]

foord *noun, verb* ford.

[Old form (not Scots, except that this develops as a North-Eastern Scots form).]

fooshin *see* fushion.

foosie *noun* a treat, something tasty.

foosted *see* fust.

fooster, foosther *verb* bustle about unnecessarily.

◆ *noun* a confused hurry, a bustle.

[Hiberno-English and Cornwall, *cf.* Irish *fústar* "fussiness, rush".]

foosty *see* *fust*.

foot, fit, fut *noun* **1** a foot, the foot (of anything). **2** *figuratively* someone's characteristic footstep *e.g.* *That's him, I know his fut*. **3** the power of walking, *thus get the foot, take the foot of a child* start to walk; **lose the foot** lose the power of walking as the result of old age or disability.

◆ *verb* **1** kick (a person or thing). **2** place (peats) on end to dry.

□ **a foot, on foot, on the foot** **1** *of grain or flax* standing, growing, not yet harvested. **2** *of a person* recovered from illness, up and about. *See* **a**³.

□ **a futless stockin without a leg** nothing.

□ **be on your foot** go, travel [*cf.* Irish *ar do chois*].

□ (*e.g.* **smart**) **on your foot** (active and quick) in walking.

□ **feet under** the rays of the evening sun piercing the clouds, believed to be a sign of rain [*cf.* Irish *cosa faoin ghréin*].

□ **fit board, fit boord** a step attached to a cart.

□ **foot-and-a-half** a game, a form of leapfrog.

□ **footcock** a medium-sized haycock.

□ **foot-go** **1** a footbridge. **2** a plank used by building workers for walking on. **3** the trench at the foot of a bank of peat.

□ **foot-harp** *jocular* a spinning-wheel. *Illustration see* **spin**.

□ **footing, footin, fittin, futting** **1** footing, ground on which to stand, a basis, *etc.* **2** three or more peats stood on end to dry, leaning against each other; *see also* **window**. **3** a small pile of hay; four sheaves of hay for seed, placed on end together. [ILLUS: **footing**]

□ **footless, fitless, futless** **1** footless. **2** unsteady on your feet; *hence*

footless drunk very drunk.

□ **footpad** a footpath; *see* **pad**².

□ **footridge, footrig, fitrig** **1** *ploughing, also footland* the strip at the bottom of the field where the horses or tractor turn, afterwards ploughed at right angles; *cf.* **head**; *cf.* *illustration at hind*. **2** a ridge of land at the end of a field, used as a bed for potatoes, *etc.* *See* **rig**⁴.

□ **footspur** a bar of wood used to brace the feet in a rowing boat.

□ **footstick** a rough footbridge; *see also* **stick**.

□ **foot-the-gutter** *nickname* a clumsy walker.

□ **foot tree** the swingletree immediately attached to the plough.

Illustration see **double**.

□ **foot up** add up (an account).

□ **footy** *of an animal* sure-footed.

□ **futrigard headrig** means turn rows in a field. **futrégard** turn rows when ploughing.

□ **fut the flure** dance.

□ **futtick** a chain and hook used for attaching the muzzle of a plough to the swingletree [Scots *fit* "foot" + *huik* "hook"]. *Illustration see* **widdie**.

□ **get yer feet below ye** achieve financial stability.

□ **go foot for leg** **1** go straight away. **2** go fast.

□ **have a good fut and a fellow for it** **1** be a good walker. **2** *also have a free foot (and a fella for it)* be unattached, single; be a confirmed bachelor. *See also* **loose**¹.

□ **have the length of someone's foot** have someone summed up, have a shrewd idea of a person's character.

□ **he's put his foot in the wrong box this time** he'll not get what he wants in that quarter.

□ **he went as hard as he cud lift a fut** very quick travelling.

□ **I can't stand on my feet wi' my head** with the pain of my head.

□ **I'll give ye the length of my foot** a threat to kick someone.

□ **keep your foot still**

□ **lift your feet** be very active.

□ **my** *etc.* **feet flew from me** *I* *etc.* suddenly lost my footing.

- **on your feet 1** recovered from an illness. **2** suffering an illness without going to bed.
 - **pay (your) footing** give a present to a servant to mark a joyful occasion.
 - **put foot to** keep pace with.
 - **put (something) under your foot** keep (something) secret [translation of Irish *buail or cuir do chos air sin*].
 - **put the best foot forward, step forward** walk briskly.
 - **put your foot on** kill (a rumour).
 - **put your fut in it (up to the oxther)** "put your foot in it", make a mess of things.
 - **take (a child) off his or her feet** pick up (a child) and set him or her down to rest.
 - **take your foot in your hand** *jocular* set out.
 - **turn fittin** turn the peats in a footing to let them dry better.
 - **you don't know where you'll blister when your foot's in the fire** troubles come not as single spies.
- See a³.*

[Scots and English dialectal form *fut*, Scots also *fit*.]

footan *noun* the lapwing.

footer, footer, fitter, futter *verb 1* work in a clumsy way. **2** potter, fidget, rummage about. **3** *of a horse* move the feet restlessly.

◆ *noun 1* a useless, awkward person, a clumsy worker. **2** a state of disorganisation, confusion.

□ **footering, footerin** *noun* the act of pottering about.

◆ *adjective* clumsy, awkward, inefficient.

□ **footery 1** *of a person* clumsy, awkward, inefficient. **2** *of a thing* small, complicated and difficult to work with.

□ **you're a footer and the ducks will get you** *saying*

[General dialectal and Scots. *See also* flooter.]

footy *see* foot.

footy, futty *adjective 1* *of a person* worthless, insignificant. **2** mean, stingy. **3** small-minded. **4** awkward, stupid. **5** small, undersized. **6** very ill. **7** *of a thing* trivial, unimportant, worthless. **8** *of work* awkward, tedious.

□ **go footy** *of a sick person* die suddenly.

[General dialectal and Scots, *cf.* footer.]

for, fur, vor *preposition 1* for. **2** **for to, for till** usual before a verb in the infinitive *e.g.* *for to go*.

□ **be (a kind father etc.) for (someone)** be (a kind father *etc.*) to (someone).

□ **for all, for a'** notwithstanding, in spite of the fact (that).

□ **for all that** in spite of everything.

□ **for because** because.

□ **forby, forbye** *preposition, also forbyes 1* besides, in addition to.

2 except, apart from.

◆ *conjunction 1* unless. **2** except that.

◆ *adverb, also forbyes 1* in addition, as well. **2** aside, off to one side.

3 exceptionally *e.g.* *That's a forbye good horse*.

◆ *adjective 1* extraordinary, exceptional. **2** additional, extra.

□ **for (doing something) 1** intending, proposing (to do something); *hence for nothin* not interested in doing anything. **2** also with omission of a verb of motion *e.g.* *Where are you for?*

□ **for good, for good and all** once and for all, permanently; in earnest.

□ **for sure** certainly, of course.

[Scots form *fur*, South-Western English form *vor*.]

forder *see* further.

fordher *see* forward, further.

fore *adverb* before.

◆ *adjective, of a horse in ploughing* on the right.

□ **carry (a person) feet foremost** carry (a person) to the grave.

- **clergyman to old lady**: "You have many things for which you should be thankful". **Old lady**: "Aye! aye! I hae twa teeth and the comfort is the wan's fornenst the ither"
- **forebargain** make a bargain or arrangement beforehand.
- **forebears, forebearers, forebeers** ancestors, forefathers [*for(e)bears* also adopted in Standard English].
- **fore-door** the removeable front board of a cart. *Illustration see wing*¹.
- **fore-end** the beginning or early part.
- **fore-feeling** a presentiment.
- **foremilk** the first milk taken from a cow when milking.
- **foremost**
- **foremost cure** sowans.
- **forenent, fornent, fernent, fore-anent, fornenst, furnenst, fornist**
1 opposite, directly in front of. **2** over against. **3** corresponding to *e.g. I had a corn on my feet fornenst ivery day of the week.* **4** in return for. [*Fore + anent.*]
- **forenoon** the part of the morning approaching midday.
- **foreside** the area of country visible from a certain place; *cf.* **back**.
- **forespeaker** **1** a person who formally introduced the topic of marriage on behalf of someone else. **2** the leader of a deputation.
- **foresupper** the evening from about seven to ten o'clock.
- **foretell**: *past tense and past participle foretelled, foretelt*; *see tell*.
- **foretoken** an omen, a presentiment.
- **foretop** the forelock of a man or horse.
- **foretram** the part of a cart-shaft in front of the cart. *Illustration see tram*¹.
- **foreway**: **get or have the foreway of someone** get ahead of, get the start of, forestall someone.
- **forewun**: **get the forewun of someone** arrive before someone [*Scots forewin(d)* "the first strip to be cut in reaping by hand"].
- **forgainst, forgain** beside, next to.
- **forrit** the forehead.
- **get or have the foreway of someone** get ahead of, get the start of, forestall someone.
- **get the forewun of someone** arrive before someone.
- **never say come till you're foremost** *proverbial* "do not count your chickens till they are hatched".
- **to the fore** **1** present, on the spot. **2** *of a person* alive, surviving [also adopted in Standard English]; *also* as a jocular greeting **Are you still to the fore?**
- foreday** *noun* the forenoon.
[*Scots and English dialectal; from Scots fuirday, Middle English forth-daies* "late in the day", altered as if containing **fore**.]
- foregather** *see* **forgather**.
- foreign**: **foreigner, furriner** **1** a foreigner. **2** a stranger, including someone from a different district [archaic in Standard English].
[*English dialectal form furriner.*]
- **go foreign** go abroad.
- forelorn** *adjective* forlorn, rather pessimistic.
- forfeits**: *e.g. Measure a yard of ribbon, Show four bare legs (a chair), Stand and repeat: "Here I stand as stiff as a stake, Beggin' a kiss for charity's sake", A girl puts her head down (generally a servant) and says: "Calf's head in a pot; Dogs come and lick it".*
- forfoughten, forfoghent, fairfochan** *adjective* tired out, exhausted.
[*Scots and Northern dialectal, literally "exhausted with fighting". Cf. fight.*]
- forgain, forgainst** *see* **fore**.
- forgather, foregather** *verb, of people* assemble for a special purpose.
[*Scots and Northern English, for-* intensifying prefix + *gather.*]

forge *verb*, *of a horse* clink the shoes in trotting, making a noise like the iron on the anvil of a forge.

forget *noun* an omission, an act of forgetfulness.

forgie *verb* forgive.

[Scots, also Devon, form.]

fork: **fork cock**, **fircock**, *also* **fork cole**, **fork lump**, **fork rick**, **forked cock**, **forked rick** a medium-sized haycock.

□ **forkie**:

□ **forkietail** an earwig. [ILLUS: forkietl]

□ **fork spading** a muck hoe.

forkin *see* fortune.

form, **former** *see* farm.

forment, **fornist** *see* fore.

forra *see* forrow.

forrad, **forrader**, **forrard**, **forrid** *see* forward.

forrit *see* fore, forward.

forrow, **forra**, **farra** *adjective*, *of a cow* having missed calving for a season, but possibly still giving milk.

□ **firra-farra** a favourite cow kept on the farm after her useful life is finished.

□ **forrow-cow**, *also* **fitty forra coo** a cow that has missed calving for a season, but may still be giving milk; *cf.* footy.

[Scots *forrow*, Scots and English dialectal *farrow*; *cf.* Low German *verrekoe* "a barren cow".]

fort *see* forward.

fort; **forth** [pronounced like "fourth"]; *noun*, *also* **fairy fort**, **Dane's fort** a rath (*i.e.* a circular earthwork enclosing the site of an Early Christian farmstead). *Illustration see* rath.

forth *see* fort.

forth: **forthy** *adjective* frank, cheerful, affable.

fortune, **fortyen**, **forkin** *noun* fortune.

◆ *exclamation* **fortune!** goodbye, good fortune!

forty: **forty-feet**, **forty foot**, *also* **forty four-feetey** a centipede; *cf.* twenty.

Illustration see da.

forward, **forrard**, **forrad**, **forrit**, **furrit**; *comparative*; **forrader**, **fordher**; *adjective* **1** forward. **2** *of a clock* fast.

◆ *adverb* forward, forwards.

◆ *exclamation*, *also* **hup fort** a command to a horse: go forward; *see* hup.

□ **be**, **get** *or* **go forward** *Church of Ireland* take communion; *Roman Catholic* make confession.

[English dialectal forms *forrard*, *forrid*; Scots and Northern English *forrit*; Scots also *furrit*.]

for why *interrogative pronoun* why.

[English dialectal, from Old English *for-hwi*.]

fosey *see* fozy.

fossick *verb* ramble around looking at things, go window-shopping.

foster *noun* **1** an adopted child. **2** an orphan lamb.

□ **fosterer** a foster-child.

fother [rhymes with "bother"] *noun* fodder.

◆ *verb* feed (animals).

□ **rough fother needs long chowin'**

[Scots and Northern English form.]

foughlan *noun* a thistle; *cf.* fohanan.

foul:

foul' *see* fauld.

□ **foul-ground** *noun*, *fishing* an area of the sea bottom covered with rocks, seaweed *etc.*

□ **lang foul**, **lang fair**, **I fair and fine for evermair** good weather for all time to come.

foun' *see* find.

founded, foundit: **not a foundit haet**, *etc.*, **not a foundit** nothing; *see* have.

[Perhaps short for *confounded*.]

founder, foundher *verb* be perished with cold.

◆ **noun**, *also* **founderin** a cold, a chill.

□ **foundered** perished with the cold.

□ **founder on the lights** pneumonia.

□ **it would founder a fairy** describing very cold weather; *see* fairy.

[The same word as Standard English *founder* "be wrecked" (from Old French *fondrer*), influenced by obsolete *found* "be numbed with cold" (from Old French *enfondre*).]

foundings *noun plural*, *also* **founs, foons** foundations (of a building, *etc.*).

[Scots *founs, foons*; from the verb *found*.]

foundit *see* founded.

four, fower *numeral* four.

□ **be four-square** be in one's usual good form.

□ **four bones** the body; the person himself or herself *e.g.* *Who should it be but her four bones*.

□ **four crosses** a cross-roads.

□ **four-eyes** a person wearing spectacles.

□ **four-square 1** square or rectangular. **2** in good order.

[Scots and English dialectal form *fower*.]

fourpit *noun* a measure of weight or amount: a quarter of a peck (less than a kilogramme).

[Scots, literally "fourth part".]

foushe *noun* bustle, activity, energy; *cf.* *fushion*.

□ **full of fun and foushe like Mooney's goose** *saying*

fout *noun* a spoilt child.

[Scots and Northern English; Middle English *fol*, from Old French *folet*.]

fower *see* four.

fox *verb* cut short the ears of (a dog).

□ **fox-hunter's jig** an old-fashioned dance for four people, representing a hunt.

□ **fox's brush** a wild flower: red valerian *Centranthus ruber*.

□ **fox's gloves**, *also* **fox-hunter's glove** a wild flower: the foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*.

□ **fox's paw, fox's pass, fox-bite** a *faux pas*, a mistake in social behaviour.

□ **fox's slumber** a fox sleep, a pretended sleep.

□ **foxtail** a wild flower: purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria* [in Standard English, a grass, *Alopecurus pratensis*]. [ILLUS: foxtail]

□ **foxthery** the foxglove [*cf.* Scots *foxtor-leaves* "the leaves of the foxglove", literally "fox-tree-leaves"]. *Illustration see sheegie*.

□ **fox-tongue fern** the hart's-tongue fern *Asplenium scolopendrium*.

□ **foxy: foxy leaves** the foxglove. *Illustration see sheegie*.

□ **get (a dog) foxed and stumped** have (a dog's) ears and tail cut.

fozy, fosey *adjective 1* spongy; *specifically (a) of vegetables* over-ripe, spongy in the centre; *(b) of soil* light, peaty. **2** *figuratively, of a speaker* dull, woolly.

[Scots and English dialectal, from Low German *voos* "spongy" + *-y*.]

fracther *noun* a brood of chicks.

fraction: **not a fraction** nothing.

fractious *adjective* irritable, cross.

frae, fae *preposition* from.

□ **frae-me-come-tae-me** *jocular* a trombone; *see also* *come*¹.

[Scots and Northern English *frae*, Scots *also fae*; from Old Norse *frá*. *See also* from.]

fraghan *see* frochan.

frake *verb* play, caper, frolic.

◆ *noun, usually in plural* "freaks", capers, frolics.

[Older form in Scots and English of *freak*.]

frame: **frame (well, etc.)** show promise, shape up (well, etc.).

[From Old English *framian* "make progress, be profitable".]

frasoge *noun* a wild flower: the corn marigold *Crysanthemum segetum*.

freath *see* freethe.

freck *noun* a freckle.

frecken *see* fright.

freckled *adjective* spotted *e.g.* *It's no him, it's the freckled fella.*

fredeuch *noun* a pimple.

[Origin unknown.]

free¹: **free-acre** the roadside verge used for grazing or haymaking.

□ **free-crow** take a liberty with someone else's property.

□ **free-spoken** easy of approach.

□ **Free State border** *rhyming slang* order! order!

□ **freestone, freestane 1** sandstone or other easily-worked building stone [more generally used than in England]. **2** sandstone ground by hand, formerly used for scouring pots and pans and sold by hawkers.

□ **he or she can't free the bed** he or she is bedridden.

free² *Co. Donegal, noun 1* a parasitic worm in the hand or finger. **2** a wart on the finger.

[Irish *frigh*.]

free-martin, free-marten *noun* a cow which is twin to a bull; invariably such cows are barren.

freen *see* friend.

freet, freit, also incorrectly froot, noun 1 a superstition. **2** a charm, a spell, *specifically* a cure. **3** an omen.

□ **freety, freity** superstitious, inclined to believe in freets.

□ **if ye don't look to freets, freets won't follow you**

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *frétt* "news".]

freethe, freith, freath *noun 1* soap suds. **2** a quick wash through.

[Scots, from Old English *frēoðan* "to foam". English *froth* is from a corresponding Old Norse noun.]

freeze, past participle friz, verb 1 freeze. **2** *of the carcase of a slaughtered animal* go cold.

[Past participle: English dialectal *friz*.]

freght *see* fright.

freit *see* freet.

freith *see* freethe.

freity *see* freet.

French: French fiddle a mouth-organ.

□ **French flies** a game: a form of leapfrog.

□ **French sally, French willow** the bay-leaved willow *Salix pentandra* [*French willow* has been applied in Standard English to *Salix triandra*].

frequent *adjective, of a crop* plentiful *e.g.* *Gooseberries are frequent this sayson.*

fresh¹: **fresh water wigeon** a bird: (a) the pochard *Aythya ferina*; (b) the goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*.

□ **you look as fresh as paint**

fresh² *noun* a flood, a rise in the level of a river.

[Scots and English dialectal, *cf.* **flush**¹.]

fret *see* fright.

fret *verb* cry, weep.

□ **fretsome** annoying, irritating.

□ **fretted:**

□ **fretted lukin** looking harassed, not your usual self.

freuch *see* froogh.

friar *noun* the angler fish *Lophius piscatorius*, also sometimes known as the monk-fish; *cf.* briar-bot.

fricht, frichten *see* fright.

Friday: **what Friday gits, it's apt t' keep** *of the weather.*

friend, frien', freen *noun* **1** a friend. **2** a relation by blood or marriage [now only in plural in Standard English].

- a' freens throughother** *of people* all inter-related.
- friends may meet but mountains never**
- half a frien' isn't worth much**
- no friends with** not on good terms with.

[Scots form *freen(d).*]

frig *noun* a group of workers gathered to do communal work *Co. Donegal*; *cf.* frizz.

frig¹ *exclamation* a disguised swear-word. *frequently* **frig it**:

- friggers** *exclamation* a disguised swear-word.

fright, fricht, freght, fret *noun* **1** a fright. **2** a person who is very good at something *e.g.* a *fright at gardening.*

◆ **verb** *afright, frighten* [archaic in Standard English].

- frichten, frecken, friken** frighten.
- frichtit** frightened.
- frightsome** frightful, terrifying.
- frikened** *adjective* frightened.
- I'll frighten the seven senses out of him, I'll frighten him out of a year's growth**
- look a fright** be odd, or fantastic-looking.
- no frights!** "no fear", "no chance"!

[Scots form *fricht*. Hiberno-English, Isle of Man, Cheshire, Lincolnshire forms *frecken, friken* of *frighten*.]

frill: **all frill and no shirt** entries but no joint.

frimsy framsy, frincy francy *noun* a kissing game similar to "postman's knock".

[*Cf.* Scots *frim-fram* "flim-flam, nonsense".]

friskum-tearum *noun, nickname* a Presbyterian.

frithir *adjective* sore, painful.

friz *see* freeze.

frize *noun* frieze, coarse homespun cloth.

frizz *noun* mutual help relations between farmers *Co. Donegal*; *cf.* frig.

frizzin, frizzeen, frizzen *noun* the iron mounting at the end of a swingletree to which the traces are connected. *Illustration see* single.

[Also west of Scotland, origin unknown.]

frizzle *noun* a sizzling noise.

froath, frothe, froathe [pronounced as oath] *noun* **1** froth. **2** soap suds.

frochan, frockan, frughan, fraghan *noun* the bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *fraochán*, itself from *fraoch* (*see* froogh) + diminutive ending *-án*.]

fro-fro-fro *exclamation* a call to a horse.

frog: **frogenny** a tadpole.

- frogleap, also frogleeping** leapfrog.
- frog-mouthed** *of a person* having a very wide mouth.
- frog puddock** a frog.
- frog's eyes** *childish* tapioca.
- frog's jelly** frog-spawn.
- frog span, also frog's spawning, frog spannings, span-frog** frog-spawn.

frolic *noun* a gathering of all available workers and helpers to rush through a job of farmwork.

from, throm, thram *preposition* **1** from. **2** at a distance from *e.g.* *I saw them from me a bit before the trouble started.* **3** also **from that** from the

time that.

[Midland and Pembroke, also Scots, form *throm*. See also *frae*.]

front *see* affront.

front: **front door** the removeable front board of a cart. *Illustration see* wing¹.

- **front end** the front [more widely applied than in Standard English].
- **in front of** before the time of.

fronted *see* affront.

froogh, freuch *noun* a shrub: **(a)** heather *Calluna vulgaris*; **(b)** the bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*; *cf.* frochan, fruog.

- **fruag basket** a basket for gathering bilberries.
- [Irish *fraoch* "heather".]

froot *see* freet.

frost: **either a feast or a frost** either a lot or nothing at all.

- **by the holy frost exclamation** a disguised oath.
- **frostbird** a bird: the fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*.
- **frosty**:
- **frosty-face** the joker in a pack of playing cards.
- **sit a frost** die an old maid; *cf.* a³.
- **the frost has taken the air** said when a wet day follows a clear frosty morning.

frough *noun* soap suds.

frow *noun* a big, fat, slovenly woman.

[Scots and Northern English, from Dutch *vrouw*.]

fruag *see* fruog.

frughan *see* frochan.

fruit: **oh fruit!** a disguised oath.

frumart *noun* an oddity.

[*Cf.* Standard English *freemartin* "a hermaphrodite cow, born as the twin of a bull-calf".]

fruog, fruag *noun* the bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

[Irish *fraochóg*, from *fraoch* (*see* froogh) + diminutive ending *-óg*.]

frush *adjective* brittle, easily crumbled.

- **as frush as a fennel** *i.e.* a dried stalk of fennel.
- **as frush as a pipe-stapple** *i.e.* the dry straw used in thatching.
- [Scots and Northern English; possibly from the obsolete verb *frush* "crush, smash", itself from Old French *fruissier*.]

frusog *noun* the bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*; *cf.* froogh.

fry *noun* a group, a crowd, a clique.

- **frybird** a seabird: **(a)** the guillemot *Uria aalge*; **(b)** the razorbill *Alca torda*. *Illustration see* bridle; **(c)** the puffin *Fratercula arctica*.
- Illustration see* bridle.

[The same word as Standard English *fry* "the young of fish".]

fry¹: **fryin' pan**:

- **ye can kill a man way a fryin' pan an' nivir hit him way it**

fu' *see* full.

fud *noun* **1** the tail of a rabbit or hare. **2** the fur of a rabbit or hare.

- **fud-tail**, *also* **fud** the rabbit.
- [Scots and Northern English "the backside; the tail of a rabbit or hare", from Old Norse *fuð* "the vulva".]

fuff *see* foof.

fuffle *verb* **1** ruffle, rumple. **2** conceal hastily, bundle *e.g.* *She fuffled it inunder her coat.*

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

fuggy *see* fyuggy.

fule *see* fool.

full *see* fill.

full [vowel as in "fun" in Ulster Scots], **fu'**, **fou** *adjective* **1** full. **2** sated, having eaten or drunk your fill. **3** *also* **hot and full** rich *e.g.* *a full farmer*.

4 complete, perfect *e.g.* a full lady.

- **a fu' heart's aye kind** when drunk.
- **as full as the Baltic, as full as a ditch, as full as a po, as full as a sheugh**
- **break with a full hand** become bankrupt fraudulently.
- **foo house** a house that is well supplied with everything and receives many visitors.
- **full as a tick** *i.e.* a mattress; well-fed.
- **full batt** full butt, right up against.
- **full but** immediately.
- **full cousin** a cousin doubly related (*i.e.* when a brother and a sister have married a sister and a brother, their children are full cousins).
- **full drive, full pitch** violently, at full tilt.
- **full of emptiness** *jocular* completely empty.
- **full of the cold** suffering a heavy cold.
- **full snipe** a bird: the common snipe *Gallinago gallinago* [larger than the Jack snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*].
[Scots and Northern English form *fu'*, Scots also *full* with vowel as in "fun".]

fum *noun* **1** also **fum peat, fum turf** light, spongy peat from the surface of a bog. **2** fragments and dust of peat, in some areas tramped in a pit and dried for burning. **3** a kind of toffee. **4** a useless person; *see also* fumf.

[Also West of Scotland, origin unknown.]

fumf *noun* a fat, stupid person, *usually* **fat fumf**; *cf.* fum.

fummle *verb* fumble.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

fumper *see* whimper.

fun' *see* find.

funeral: **may ye live t' see yer own funeral** *jocular*

funk *verb* shoot a marble cradled in the forefinger.

- **funky, funkier knuckle, funk knuckle** the act of shooting a marble cradled in the forefinger.
- **funk(y) knuckles 1** a player whose technique of shooting a marble is poor. **2** an awkward, clumsy person.

[*Cf.* Scots and English dialectal "to cheat at marbles", origin unknown.]

fur *see* fir¹, for.

fur, fir *noun* a furrow; *loosely* a potato ridge.

- **fur-back** the upturned slice of earth in ploughing.
- **fur-horse** the horse that walks in the furrow when ploughing, the right hand horse.
- **fur-slice** the strip of earth being turned over in ploughing. [ILLUS: fur-slice/P]
- **fur-white, fur-whit** unploughed ground two furrows wide [the second element is Scots *white* "unploughed"].

[Scots and English dialectal *fur*, a form of *furrow*.]

furl, Co. Donegal *verb* whirl.

- ◆ *noun* a short spell of stormy weather.
- **furley: furleygig** a whirligig, a child's top.
- **furlpool** a whirlpool.

[Scots form *whurl* influenced by Irish pronunciation. *See also* whirl.]

furm *see* firm.

furnenst *see* fore.

furnicle *noun* a boil.

[Origin unknown.]

furrawn: **put (the) furrawn on someone** greet, speak to someone in a friendly way.

[Irish *fórrán a chur ar dhuine* "greet", literally "(put) welcome (on)".]

furriner *see* foreign.

furrit *see* forward.

furroo *noun* a rushing noise.

[*Cf.* Lincolnshire *furo*, origin unknown.]

furrow: **furrow and land** describing the unevenness on the surface of a millstone.

□ **furrow break** the mouldboard of a plough. *Illustration see* plough.

□ **furrow horse** the horse that walks in the furrow when ploughing.

Illustration see fur.

See also fur.

furst *see* first.

further, forder, fordher *adjective, adverb* further.

◆ *verb* assist, help (a person) forward.

□ **fordersome** furthersome, making for good progress; *of the weather* favourable; *see also* unfordersome.

□ **good forder** *exclamation* said to wish someone good progress.

□ **I would see you further first** an emphatic refusal.

[Scots form *forder*.]

fuscach *noun* a rough bundle.

[*Cf.* Scots *fussoch, fussock*; possibly *fuzz* + diminutive suffix *-ock*.]

fushion, fuzion, fooshin, fizen *noun* **1** the strength, force or vitality that belongs inherently to a person or thing. **2** the essence of a thing, its inherent quality. **3** *of fruit* juiciness, goodness.

□ **fushionless, fooshinless** lacking fushion, lacking strength, useless, tasteless.

[Scots forms of archaic English *foison*, from Old French *fu(i)son* "outpouring". *See also* foushe.]

fussle *see* fizzle.

fust *see* first.

fust: **foosty** fusty, mouldy.

□ **fusted, foosted** fusty, mouldy.

[Scots and English dialectal forms *foost(y)*.]

fut *see* foot.

futher *noun* a bogle, a hobgoblin.

futless *see* foot.

futter *see* footer.

futteret *see* whitrat.

futtick, futting *see* foot.

futtock *noun* a bird: the dunnock *Prunella modularis*.

[Origin unknown.]

futty *see* footy.

fuzion *see* fushion.

fuzz *noun* light, spongy turf (peat), fums.

□ **fuzzy** soft, spongy; fat, puffy.

fweelan, fyeelawn a seagull.

fweety *see* wheet.

fyamnach *see* feamnach.

fyams *noun plural* a seaweed: tangle *Laminaria digitata*.

□ **fyammy** *of the sea-bottom* covered with a growth of fyams.

[Irish *feam*.]

fyke *see* fike.

fyle *verb* make dirty.

[Scots and English dialectal, from Old English *jȳlan*.]

fyoran-grass *see* fiorin.

fyuggy, feuggy, fluggy, feughy, fuggy *adjective* **1** *also* feug, flug,

fyug-handed, flug-fisted, flug-handed left-handed. **2** clumsy.

◆ *noun* a left-handed person.

[Also rarely in Ayrshire, origin unknown. *See also* thuggy.]

fyushie *noun* a shrub: the fuchsia.

[Scots form.]

ga *see* go.

ga' *noun* gall.

[Scots form. *See also* **gaw**¹.]

gab *see* **gob**¹.

gab¹ *noun* a butcher's hook.

[Scots, probably from Flemish *gabbe* "a notch"; also in technical English "a hook or open notch in a rod or lever". *See also* **gib**.]

gab², **geb** *verb* "gab", chatter, talk incessantly.

◆ *noun* **1** "gab", talk, *especially* foolish chatter. **2** cheek, impertinence.

□ **a fault in the gab is no one or none in the brain** a man may be intelligent, and yet not speak well.

□ **as gabby or gabbet as a parrot**

□ **gabber** a talkative person.

□ **gabbing** *noun* talk, chatter.

◆ *adjective* talkative, chattering.

□ **gabbin-guts** a person who carries tales.

□ **gabbit of a child** talkative, precocious.

□ **gabby, gebby** *noun* a chatterbox.

◆ *adjective* talkative.

□ **gabslake, gabslick** *noun* **1** a person who acts the fool and talks too much. **2** a blow on the mouth; *cf.* **gob**¹. **3** a pointed remark to someone who is talking too much.

◆ *verb* make a stinging, sarcastic remark.

See **slake**¹.

□ **the gift of the gab** **1** fluency in speech. **2** talkativeness.

[Scots and English dialectal, probably onomatopoeic; also borrowed into Irish as *geab*, *see* **gabbadan**, **gabbog**.]

gab³ *noun* **1** *also* **country gab** a person from the country, a yokel. **2** an awkward, ill-mannered fellow; *cf.* **gaberloonie**.

[*Cf.* Cheshire, Derbyshire and Warwickshire *gob* "a foolish, lumpish person"; *cf.* **gob**².]

gabaloon *see* **gaberloonie**.

gabbadan *noun* a talkative person.

[Irish *geabadán*, from **gab**² + Irish ending *-adán*.]

gabble: **gabbleblooter** a windbag; *see* **blooter**.

See also **gibble**.

gabbog *noun* a talkative person.

[Irish *geabóg*, from **gab**² + Irish diminutive ending *-óg*.]

gabbon hawk *noun* the peregrine falcon.

gabbrock *noun* a thoughtless, ill-mannered person; *cf.* **gab**³.

gabbuck *see* **gobbock**.

gaberloonie, gaberloon, gabaloon, gamberlin, gammerloony,

gobberlooney *noun* **1** a stupid, awkward fellow; *cf.* **gab**³, **gabbrock**. **2** a gullible person. **3** a person who acts the fool; *cf.* **gab**².

[Scots *gaberloonie* "a professional beggar", origin unknown.]

gable: **gable-end** the end wall of a house.

□ **gable-room** a room at the end of a house.

gabshite, gabsleuter *see* **gob**¹.

gack *see* **gawk**¹.

gack *see* **gawk**².

gack *see* **geck**.

gad¹ *noun* a goad; a pointed stick.

□ **gaudsman** the person who drives plough horses with a goad.

[Scots and Northern English *gad*, Scots also *gaud*; from Old Norse *gaddr* "a goad, a spike".]

gad² *noun* **1** a willow withy; *see* **suggan**. **2** a hoop or coil of twisted hazel or willow wands, used *e.g.* to tie and carry a burden of hay. **3** a coil of twisted straw or rushes, used *e.g.* as a tether, or as a handle for a creel.

□ **as tough as a gad**

□ **praise your gad, and not your rod, for many a beautiful rod won't**

twist *proverbial*

- **twist the gad while it is green** *proverbial* "strike while the iron is hot".
[Hiberno-English, from Irish *gad* "a withy".]

gadderman *noun* **1** an argumentative person. **2** *sometimes affectionate* a rascal. **3** a precocious young person.

[Irish *cadramán* "an awkward person; a boor".]

gade *see go.*

gadium *noun* a strong, usually bad, smell *Co. Antrim.*

[Origin unknown.]

gae, gaed *see give, go.*

gaefa *see gafaw.*

gaelic *see gellick.*

gaelt *noun* a foolish person.

gae'm *see give.*

gafaw, gaefa *noun* a guffaw, a loud, uncouth laugh.

- **geefawing** guffawing, foolish laughter.

[Scots *gaffaw* (itself the source of Standard English *guffaw*),
onomatopoeic. *Cf. gaff.*]

gaff *noun* **1** news, gossip. **2** *usually good gaff* a person whose conversation is full of news.

- **gaffer** *verb* chatter, gossip.

[Scots and English dialectal "to talk loudly and merrily", onomatopoeic.

See also gafaw.]

gaff¹ *verb* catch (trout).

gaffer *noun* a lad, a youth; *cf. gasser.*

gafunk *noun* a grievous disappointment.

gag *verb, fishing* jiggle the bait to entice the fish.

[*Cf. rare and obsolete Standard English "to jerk, to toss (the head)",*
possibly from *geck.*]

gag¹ *noun* something that is unsightly or inconvenient by reason of its length.

gage *see gauge.*

gage *verb* bet *e.g. I'll gage ye.*

[Obsolete in Standard English; from French *gager*, itself a shortened form of *engager* (which gives *engage*).]

gage-tires *noun plural* the tyres of a wheel.

gaggle *noun* **1** the cackling sound made by geese. **2** any similar sound.

gah *noun* a silly person.

[*Cf. obsolete Standard English gaw "to gape, to stare", from Old Norse gá "to heed".*]

gahela, gaherla, gèahalah *noun* a little girl; a girl (aged about 12).

gahun, gohan: gahun to (something) **1** expressing surprise *e.g. Gahun to the bit, if it isn't a letter.* **2** *also gahunns to (something)* *emphaticnegative e.g. gahun to the word "devil a word".*

Co. Donegal.

gaig *noun* a crack in a peat-bank.

[Scots "a crack in wood, *etc.* caused by drying out", from Scottish Gaelic *gàg* "a cleft, a chink" (corresponding to Irish *gág*).]

gailick *see gellick.*

gailin *noun* a brood of chickens.

gaily *see gay.*

gain *see gin².*

gain: **gainer** *in a game of marbles* the winner.

- **gaining** **1** winsome, charming. **2** greedy, acquisitive.
- **gainsome** **1** winsome, charming. **2** expert; good with your hands.

gaird *see guard.*

gairden, gairner *see garden.*

gaiser *see gasser.*

gaishen, gashun, gation *noun* **1** a thin, emaciated person. **2** a fairy.

[Scots and Northern English, possibly from Scottish Gaelic *gaisean* "a stalk; a young boy" (related to Irish *gasúr*, *see gasser*).]

gait *see gate*.

gait, goat *noun* **1** a sheaf of corn, tied high up to allow the base to spread, set up on end to dry in the sun; a beat of flax set up in the same way. **2** a stook of corn made up of four sheaves tied together at the top. **3** a covering of rushes on a haystack.

◆ *verb* make **gaits**. [ILLUS: *gait*]

□ **gaiting** a method of saving flax in wet weather by stacking it loose, rather than in beets.

[Scots and Northern English; perhaps the same word as **goat**, influenced by Scottish Gaelic *gobhar*, which means both "a goat" and "a sheaf of corn".]

gait¹

□ **alter someone's gait** mend someone's ways.

gaizen *see gizzen*.

gaizern *see gizzert*.

gaizled *adjective* of an uneven, grey colour.

gal *see gil*.

gal *noun* a tree root in a peat-bank.

[Technical English *gall* "a flaw, a fault", from Old English *zealla* "a sore on a horse".]

galager *see jelger*.

galar *noun* a disease in animals; *specifically* a disease of cattle where there is blood in the urine.

□ **gallows-scra** *noun* a disease of sheep, a kind of scab.

[Irish *galar* "disease". *Cf.* *gorloghan*.]

galar-na-gcat, gaular-na-gcat, gular-na-gcat *noun* **1** the round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*. **2** a disease sheep get from eating this plant.

galash *noun, in plural galashies* galoshes, rubber over-shoes.

◆ *verb* cover (a shoe), *e.g.* with thin varnish or polish.

[Old form, also Hiberno-English form.]

gal-cruadhas *noun* a long period of dry weather, with a breeze, usually from the south-east.

gale *see gil*.

gale *see wind¹*.

gale *noun* a half or quarter year's rent.

□ **one gale within another** one period's rent paid just before the next is due.

[Hiberno-English, also in Gloucestershire and Herefordshire "a licence of land with the right to dig for minerals". Possibly the same word as obsolete Standard English *gavel* "rent", from Old English *gafol* "tribute".]

gale¹ *noun* an earwig.

gallagh *noun* a catch (of fish).

gallagh *see golach*.

[Donegal Irish *gallach*. *Cf.* *golach*.]

gallan *noun* **1** a wild flower: the butterbur *Petasites hybridus*. **2** any large aquatic plant *e.g.* the yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*.

□ **gallan picker** an earwig. *Illustration see fork*.

[Irish *gallán mór* "the butterbur".]

galleting *noun* the insertion of pieces of stone of contrasting colour into the mortar bonding masonry, mainly for decorative effect.

galliagh *see golach*.

gallick *see gellick*.

gallimaufry *noun* a gallimaufry, a dish made from odds and ends of food *Co. Donegal*.

gallog *see gellick*.

galloglass, gallowglass *noun, historical* a mail-clad foot-soldier.

[Irish *gallóglach* (from *gall* "foreign" + *óglach* "a soldier), also Scots

from Scottish Gaelic *gallóglach*.]

gallogleen *see* colligoleen.

gallon *noun* a pail.

[The same word as Standard English *gallon* (the measure).]

gallop: a man on a gallopin' horse won't sing till he comes back the response of someone who is heavily involved in other business to an appeal for immediate help.

□ **gallop fair** a hiring fair, with horse-racing, formerly held at Limavady in Co. Londonderry; *also gallop-day;—*.

Galloway *noun* a small, strong breed of pony.

□ **Galloway bull** a small, strong, black bull with long hair.

gallowglass *see* galloglass.

gallows, gallus; *double plural gallowses, gellisises, galluses*; *noun* braces for men's trousers.

◆ *adjective* **1** rascally, villainous. **2** irresponsible, not dependable.

3 lively, bold.

◆ *adverb* very *e.g.* *And a gallows good job it is too.*

□ **do something at the slack of your galluses** do something with ease.

[Scots and English dialectal *gallus*; plural *gallowses, galluses*.]

gally *see* golly².

gally *noun* a row, an argument.

[Scots *gollie* "a scolding", from Old Norse *gola* "to howl".]

galoot, galoot, galut *noun, derogatory* a worthless fellow; a stupid hooligan; a tall, lanky, awkward person; a clown, a fool.

◆ *verb* **galoot about**

galore, galyore *adverb* in abundance [*galore* also adopted in Standard English].

□ **in galore** in great quantity or number.

[Hiberno-Irish, from Irish *go leor*; also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *gu leòr*.]

galrevitch *see* gilravage.

galumpus, golumpus *noun* a stupid person.

[Origin unknown.]

galyore *see* galore.

gam *see* game².

gam *see* gaum.

gamberlin *see* gaberloonie.

gambion *noun* a kind of dance *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

gamble, gammle *verb* **1** gamble. **2** *specifically* gamble someone for something toss someone for something (*i.e.* throw a coin to decide who will have it).

[Older form (still Yorkshire) *gammle*.]

game¹ *noun* a practical joke.

□ **game hawk** a bird: the peregrine *Falco peregrinus*. *Illustration see* goose.

□ **gamekeeper** the master of ceremonies when party games are being played.

□ **make game of (someone)** make fun of (someone).

game² *adjective, literally* lame: applied *e.g.* to a bad eye.

□ **game eye** a wavering, uncertain or "skelly" eye.

□ **game-legged** having crooked legs.

□ **gammy** *noun, also gam, gammock* a lame person.

[Standard English *game* "lame" is from North Midland English dialectal *game, gam*. It is possible that this is from *gammy* "lame", which may itself be the same word as English *gamy* of game meat "high".]

gamerall *see* gaum.

gamfral, gamfril, gamful *see* gamph.

gamme *see* give.

gammel *noun* **1** the gambrel (the hock) of a horse's hind-leg. **2** also applied to the human leg.

[Old form (not Scots) *gamble*.]

gammerel *noun* a cambrel (a stick used to spread open and hang up a slaughtered animal).

[South-Western English form of obsolete Standard English *gambrel*, from Old Norman French *gamberel*.]

gammerloony *see* gaberloonie.

gammlle *see* gamble.

gammock, gammy *see* game², gaum.

gammoge *noun* a little fool; *cf* gaum.

gammosule *noun*: *e.g.* *You stupid gammosule.*

gammy *noun* **the gammy** left handed, awkward.

gamph *noun* a stupid person.

□ **gamfril, gamfral, gamphril, gamful, gampheral** a fool, a clownish person.

[Scots, onomatopoeic; *cf.* *gumph, gaum*.]

gamshal *noun* a useless, lazy person *Co. Down*; *cf.* *gansh, gaum*.

gamut, gammit *noun* *literally* the whole range of something: full knowledge (of something); the knack (of doing something), the "hang" (of a thing).

gan *see* go.

ganch, ganchy *see* gansh.

gandy *noun* a disappointment *Co. Antrim*.

[Origin unknown.]

gane *see* go.

gang *verb* go [archaic in Standard English].

◆ *noun* **gang of water** a load, as much as can be carried from the well at one time; *see also* go.

□ **gang-ower** *literally* a going over: a scolding; *see* over.

□ **gangway** **1** a busy thoroughfare. **2** an entrance, a gateway.

[Almost entirely replaced by *go* in Modern English except in Scots and Northern English. From Old English verb *gangan*, noun *gang*.]

ganger *noun* the man in charge of a group of workers.

gangle quarrel.

ganner, gender *noun* a gander (a male goose).

□ **gander-month** the hatching-month of a goose.

□ **the gander's beak is no longer nor the goose's**

[Old form (still Scots and English dialectal) *ganner*, from Old English *ganra*, itself an alternative and possibly original form of Old English *gandra*, which gives Standard English *gander*. Scots also *gender*.]

gansey, ganzie, guensey, genzy *noun* **1** a guernsey, a jersey, a pullover. **2** a man's vest.

[English dialectal and Scots *gansey, ganzie*; Scots also *guensey, genzy*; named after the island of Guernsey.]

gansh, ganch, gaunch, gunsh *verb* **1** stammer, stutter; talk in a halting, agitated way. **2** talk stupidly. **3** *of a dog* snap the teeth, gnash; *of a horse* bite.

◆ *noun* **1** a stammer. **2** an awkward, inarticulate fellow. **3** a fool, a stupid fellow; *see also* gunshion. **4** a person who talks too much, a loudmouth.

5 a snap, as if to bite, *usually* **make a gansh**. **6** a bite, *usually* **take a gansh out of (a person)** *of a dog* bite (a person).

□ **ganchy** awkward, shy.

[Scots *gansh, ganch, gaunch*; probably onomatopoeic. *See also* gunsh.]

gant¹, gaunt *verb* yawn.

◆ *noun* **1** a yawn. **2** a gape, the act of opening the mouth wide.

□ **ganthering** the act of gasping or retching.

□ **ganting** *adjective* "gasping" for sleep, food or money.

◆ *noun* yawning; a yawn.

- **gaunting bodes wanting ane o' things three, Sleep, meat or good company, there's never a gant but there's a want of mate, money or sleep, gaantin's waantin: better maet, better drink or better company**
[Scots and Northern English; possibly related to obsolete Standard English *gane* "to gape", from Old English *gānian*.]
- gant², gaunt** *noun* a bird: the gannet *Sula bassana*.
[General dialectal and Scots *gant*, *gaunt*; from Old French *gante*, itself borrowed from the same Germanic word that develops into English *gannet*.]
- ganthering** *see* gant¹.
- ganzie** *see* gansey.
- gaot** *noun* wind, the wind.
- gap** *see* gawp.
- gap¹** *verb* thin (turnips).
- gape** *noun* **1** *in plural, usually the gapes* (a) a disease of chickens; (b) *jocular, in a person* the tendency to gape (*i.e.* stand with the mouth open).
2 a fool, a simpleton.
- **buy gapeseed** stare idly about.
- **gapeseed** **1** what you can see or spy out; what catches your eye. **2** a wonder, a sight, an object to stare at.
- gaping** *see* gawp.
- gappy** *see* gawp.
- gar¹** *verb* make (someone do something).
[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *gera*.]
- gar², gaur** *noun* **1** a cry, a shout; an outcry. **2** a rumour. **3** a long-standing feud, bad blood.
- ◆ *verb* talk about (something).
[Irish *gáir* "a cry, a shout".]
- garble¹** *verb* quarrel.
[Scots form of obsolete Standard English *garboil*, from Old French *garbouil* "a brawl, an uproar".]
- garble²** *verb* **1** gabble, talk noisily and nonsensically. **2** grumble incessantly.
[Apparently the same word as Standard English *gabble*, influenced in form by *garble*.]
- garbotch, gorbitch, gorbidge** *noun* garbage, rubbish; *also figuratively*.
[Pembroke form *garbetch*.]
- garbreak** *see* garrabrack.
- gard** *see* guard.
- garden, gyarden, gerden, gairden, gardyeen** *noun* **1** a garden. **2** a stackyard; *see also* hay, stack. **3** a paddock, a small field.
- **garden plague** a wild flower: ground elder *Aegopodium podagraria*; *see also* farm.
- **garner, gairner** a gardener.
[Scots forms *gerden*, *gairden*. The form *gardyeen* is influenced by Irish *gairdín*.]
- gardevine, gardevin, gardyveen** *noun* a cabinet or case for holding wine bottles, decanters, *etc.*
[Scots, from French *garder* "to keep" + *vin* "wine".]
- gardyeen** *see* garden.
- garéfowl** *noun* an extinct bird, the great auk.
- gargle** *noun* a small amount.
- garhook** *noun* an implement for twisting ropes from hay, *etc.*; *cf.* gar¹.
[ILLUS: garhook]
- garkin** *noun* the long-rooted cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*.
- garlagh** *adjective, of a person* mean, contemptible.
[Probably from Irish *garlach* "a brat; a rascal; a dwarf"; also found in Argyllshire, *cf.* Scottish Gaelic *gàrlach*.]
- garliach, garyagh** *noun* a wild flower: purple loosestrife *Lythrum*

salicaria, *Co. Donegal*. *Illustration see fox*.

[Origin unknown.]

garlic *noun* a wild flower: Babington's leek *Allium babingtonii*.

□ **Garlic Sunday** a fair-day: the last Sunday in July.

garmain *noun* part of a net frame in an eel trap in a weir.

garner *see garden*.

garrabrack, **garbreak** *noun* a bird: **(a)** the oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. *Illustration see pyot*; **(b)** the guillemot *Uria aalge*.

[Of Gaelic origin: *cf.* Manx Gaelic *garee-breck* "the oystercatcher; the black guillemot" and Scottish Gaelic *gearra-breac* "the guillemot". *Cf.* *garrog*.]

garran *see garron*.

garrison: **that's a relief to the garrison** said of anything happening in good time.

garrog, **garrock** *noun* a bird: the black-headed gull *Larus ridibundus*.

[*Cf.* Irish *gearróg* "a gosling" and *garrabrack*.]

garron, **garran** *noun* **1** a small breed of horse used for rough work. **2** a small, hardy, mountain pony. **3** a worn-out horse, a nag.

□ **garron-bane**

□ **show the garron-bane** *literally* show the white horse: act like a coward [*bane* is from Irish *bán* "white"].

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *gearrán* "a horse"; also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *gearran*.]

garvan *noun* a fish, the sea-bream *Pagellus centrodonatus*.

garyagh *see garliach*.

ga's *see give*.

gash *verb* yawn, gape.

□ **gash-gabbit** **1** having a distorted mouth. **2** having a long, sticking-out chin. **3** shrewd in conversation. *See gab*².

gasharwan, **glasharawan** *noun* the dandelion.

gashun *see gaishen*.

gask *noun* a bird trap; *cf.* illustration at cleevan.

[Irish *gaiste* "a snare". *See also gassick*.]

gasoon *see gorsoon*.

gasser, **gaiser**, **gossur** *noun* a boy, a young lad.

[Irish *gasúr*. *Cf.* *gaishen*.]

gassick *noun* a wire noose, a snare; *cf.* *gask*.

gasson *see gorsoon*.

gassy *adjective* open-faced.

gast *noun* extreme surprise.

[Scots "a fright"; the same word as obsolete Standard English *gast* "to frighten", from Old English *gāstan*.]

gasther *see goster*.

gat *see get*.

gate, **gait** *noun* **1** a road. **2** way, direction. **3** way of acting; manner of behaving.

□ **go or gang your (own) gate** **1** go away, take yourself off. **2** go your own way, follow your own inclination. *See gang*.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *gata* "a way, a road".]

gather, **gyather**, **gether**, **gither**; *past tense and past participle gother*; *verb* **1** gather. **2** **gather for a shower** of the weather threaten rain. **3** grow rich, accumulate wealth. **4** **gather yourself (together)**, **gather yourself up** **(a)** rise, get up; **(b)** prepare for a journey, prepare to set out; **(c)** "pull yourself together" emotionally.

◆ *noun* **1** a gathering, an assembly of people. **2** a whip-round, a collection of money.

□ **a slow gatherin' is often followed by a quick scatterin', a slow gatherin' makes a quick scatterin', a long gatherin' makes a short scatterin'**

- **gathered** **1** round-shouldered. **2** rich, well-to-do.
- **gatherer** **1** a frugal, thrifty person. **2** a greedy person.
- **gathering, getherin** *noun* **1** a team of people assembled to do farmwork cooperatively. **2** *specifically* a voluntary assembly of neighbours to do farm work without pay for a family in need. **3** a crowd. **4** a heap of hay.
- ◆ *adjective* **1** frugal, thrifty. **2** miserly.
- **gathering grub** a miser.
- **gather-up** **1** a rag-man. **2** an upstart. **3** a useless, insignificant person.
- **there never came a gatherer, but a scatterer came after him**
[Scots and Northern English forms *gether, gither.*]

gation *see* gaishen.

gatten *noun* a ditch (alongside a country road).

gaubeens *noun plural* socks without feet.

gauchy *see* gawk².

gaucy *adjective* large, fat.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

gaudsman *see* gad¹.

gauge, gage *noun* a cubic yard (0.77 cubic metres) of dried peat.

- **gauger** **1** an exciseman, a custom-house officer. **2** a nitpicking person.

gaul *noun* a wild flower: bog myrtle *Myrica gale*, also called gale.

[Old form in Scots and English. The Latin specific name *gale* is borrowed from English.]

gaulog *see* gowlog.

gaum, gawm, gom, gam, goam *noun* **1** a fool, a simpleton. **2** an awkward, ungainly fellow.

- **gammock, gomawk, gomuck** **1** a stupid, awkward fellow. **2** a dupe, a gullible fool.
- **gaumerick, gomerikal** a fool.
- **gaumless, gormless** careless, inattentive [*gormless* now also adopted generally in colloquial English].
- **gaumy, gammy, gomy, goamy** *noun* **1** a fool, a simpleton. **2** an ungainly fellow. **3** a "soft" person.
- ◆ *adjective* **1** foolish, stupid. **2** awkward; *cf.* game². **3** gullible.
- ◆ *verb* **1** act stupidly. **2** blunder around; *cf.* game².

- **gomach** **1** a half-wit, a simpleton. **2** a stupid, awkward fellow. **3** a dupe, a gullible fool.

[*Gaum* + Irish ending *-ach*.]

- **gomachan** a stupid fellow, a blockhead [*gaum* + Irish ending *-achán*].
- **gomanally** a fool.
- **gomeril, gommeral, gameral, gomil** **1** a fool, a stupid person. **2** a half-wit, a simpleton. **3** a clumsy person, *especially* an ungainly young man.
- **gommerlin** a gomeril.
- **gomus, gomas, gawmas** **1** a fellow who stares around vacantly. **2** a stupid person, a blockhead.

[Northern English *gaum, gawm, gom, goam*; Yorkshire and Cheshire also *gorm* "notice, attention", from Old Norse *gaumr* (hence the meaning of *gaumless*). The English dialectal sense "to stare, to gape" gives rise to various compounds and derivatives, and these in turn are probably the source of the senses of the noun *gaum* here.]

gaun *see* go.

gaunch *see* gansh.

gaunt *see* gant¹, gant².

gaur *see* gar².

gaury *see* gawrey¹.

gav *see* gove.

gavel *see* gavle.

gavelkind *noun, law* the division of inherited property equally amongst all

the sons.

gavle, gavel *noun* the gable of a building; *also* **gavle-end, gavle-wall, gavle-window**.

□ **gavle-ended** having a gable.

□ **gavle-heid** *literally* gable head: a stupid person.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *gagl*. English *gable* is from Old French *gable*, itself borrowed from the Old Norse.]

gaw¹ *noun* a trench marking a field boundary.

[Scots; form of *gall* "a wound produced by chafing", itself probably the same word as *gall* "bile" (*see ga*').]

gaw² *noun* a young turkey *Coleraine*.

[Origin unknown.]

gawk¹, gack *verb* **1** stare about idly, gape [*gawk* also adopted in Standard English]. **2** stare rudely. **3** peep, either shyly or suspiciously.

□ **gacky** gaping, open-mouthed.

□ **gawky-hole, gokey-hole** a peep-hole.

[Scots and South-Western English form *gack*, origin unknown. *See also gawk²*.]

gawk², gack, gock *noun* a gawk, an awkward, clumsy person; a fool, a simpleton.

◆ *verb, of a young woman* behave in a silly way towards men.

□ **gawkiness** awkwardness, clumsiness.

□ **gawky** *adjective* **1** *also* **gauchy** gawky, awkward; stupid. **2** pushy, self-confident.

◆ *noun, also* **gauchy** a gawky, awkward person; a lout; a fool, a simpleton.

◆ *verb* loiter.

[Scots form *gack*; origin unknown, possibly the same word as *gawk¹*.]

gawkeyprogue *noun* a leprechaun; *cf.* *gawk¹*.

gawly *see* *golly²*.

gawm, gawmas *see* *gaum*.

gawn *see* *go*.

gawney *see* *gonney*.

gawp, gap *verb* gape, stare open-mouthed.

◆ *noun, also* **gappy** a fool, a simpleton; a stupid person [*gawp* also adopted generally in colloquial English].

[Scots and English dialectal *gawp*, Scots and Midland English also *gap*; origin unknown.]

gawrey¹, gaury, gorrie *noun* **1** the smallest animal in a litter, *especially* a pig. **2** anything very small of its kind.

Cf. *gurrie, jory*.

gawrey² *noun* a clumsy person.

◆ *verb* act in a clumsy way.

[*Cf.* Scots *gurr* "a thick-set, ungainly person", itself possibly from Scottish Gaelic *geàrr* "thick-set".]

gay, gey, gy, gye *adjective* **1** *of things* good, in good order. **2** *of the weather* fine, bright. **3** *of a person* good at something. **4** large in number, size, distance, *etc.*

◆ *adverb* very.

□ **gaily, geyly, gyly** *adverb* **1** well. **2** very, very well, very much.

◆ *adjective* in good health, in good form *e.g.* *How are you?* *Gyly*.

□ **gayan** very, rather; *see and*.

[Scots and Northern English *gey, gy, gye* form of *gay*.]

gazebo, gazaybo, gazabo, gazaby, gazebay, gazeby *noun* **1** a stand at a race-course. **2** a tall building used as a vantage point. **3** an empty building with a staring appearance. **4** anything tall and ungainly.

5 anything queer-looking, a "sight". **6** an idle, staring person. **7** a tall, awkward person.

[Old form *gazabo* of English *gazebo*, Lincolnshire *gazzeboe*.]

gazed, gazen, gazed *see* gizzen.

geal *see* gil.

gealabhain *noun* the sparrow.

gealach-gunley, galach-na-gungla, gelach-gunleg *noun* the harvest moon.

gear *noun* goods, possessions, property; money.

□ **have neither reed nor gears** have nothing at all, be insolvent.

□ **out of gear** not in working order; out of health; in low spirits; in bad circumstances.

□ **set of gears** *weaving* the heddles of a loom. [ILLUS: set/gear]

geatled [rhymes with "beetled"] *adjective* tired, worn out, exhausted.

geb, gebby *see* gab².

geck, gack, geek *verb* **1** jeer. **2** usually **geck at** mock, ridicule, make fun of (a person). **3** deceive, trifle with. **4** toss the head scornfully; *see also* gag. **5** talk in a pointless way.

◆ *noun* **1** a derisive toss of the head. **2 gack** a person who talks behind another person's back.

[Scots and Northern English *geck*, Scots also *geek*; from Middle Low German *gecken* "to make a fool of", Middle Dutch *geck* "a jest".]

gee *see* give.

gee: **gee up** a command to a horse to turn to the right.

geeble *see* jibble.

geed *see* good.

geefawing *see* gafaw.

geeg *see* gig.

geeg *noun* a gig, a light carriage.

[Scots form.]

gee-gaw *verb* talk too much.

◆ *noun* the tendency to talk too much *e.g.* *He has far too much gee-gaw.*

Cf. geegaws.

geegaws *noun plural* broken pieces of china used as playthings.

[Scots form of *gewgaw*.]

geegit *adjective* sickly-looking.

geegle *verb* giggle.

□ **geeglit** *literally* giggled: giggling, smirking.

[Scots form.]

geek *see* geck.

geek *verb* **1** peep. **2** peer.

◆ *noun* a peep.

[Cornwall; *cf.* keek. *See also* glaik.]

geek¹ *noun, derogatory* an odd-looking fellow.

geelik, geelog *see* gellick.

geely *see* gellick.

geely, gilly *noun* a fish: a stickleback.

[*Cf.* Irish *gilidín* "the fry of trout or salmon".]

Geemidy God! *exclamation* minced oath expressing disbelief or exasperation.

geeragh *noun* the game of rounders *Co. Antrim*.

[Origin unknown.]

geeran *noun* a wild flower: the cow parsnip.

gees *see* give.

geezard *see* gizzert.

geezened *see* gizzen.

geg *noun* **1** a "gag", a trick, a hoax. **2** a joker, a person who plays tricks.

3 a verbal insult.

◆ *verb* "gag", ridicule, poke fun at.

[The form *geg* is also found in Scots, mainly Glasgow. *See also* gig.]

geld *adjective, of a cow* barren, not giving milk.

[English dialectal, also rarely Scots; from Old Norse *geldr*,

corresponding to the Old English word that gives yell.]

gellick, gelick, yellick, gailick, gaelic, gillick, geelik, gallick, geelog, gallog *noun* (a) also **geely bug** an earwig. *Illustration see fork*; (b) a rove beetle: the devil's coach horse *Staphylinus olens*. *Illustration see Irish*; (c) *loosely* a beetle.

□ **An earwig gets into your ear; you die. You swallow a yellick; you go mad. You swallow a mancreeper; eat two salt (red) herrings, go to a flowing stream, open your mouth, shut your eyes, you hear a splash, he's gone!**

[Scots *gavelock, gellock, gaylock*; a figurative use of Scots and English dialectal *gavelock* "a crowbar", from Old English *gafeloc* "a javelin". The forms *geelik, geelog* may have been influenced by *dyeelog* (*see deel*).]

gellis *see* gallows.

gellyaur *verb* bellow, shout.

gelly-cup, gaily-pot *noun* a small jam-pot or cup.

gelpin *see* gilpin.

gender *see* ganner.

generally: most generally more intensive than generally *e.g. Most of the people go to sea here? Most generally.*

gentle *adjective* enchanted or visited by the fairies.

□ **gentle thorn** a fairy thorn. *Illustration see fairy.*

□ **the gentle people or folk** the fairies.

[Hiberno-English, *cf.* Irish *uasal*, which means both "noble" and "pertaining to the fairies". *See also gentry.*]

gentry *noun* the fairies.

◆ *adjective* enchanted or visited by the fairies.

□ **gentry bush** a fairy thorn. *Illustration see fairy.*

[*Cf.* Irish *uaise*, which means both "the gentry" and "the fairies". *See also gentle.*]

genuse *see* jalouse.

genzy *see* gansey.

geranium [stress on second syllable, vowel as in "pan". Tyrone pron. as if "jailmans"]:

gerden *see* garden.

gerl *see* girl.

German *noun* a Paris bun.

germander *noun* a wild flower, the speedwell *Veronica chamædrys*.

gern *see* girn.

gersha, gesha *see* girsha.

gesling *noun* a gosling.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *g*□*slingr*. English *gosling* is from *goose* + *-ling*.]

get, git; past tense gat; past participle gotten; verb 1 get. **2** learn by heart.

3 succeed in reaching a place or attending a function *e.g. Wasn't it wonderful Bridie got?* **4** marry (a woman). **5** also **get the name of** be called *e.g. His name is Mulgrew, but he gets Timony.* **6** smell, perceive by the sense of smell *e.g. I don't get it.* **7** when the present participle occurs in a sentence with the verb **be** and a subject complement, it is postponed to the end *e.g. It's a fine day getting* [probably modelled on the similar construction with the past participle, *see be*].

◆ *noun, vulgar, 1 derogatory* a child, a brat. **2** an illegitimate child. **3** an abusive term for a person.

□ **are you getting?** asked by a waiter, shop assistant, *etc.*: are you being served?

□ **as mean as get out** extremely mean and rude.

□ **get at** *figuratively* understand.

□ **get-atable** accessible.

□ **get awa** *euphemism* die.

□ **get (e.g. a lesson) off** learn (*e.g. a lesson*) by heart, commit to memory.

- **get great with** fall in love with.
- **get in** pass, get through (time) *e.g. I don't know how I'm going to get in the day.*
- **get it hard** "have it hard", find life difficult, *especially* in regard to money worries.
- **get off you** take off your clothes, get undressed.
- **get on (talking, etc.), get to (talking, etc.)** fall into (conversation, etc.).
- **get on to (a person)** **1** scold (a person). **2** treat (a person) harshly.
- 3** make fun of (a person).
- **get on you** put on your clothes, get dressed.
- **get-out** a get-up, a "rig-out", clothing.
- **get out of the sheugh** get out of the way.
- **get over (a story, etc.)** tell (a story, *especially* something amusing).
- **get sleeping** sleep *e.g. I couldn't get sleeping with the noise.*
- **get the lines** get one's marriage certificate.
- **gettings, gittins, gittance** **1** earnings, wages. **2** gains in card-playing.
- 3** ye've got yir gittins you're getting no more.
- **get up** grow up.
- **get up in years** get on in years, grow old.
- **get your death** "catch your death", die.
- **get your head in your fist, get yer head in yer han'** get a severe scolding.
- **git in there, Norton!** "didn't I do well!".
- **git up them stairs or I'll buy a bungalow**
- **got:**
- **hard got** hard to get.
- **have got** have had (a meal) *e.g. Have you got your breakfast?*
- **hoover's get** *literally* a bastard: a term of abuse.
- **how do you get your health?** how are you?
- **notgetatable, not-get-at-able** out of the way.
- **(not) get coming** (not) be able to come, (not) have permission or power to come.
- **(not) well got** (not) from a respectable family.
- **you have got your dinner and he has his to sell** he has more caution and discretion.

[Scots form *git*. Past tense: Scots and Northern English *gat*. Past participle: *gotten* obsolete in Standard English in England, still used as Standard in Scotland and U.S.A.]

gether, getherin *see* gather.

gev *see* give.

gey, geyly *see* gay.

ghaist *see* ghost.

ghost, ghaist *noun* a ghost.

◆ *verb, of someone begging or asking a favour* "shadow", trail after (a person).

□ *e.g. If you ask a man did he ever see a fairy or a ghose [sic], he will probably reply: "I nivver seen anything worse nor myself".*

□ **ghoster** someone who **ghosts** a person.

[Scots and Northern English form *ghaist*.]

giant: giant's grave, giant-grave a type of prehistoric monument: a dolmen. [ILLUS: giants/g]

gib *noun* **1** something bent in the form of a hook. **2** the curved head of a walking stick.

[Northern English and Southern Scots form of **gab**¹.]

gibble *verb* gabble, gibber.

[Obsolete Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal)

gibble-gabble, extended form of **gabble**.]

gibe *noun* a young turkey.

[*Cf.* Lincolnshire *gib* "a gosling", origin unknown.]

giblets *noun plural* the smaller pieces used in making a shirt.

gibneach *noun* a sandeel: the hornel *Ammodytes tobianus*.

[Irish *goibineach*, **goibneach* "a small sandeel", based on *gob* "a beak" (see *gob*¹). Cf. *gobbock*.]

gick-gick *exclamation* a sound made through the teeth to command a horse to go on.

[Onomatopoeic.]

gid *see* good.

giddy *adjective* **1** finicky. **2** foolish.

giddy-goyster *noun, childish* something filthy or offensive *south Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

gidheal *noun* a sudden urgent desire to possess something.

gie, gied, gien, giened, gie's *see* give.

gied *see* go.

gien, giened, gie's *see* give.

gif *conjunction* if.

[Scots and Northern English, altered form of *if*.]

gift

□ **a gift, a friend, a foe, a lover (or sweetheart), a journey to go; gifts, friends, foes, true lovers, journeys to go** a divining rhyme, thought to foretell any of the happenings mentioned from white flecks on the fingernails, counting from the thumb outwards.

□ **as well look for the gift of God in the Highlands of Scotland**

gig *noun* a spree.

◆ *verb, also geeg, gig at* laugh at.

□ **gigit 1** elated with the novelty of something. **2** frivolous.

□ **giglet** a young girl.

[Cf. obsolete Standard English *gig* "something that whirls; an oddity; fun"; Scots also *geeg* "to giggle"; onomatopoeic. Cf. *geg*.]

gig¹ *noun* a small amount (of milk).

Gig-ma-gog: Gig-ma-gog's grave a dolmen between Coleraine and Bushmills.

gil, gal, geal *noun 1 usually guil-gowan, gil-gowan, geal-gowan* a wild flower of cornfields: (a) the corn marigold *Chrysanthemum segetum*.

Illustration see yellow; (b) ragwort Senecio jacobaea; (c) charlock

Sinapis arvensis; (d) also gale rape Brassica napus. See gowan.

Illustration see shillocks. 2 also gilseed weed seed cleaned out of grain in threshing.

□ **geal-seed, galseed** the seed of the corn-marigold; poppy seed, tares, bad seed.

[Scots *guil, gill, gweel*; from Old English *golde* "the marigold", related to gold.]

gilch *noun* a young man around 20.

Gilderoy: as big as Gilderoy e.g. *I wouldn't give it to you if you were as big as Gilderoy*; a defiance.

□ **be hung higher than Gilderoy's kite** be punished more severely than the very worst criminals.

gill *verb* win all a person has, "fleece" (a person).

[Form of obsolete Standard English *guile* "to beguile, to deceive", from Old French *guiler*. Cf. *gillery*.]

gill¹

□ **down in the gills** in low spirits, down in the mouth.

□ **have (a man) by the gills** of a woman have "caught" (a man).

gillaroo, gillaro *noun, also gillaroo-trout* a sub-species of trout: *Salmo stomachius*.

[Hiberno-English *gillaroo* from Irish *giolla rua* literally "a red fellow". Cf. *gilloge*.]

gillery *noun* deception, trickery, fraud.

- [Northern English form of obsolete Standard English *guilery*, from Old French *gillerie*; *cf.* *gill*.]
- gillet** *see* gullet.
- gillick** *see* gellick.
- gillie** *noun* a young man.
[Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *gille* "a lad, a fellow". *See also* *keelie*.]
- gilligan** *noun* a little fish.
- gilloge** *noun* **1** the fry of the minnow. **2** a young salmon.
[Hiberno-English; probably from Irish *gealóg*, **gileog* "the fry of fish", literally "little bright one".]
- gillogie** *noun* a seagull *Co. Donegal*.
[*Cf.* *gull* and *whillogie*.]
- gilly** *see* geely.
- gilpie** *noun* a young girl.
[Scots; origin unknown, *cf.* *gilpin*. *See also* *kelp*.]
- gilpin, gelpin** *noun* the fry of the coalfish *Pollachius virens*.
[Scots "a young animal, bird, *etc.*", probably the same word as *gulpin*. *See also* *gilpie*.]
- gilravage, gulravage, gulravidge, gulravish, golravitch, galrevitch** *verb* make a great noise.
♦ *noun* **1** noisy merrymaking; a lively party. **2** noisy, boisterous play. **3** a great noise. **4** a mob, a disorderly crowd of people.
[Scots; possibly intensifying prefix *gil-*, *gar-* (forms of *cur-* as in *curcuddoch*) + *ravage* or *ravish*.]
- gilseed** *see* *gil*.
- gilt: gilty-ware**, *also* **gilty** copper lustre dishes.
□ **that knocked the gilt off the gingerbread** a phrase meant to indicate that the real state of affairs was not right, notwithstanding an outward show.
- gilt¹, galt** *noun*, *also* **giltorhog** a pig.
- gim** *see* *gum*.
- gimcrack, jimcrack** *noun* a frivolous adornment.
- gimlet** *noun* a bradawl.
- gimme** *see* *give*.
- gimmer** *noun* a ewe after she has had her first lamb.
[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *gymbr* "a one-year-old ewe lamb".]
- gimmies** *see* *give*.
- gin¹** *conjunction* *if*.
□ **gin so be** *if*, "if so be".
[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]
- gin², gain** *preposition* **1** against. **2** *of time* by *e.g.* *A'll see ye gin Setturday*. **3** *of time* within *e.g.* *She'll be there gin a few minutes*.
♦ *conjunction* by the time that *e.g.* *He was in bed gin I got back*.
[Scots and English dialectal *gin*, Scots also *gain*; shortened forms of *again*.]
- ginger:**
- ginger** *noun* ginger.
□ **gingerbread** gingerbread; *See* *bread*.
□ **gingerbread nuts:**
- ginkin** *noun* a young salmon *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*; *cf.* *jinkin*.
- ginlin** *noun* a small amount (*e.g.* of stones).
- ginle** *verb* **1** tickle, catch (fish, *especially* trout) with the hands or with a small loop attached to a stick. **2** *figuratively* rummage (*e.g.* in a pocket).
[Scots, origin unknown.]
- giob** *noun* a bit, morsel.
- giotta** *noun* a light lunch brought by school-children.
- gipe** *see* *gype*.
- gird** *verb*, *usually* **gird at** sneer or scoff at.

girdle *see* griddle.

girl, gerl *noun* **1** a girl; an unmarried woman of any age. **2** a woman servant. **3 ye girl ye** a familiar or affectionate term of address; *cf.* boy.

- girleen** *affectionate* a little girl [*girl* + Irish diminutive ending *-in*].
- oul' maid girl** old maid.

[Old form (not in Scots) *gerl*.]

girn *see* grin.

girn, gern, gurn *verb* **1** grin; show the teeth in laughing. **2** speak with a chuckle. **3** screw up the face. **4** gnash or show the teeth in rage. **5** snarl.

6 *figuratively, of the sea* become angry. **7** speak in a surly way.

8 complain peevishly, grumble. **9** whimper, cry peevishly.

◆ *noun* **1** a peevish expression on the face. **2** a snarl, a growl. **3** a whimpering way of speaking or crying. **4** a person who is always complaining.

- girling** the act of complaining or grumbling peevishly.

- girnin ghost:**

- girn like a cat atin sprouts**

- girny** peevish, fractious.

- girny-gab, girny-gub** or **girny-go-gabby** or **girny-goat, the cat's cousin** a name for a child who cries a lot for no good reason [for the form *girny-go-gabby* *cf.* Scots *girnigo* "a petulant child", Northern English *girnigaw* "the cavity of the mouth". The second element is possibly Scots and Northern English *gaw* "a slit", origin unknown]; *see* gob¹.

[*Girn* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal); Northern English and Scots also *gurn*, Northern English also *gern*; altered form of *grin*. *See also* yirn.]

girrat! *see* go.

girsha, gersha, girseach, gesha *noun* a young girl.

[Hiberno-English *girsha*, from Irish *girseach*, from *gearr* "short" + feminine ending *-seach*.]

girt¹, gurt *noun* pain, trouble.

[*Cf.* Irish *goirt* adjective "sad, painful".]

girt² *noun* a jerk, a sudden pull.

[*Cf.* Scots and Northern English *jirt*, onomatopoeic.]

girth *noun* the breech-band of a horse's harness.

gis *see* goose.

gis-gis, gus-gus *exclamation* a call to pigs.

[Scots and Northern English *gis-gis*; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *gis*, Swedish dialectal *giss*.]

gistra *noun* **1** a fit and strong old man. **2** a precocious, "old-fashioned" child.

[Irish *giostaire*.]

git *see* get.

gither *see* gather.

gittance *see* get.

gitterfist *adjective* left handed.

gitthering *adjective* shivering.

gittins *see* get.

gius, gyus *noun* the pine.

- gius-ban** the white fir.
- gius-dairg** red fir; larch.
- gius-dhu** the black oak.

give, gie, gee; *past tense* give, gev, gae, give'd, gied, gaed, gien, giened; *past participle* gien, give; *verb* **1** give. **2** name, call *e.g.* *Who's thon? They give him Briney*. **3** (a) leak; (b) of a wall, etc. sweat, exude moisture.

- Aa'll gee ye on the lug a raatel** hit.
- gae'm** gave him.
- gamme** gave me.

- **ga's 1** gave us. **2** gave me; *see* US.
- **gie's, gees 1** give us. **2** give me; *see* US.
- **giff-gaff, gif-gaf** "give and take", mutual obligation, reciprocity.
- **giff-gaff** talkative, friendly.
- **gimme** give me, *hence* **the gimmies** an imaginary affliction that makes people, *especially* children, ask for things all the time.
- **give in that** acknowledge *e.g. I give in that you are right.*
- **give in to** believe, acknowledge, accept the truth of *e.g. I can't give in to it.*
- **give in your gun** die.
- **give it to someone** scold someone.
- **give off 1** speak angrily. **2 give off to (a person)** scold (a person); *hence* **giving off** a scolding.
- **give out 1** become exhausted. **2** announce publicly; make generally known.
- **give out the hour** *figuratively, of a child cry; of a dog growl.*
- **give over** cease, stop, leave off.
- **give someone a good word** give someone a good character reference.
- **give someone a hat** take off your hat as a mark of respect for someone.
- **give someone his or her own** tell someone "a few home truths".
- **he (or she)'d gi' ye yer answer** he (or she) is quick to tell you off; he (or she) has a ready tongue.
- **not give someone the time of day 1** not greet someone civilly, snub someone. *gen. negative 2* "have no time for" someone.

[Scots and English dialectal form *gie, gee*; obsolete Scots and Northern English form *gij*. Past tense: Southern English *give, gived*; Hiberno-English and English dialectal *gev*; Scots and English dialectal *gied, gien*; Scots also *gae, gaed*. Past participle: Scots and Northern English *gien*, Suffolk *give*.]

gizog *noun* an oddity.

gizzen, gazen, gaizen *verb, of wood* warp, crack as a result of heat or drying out.

- **gizzened, geezened, gazed, gazed 1** shrunk, warped, cracked from heat or dryness. **2** *of wooden boats, barrels, etc.* leaky at the seams because of shrinkage. **3** *figuratively, of a person* "roasted", made uncomfortable by hot weather.

[Scots and Northern English *gizzen*, Scots also *geezen*, Scots rarely *gazen*, Orkney and Argyllshire also *gaizen*; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Icelandic *gisna* "to become leaky".]

gizzert, guzzard, geezard, gizzern, gaizern *noun* the gizzard of a fowl.

[Scots and Northern English form *gizzern*, Scots also *guzzern*.]

glabber *verb 1* chatter, babble; talk too much. **2** talk indiscreetly. **3** talk incoherently.

- **glabberin** babbling, over-talkative *e.g. a glabberin' fool*; a chattering or babbling fool; someone who tells everything.

- **glabbering** meaningless chatter.

[Scots, also Cheshire; onomatopoeic.]

glack *noun* a secluded nook.

[Irish *glac*.]

glackey *noun* a girl *e.g. A gammy glackey*; a bad girl.

glackit *see* glaik.

glacks *see* glakes.

glad, gled *adjective 1* glad. **2 glad for someone** delighted to see someone.

- 3 glad at something** glad of something.

[Scots form *gled*.]

glaf *noun* a half-wit, a simpleton.

[*Cf.* Irish *glafaire* "an inarticulate simpleton".]

glaik, glake, gleak, gleek, gleck, gloke *verb 1* glance. **2** look around idly while you should be working. **3** peep, watch secretly. **4** stare rudely.

◆ **noun** **1** a peep, a glance. **2** a glimpse. **3** something queer-looking, a "sight". **4** a talkative person. **5** a flighty, thoughtless person.

□ **glaikery** foolishness, foolish behaviour.

□ **glaikit, glackit** **1** foolish, stupid; mentally retarded. **2** thoughtless, careless. **3** easy-going. **4** flighty.

[Obsolete Standard English (still Northern English) *gleek* "a jest; a flirtatious glance", origin unknown. Possibly a different word is Scots and Northern English *glaik*, Scots also *gleck, glack* "to flirt; to glance; a prank; a glance; a flighty, thoughtless person, especially a girl".]

glaikin, glaiks *see* glakes.

glaisin *see* glassan.

glakes, glaiks, glacks **noun** **1** *also* **glake** a construction used to give more leverage on a churn-staff. **2** a construction of rods and ropes on a horse's back for carrying large quantities of hay, straw, *etc.* [ILLUS: glakes]

□ **glake** **1** *also* **glaikin** a spancel on the forelegs of an animal to prevent it straying. **2** the process of churning.

[Irish *glac* "a grip, a handle"; *glakes, glaiks* also found in Western Scots. With the form *glaikin*, *cf.* Irish *glaicín* "a fetter".]

glam **noun** a small amount.

glam *see* glaum.

glamour **noun** magic, enchantment; a spell (*especially* over someone of the opposite sex). *usually* **cast the glamour over**

□ **glamoury, glammery** witchcraft.

glamp **verb** snatch.

□ **glamper** a horse that takes long strides.

[Scots, altered form of glaum.]

glance **noun** a flash.

glanners **noun** a disease: glanders.

glar *see* glaur.

glare **noun** a glassy look in the eyes of a dead person.

glarry *see* glaur.

glasgee **noun** the greater pipe-fish *Sygnathus acus*.

[Irish *glas gaoithe* "a type of eel".]

glasgeehy **noun** a kind of eel.

Glasgow: Glasgow magistrate, also magistrate a herring imported from Glasgow.

glashan *see* glassan.

glashurlana **noun** **1** the bog asphodel *Nartheccium ossifragum*. **2** **glaslean** the sun-spurge *Euphorbia helioscopia*.

glaslurg **noun** part of the construction of an eel-trap in a weir *Lower River Bann*.

glass, gless **noun** **1** glass. **2** *specifically* a mirror. **3** *in plural* glasses, spectacles.

□ **glassfly, glessheid** a dragonfly; *see* head. *Illustration see* grand.

□ **glassy** a marble made of glass.

□ **I would never break the glass lookin' at it** said by a woman in reply to the remark that she was in a hurry, implying that she was not in too much of a hurry to oblige the other person; meaning that there's no harm in stopping still for a moment?

[Scots form *gless*.]

glassan, glashan, glaisin **noun** **1** the young of the coalfish *Pollachius virens*, when about one year old. **2** *in general* the coalfish.

□ **glassain mhora** the fourth stage in the life of the coalfish.

[Irish *glasán*; also Western Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *glasán, glaisean*.]

glaum, glam **verb** **1** grab, clutch at, reach for. **2** grope.

◆ **noun** **1** a sudden grab, a snatch, *frequently* **make a glam at**. **2** a wild grab in the dark. **3** a handful; a lot. **4** a lump of something. **5** a blow.

[Hiberno-English and Scots; origin unknown, also in Irish as *glám* and

Scottish Gaelic as *glàm*. *See also* **glamp**.]

glaur, glar *noun* **1** soft mud. **2** dirt, scum, filth. **3** a sticky substance of any kind.

- **glar-bed** a mud-flat.
- **glar-hole** a muddy place.
- **glaurie, glarry** *of roads* miry, muddy.
- **it's hard to keep your skirts out of the glar** *figuratively* it's difficult not to be contaminated.

[Scots and Northern English *glaur*, Scots also *glar*; origin unknown.

Borrowed into Irish as *glár*. *See also* **clarry**.]

glaze *see* **gloss**.

glaze¹ *verb* polish, smooth.

- **glazy, glaissy, glaizie** glossy, waxed, having a smooth, shiny surface; *frequently* applied to the green of young corn.

gleak *see* **glaik**.

glean *verb* winnow.

gleck *see* **glaik**.

gled *see* **glad**.

gled *noun* a bird: the kite (probably the hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*).

Illustration see **glede**.

[Scots and Northern English; from Old Norse *gleða*, corresponding to Old English *glida*, which gives **glede**.]

glede *noun* a bird: the kite (probably the hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*), *frequently* **the greedy glede**

[English dialectal, from Old English *glida* "the kite". *See also* **gled**.]

[ILLUS: **glede**]

gledny *noun* a wild flower: the stinking iris *Iris foetidissima*.

[Obsolete Standard English *gladdon*, *cf.* Latin *gladiolus* literally "sword-lily".]

glee *adjective* crooked, twisted, askew.

- **gleed, gley'd** **1** **glee**. **2** turned aside.

[Scots and Northern English *glee, gley*; from Middle English *glēzen* "to squint". *See also* **agley**.]

gleed *noun* **1** a red-hot coal, an ember [archaic in Standard English]. **2** a flame. **3** a spark. **4** *figuratively* a spark (of intelligence), *usually not a gleed of sense*.

- **gleed aizel** a glowing cinder; *see* **aizel**.

[General dialectal and Scots, from Old English *glēd* "a live coal".]

gleek *see* **glaik**.

gleester *noun* a sticky smear, *e.g.* the track of a snail.

[*Cf.* archaic English *glister* "a glittering, a lustre", Scots form *glaister*.]

gleg *adjective, also gleggy **1** sharp-sighted. **2** sharp, keen, quick-witted. **3** fluent in speech.*

- ◆ *noun* gossip, chit-chat.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *gleggr* "sharp-sighted; clever".]

glegle *verb* giggle.

glen *noun* a valley [also adopted in Standard English].

- **Glengorm** dirt, muck.
- **Glenswilly**:

[Hiberno-English and Scots, from Irish and Scottish Gaelic *gleann*.]

Glenswilly: Glenswilly decree rough justice: *originally* a summons issued by the Union or Association of Poteen-makers (formed about 1800) to collect payment forcibly for illegal poteen.

[Glenswilly is in Co. Donegal.]

glenyarr *see* **granyarr**.

gleo *noun* noise, confusion.

gless, glessheid *see* **glass**.

gley'd *see* **glee**.

glib¹ *noun* a lock of hair, *especially* over the forehead; a quiff.

[Irish *glib*.]

glib², glibe *adjective*, of machinery smooth, slippery.

[The same word as English *glib* "fluent in speech", English dialectal and Southern Scots form *glibe*.]

glibe *noun*, *obsolete* a glebe, the land attached to a parish church.

gligin *noun* a term of contempt.

glim *noun* **1** a gleam of light. **2** a fire.

□ **glimmer** **1** a pane of glass. **2** an oil-lamp.

[Scots; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *glim* "a glimmer", Swedish dialectal *glim* "a gleam", corresponding to English *gleam*. *See also* *glime*.]

glime *verb* **1** glance slyly. **2** look out of the corner of your eye. **3** glare in an unpleasant way.

[Scots and English dialectal; origin unknown, *cf.* *glim*.]

glimmer¹ *noun* a shellfish: the common whelk *Buccinum undatum*, *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

glimmer² *verb* stare.

[Scots and English dialectal "to peer"; possibly the same word as English *glimmer* "to shine faintly", but *cf.* *glim*.]

glint *noun* a glimpse.

gliogar *noun* a rattling sound, as that made by a loose mudguard of a bicycle.

glioma *noun* a lobster.

[Irish *gliomach*.]

glipe¹ *noun* a newly-spawned cod.

[Also found in Ayrshire and Argyllshire, origin unknown.]

glipe² *noun* an uncouth fellow.

[Scots, probably an alteration of *gype*.]

glit, glut *noun* **1** slime, scum; *specifically* (a) duckweed on stagnant water; (b) the scum left by decayed seaweed. **2** shiny, engrained dirt on clothes. **3** a frosty sheen on the surface of a road, *etc.*

[Forms obsolete in Standard English (*glit* still Scots) of Standard English *gleet*.]

glitteries *noun plural* shiny decorations, *e.g.* on a Christmas tree, or sequins on a dress.

gloak *verb* dare.

gloaming, gloamin, glomin *noun* dusk, twilight.

[Scots and Northern English, *gloaming* also adopted in poetic English; from Old English *glōmung*.]

gloin *verb* scold, verbally abuse *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

gloit *noun*, *also* **gloiter** a blockhead; an awkward fellow, a boor.

[Rare Scots, *cf.* Scottish Gaelic *gloic*.]

gloke *see* *glaik*.

glomin *see* *gloaming*.

glook *noun* a man *e.g.* a *gammy glook*; a bad man.

glory-hole *noun* a storage space where things are heaped together in a jumble; *cf.* *glaur*.

glose *see* *gloss*.

gloss, glose, gloze, glaze *noun*, *frequently* a **glaze of the fire** a warm, a heat at a fire.

[The same word as English *gloss*. Scots forms *glose, gloze*.]

gloss¹ *noun* the game of pegging tops.

glour *see* *glower¹*.

glouter *verb*: *e.g.* *all selfish amusements and pursuits were discouraged*.

No one was to "glouter" in a corner absorbed in a book or newspaper.

glouter *see* *glowter*.

glow *noun, verb* glow.

□ **glower** a glowing cinder.

[Scots pronunciation with vowel as in "now".]

glow¹ *noun* commotion.

glower¹, glour *verb* **1** gaze, look intently; stare rudely. **2** stare idly. **3** *of the weather* be overcast, gloomy.

□ **glowerer** a person who stares.

□ **glowering** **1** staring. **2** scowling, surly, in a bad temper. **3** *of the weather* overcast.

[Scots and English dialectal, origin unknown.]

glower² *verb* call, shout.

[*Cf.* Irish *glór* *noun* "the voice".]

glowing *noun* twilight, dusk.

glown *noun* a foolish person.

glowter, glouter [vowel as in "plough"] *noun* a sticky mixture or mess.

◆ *verb* fold (something) in to a sticky mixture (*e.g.* in mixing cement).

Cf. clowster.

gloy *verb* thresh (oats) incompletely, so that some grain is fed to animals along with the straw.

[Scots, from Old French *glui* "straw".]

gloze *see* gloss.

gludyen *noun* a clumsy, awkward fellow.

[*Cf.* Irish *gligín, gloigín* "a rattle-brained fellow".]

glug *noun* the death-rattle.

□ **glugging** the act of gurgling.

glum *adjective, of the weather* dull, overcast.

See also glumf.

glumf *verb* sulk.

□ **glumfy** sulky.

[Scots, extended form of *glum*.]

glunch *verb* frown, grimace obstinately, *frequently* **glower** and **glunch**.

◆ *noun* **1** a frown. **2** a morose person.

□ **glunchy** morose, sullen.

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

glundie *noun* **1** a bad-mannered, surly person, a boor. **2** a cross, sulky person. **3** an awkward fool. **4** an inactive person, a "lump".

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

gluntachan *noun* a rude, loud-spoken fellow.

[Apparently Southern Scots *gluntoch* "a surly person" from Scots *glunt* "to scowl" (itself onomatopoeic) + Irish ending *-án*.]

glunter, glunther *noun* **1** *also* **glunterhorn, glunterpipe** a stupid person.

2 an obstinate person. **3** a big, awkward person.

□ **gluntherum** an ignoramus, a boor.

[Scots *glunder, glunter* "to sulk", probably onomatopoeic.]

glut *see* glit.

gna *verb* gnaw.

[Scots and English dialectal form.]

gnab *verb* nag, find fault with.

[Scots *gnap*, onomatopoeic.]

gnarl¹ *verb* **1** growl, snarl. **2** grumble, complain. **3** gnaw, nibble at.

[Obsolete Standard English "to snarl" (still Lincolnshire), extended form of *gnar*. *See also* *nyarr*.]

gnarl², gnar *noun* **1** a gnarl, a hard knot in wood. **2** *in plural, also narls* knirls, chicken-pox; *see* knur.

□ **narlie** small, stunted.

[Scots and Northern English form *gnar*.]

gnat *noun* a short person.

gneeve *noun, historical* a measure of land: about ten acres.

[Irish *gníomh*.]

go; *present part*; **gan, gaun, gawn**; *past tense* **gaed, gade, gied, gane**; *past participle* **gane, went**; *verb, also* **gae, ga 1 go. 2 walk**: (a) **go on a stick** walk with the help of a stick; (b) **go by the grip of a baby** walk holding onto an adult's hand. **3 go to** make as if to (do something). **4 of a rumour** circulate *e.g. They have it goin everywhere.*

◆ *noun* as much as a person can carry at one time, a **gang** *e.g. a go of water.*

- a goin' fut aye gets something**
- all gone to nothing** failed, come to nothing.
- all the go** widely rumoured.
- at or in the first go-off** in the beginning, first of all.
- at the first go off** at the beginning of anything, initially.
- gaun, gwon, gwan** go on; *hence gwon yer best!* a shout of encouragement.
- give someone the go-by** snub, avoid someone, give someone the cold shoulder.
- gizunder** a chamber pot.
- go a bit off (it)** become insane.
- go about (something)** start doing (something).
- go about the bush** "beat about the bush", not come straight out with what you have to say.
- go after** court (a woman).
- go an' boil yur head** "get lost".
- go an' scratch** leave me alone.
- go asleep**
- go away with you!** "get away!": expressing impatience, scorn or disbelief.
- go back** grow worse, *e.g. in health or financial circumstances.*
- go by!** get out of the way!
- go chair** a walking frame for a baby.
- go ends with someone** accompany, go along with someone.
- goer usually good goer of a person** a good worker; *of a horse* a fast runner.
- go fast of a crop etc.** fail, die off.
- go from meat** go off your food; *see meat.*
- go in for (an office)** stand for election to (an office) *e.g. He's going in for crowner; i.e. standing for the office of coroner.*
- going part** a portion of a loom.
- go in twa** break in two.
- go like a thatcher** work hard.
- go 'long!** go along! be on your way!
- gone, gane 1** gone. **2** grown, having become *e.g. gone cold, gone poor. 3 also gone with it* off your head, insane.
- gone away for the good of his or her eyes** taking a holiday without leave.
- gone a week, year etc.** (this time) a week, year *etc.* ago.
- gone man 1** a sick man who has no chance of recovery. **2** a man who has no chance of escape; someone who is "done for".
- go on 1** make a fuss; scold; fret. **2** behave badly.
- go on out of that!, goner that, goryat!, girrat!** *exclamation 1* be off with you! **2** expressing disbelief: "go on!". **3** a command to a horse to go on.
- go on your neck, ear, etc.** stumble and fall.
- go over historical** be transported overseas.
- go over someone's notes** lecture someone at length.
- go round Meg's to you** meaning that it is difficult to get you to understand anything.
- go tae hell** "get away!": expressing surprise at news *etc.*
- go under** undergo.

- **gwon yer best!** a shout of encouragement *Mid Ulster*.
- **gwup!, gup** go up!; a call to a horse.
- **it has gone (one etc.) o'clock** the clock has just struck (one etc.).
- **on the go** "all the go", in fashion.
- **that'll keep ye goin'** *on handing over a cup of tea or a snack* that'll tide you over until your regular meal.
- **the whole go** in fashion, vogue, popular.
- **way of going 1** a person's normal way of behaving. **2** a person's normal routine.
- **you might go fardher and fare worse** be content as you are.
[Scots and Northern English form *gae*, Northern English also *ga*.
Present participle: Scots and Northern English *gan*, Scots also *gaun*, *gawn*. Past tense: Scots and Northern English *gaed*, *gade*, *gied*; Scots also *gane*. Past participle: obsolete Standard English (still Scots, also Southern English) *went*, Scots and Northern English also *gane*.]

goak *see* gowk.

goam, goamy *see* gaum.

goapen *see* gowpen.

goat *see* gait.

goat: as hard as a goat's knee very hard.

- **goatheen** a foundling reared on goats' milk.
- **goat's hair** mares' tails, thin streaming clouds.
- **goat's toe:**
- **goatsucker** a bird, the nightjar.
- **he's no goat, though he does go fartin' about** he's not as innocent as he lets on or looks.
- **it would blow the horns off a goat** said of a great storm.
- **like a goat dungin' in a tin can** description of the sound produced by an untalented instrumentalist.
- **no goat's toe** no fool.
- **think no small goats' toes of yourself, think you are no goat's toe** be self-satisfied.
- **you were a great judge of horse-flesh when you bought a goat for your mother to ride** you have poor judgment.

See also gait.

gob¹, gub, gab *noun, derogatory 1* the mouth. **2** a pout, a sticking out of the lower lip.

- **all gab and guts (like a young crow) of children (a)** greedy; **(b)** talkative; *cf. also* gab².
- **a smack of the gob** a kiss.
- **gab oil** *only in the phrase gab oil and elbow creash* "spit and polish".
- **gabshite 1** a bird: the skua *Stercorarius spp.*; *cf. shite. 2 also*
- gobshite** someone who talks rubbish and does not know when to be quiet.
- **gabsleuter** a blow on the mouth; *cf. slooter*.
- **give gob** be cheeky; *cf. gab²*.
- **gubby** *adjective* having large prominent lips.
- ◆ *noun* a person who pouts.
- **gubstopper** a sweetie: a "gobstopper".
- **hold your gob, shut your gob, shut up yer gub, stop your gob** "hold your tongue"; "shut your mouth"; be or remain silent.
- **the gift of the gob** "the gift of the gab", fluency of speech; talkativeness; *cf. gab²*.

[Hiberno-English *gob*, from Irish *gob* "a beak, a mouth"; also Scots and Northern English, from Scottish Gaelic *gob* (also adopted elsewhere as slang); Scots and English dialectal also *gub*; Scots also *gab* (also adopted in colloquial English). In some senses, influenced by gab².]

gob² *noun* a lump, *especially* of a soft substance; *specifically* a quantity of spittle.

- **work by the gob** do piece-work.

[Obsolete Standard English (still general dialectal and Scots), from Old French *gobe* "a mouthful".]

gob³ *noun* a man.

gobberlooney *see* gaberloonie.

gobbermonch *noun* someone who interferes in other people's business
Co. Antrim.

[Origin unknown.]

gobble¹ *verb* speak rapidly and indistinctly.

gobble² *verb* eat greedily or in large mouthfuls.

□ **gobble-guts** a greedy person.

gobbock, gabbuck, gubbug *noun* a fish: the spurdog *Squalus acanthias*.
*Illustration see pick*¹.

[Irish *gobóg* "a dogfish", from *gob* (*see gob*¹) + diminutive ending *-óg*.
Cf. gibneach.]

gobshite *see gob*¹.

gock *see gawk*².

God: God-a-God! *exclamation; cf. boy.*

□ **God between us and harm** said when accident or disease is mentioned.

□ **God bless the mark** expressing sympathy for a sick or disabled person.

□ **God help his or her wit, God luk to yer wit** implying that a person is naively optimistic; *see look*.

□ **God's bird or cock** the robin *Erithacus rubecula*. [ILLUS: Godsbird]

□ **God's goat** a bird: the common snipe *Gallinago gallinago*; *cf. air*.

□ **God's hen** the wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. *Illustration see tit*².

□ **godsib, gossip** a god-parent, a sponsor at baptism.

□ **God spare yer health!** a kindly wish, said when greeting someone.

□ **God's truth** *noun, also the God's truth* the exact truth.

◆ *exclamation* expressing surprise.

□ **gossiping** a meeting of friends to mark the birth of a child.

□ **looking for one of God's stars to light your pipe with** said to someone who expected the impossible.

gogarim *see grogram*.

goggly *adjective* unsteady on your feet, *especially* as a result of drink.

[English dialectal, rarely Scots, *goggle*; form of *coggle*.]

goghendies, goghenties, goghensies, goghanscry, gohendies

exclamation, also great goghendies, by the goghendies a disguised oath: expressing surprise, astonishment, *etc.*, *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

Goh *see by*.

Goh: by Goh *exclamation* a disguised oath; "by God".

gohan *see gahun*.

goic *noun* a wry neck; having the head inclined to one side.

goink *noun* a surly, grumpy person *Belfast; cf. gunk*.

goke *see gowk*.

gokey *see gawk*.

golach, gallagh, galliagh *noun* a forked stick; *specifically* (a) for a catapult; (b) to hold a string of fish; *see also gallagh*.

[Irish *gabhlach* "a forked implement", formed on *gabhal* "a fork". *Cf. gowlog*.]

gold, goold, gowd, gowld, gowl *noun, adjective* gold.

□ **Gold Coast** *nickname* the wealthy residential districts along the coastline between Holywood and Bangor.

□ **gold-crested wren** the goldcrest.

□ **goldcup** a wild flower: the buttercup *Ranunculus spp.*

□ **golden, goolden** golden.

□ **goldenball** a wild flower: the globeflower *Trollius europaeus*.

□ **golden-crested wren** the goldcrest.

□ **goldenhead** a bird: the widgeon *Anas penelope*.

□ **golden willow** a wild flower: bog myrtle *Myrica gale*.

- **goldfinch** a bird: the yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*.
- **goldfinch** a bird: the goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*; *see* finch.
- **goldhead** a bird: the pochard *Aythya ferina*.
- **gold marguerite** a wild flower: the corn marigold *Chrysanthemum segetum*. *Illustration see* yellow.
- **goldspink, goldspring, gooldspring** the goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* [Lanarkshire form *gowdspring*]; *see* spink².
- **gooldie, gouldie** *adjective* goldy, golden in colour.
- ◆ **noun** a bird: (a) the goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*; (b) the yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*; (c) the goldcrest *Regulus regulus*; (d) the golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*.
- **gooldpink** the goldfinch.
- **he or she wouldn't give much gold for a penny** he or she is hard to cheat.
- **that's the gold!** that's right!
[*Goold* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), Scots and English dialectal *gowld*, Scots and Northern English also *gowd*.]
- goldher** *see* gulder.
- goll** *noun* a seagull.
- gollagoleen, gollia gleen** *see* colligoleen.
- gollies** *exclamation* a disguised oath: golly.
- gollogue** *see* gowlog.
- gollop** *noun, verb* gulp.
[Scots and English dialectal and colloquial form.]
- golly¹** *noun, also golly pipe* a pipe, a dudeen *Co. Donegal*.
[Also in Donegal Irish as *gulai*, origin unknown.]
- golly², gawly, gally** *noun* **1** *hurling, football* a goal. **2** the ball used in the game of hurling.
[Origin unknown.]
- gollyarugh** *noun* a tumour.
- golravitch** *see* gilravage.
- golumpus** *see* galumpus.
- gom, gomach, gomachan, gomanally, gomas** *see* gaum.
- gombeen** *noun, also gombeen-man* a money-lender; a profiteer.
[Hiberno-English, from Irish *gaimbín*.]
- gomeril, gomerkal, gomil, gommeral, gommerlin** *see* gaum.
- gompan** *see* gump.
- gomuck, gomus, gomy** *see* gaum.
- gone, goner that** *see* go.
- gonney, gawney, goney** *exclamation* a disguised oath: God, *thus* **gonney-a-day!**, **Gawney bless us!**, **by Goneys!**
- good, gude, guid, gid, geed, gwid** *adjective* **1** good. **2** **good-** -in-law, *thus* (a) **good-daughter** daughter-in-law; (b) **good-father** father-in-law; (c) **good-mother** mother-in-law; (d) **good-son** son-in-law.
- ◆ *proper noun* **Gude, Guid** *literally* good: God.
- **as good** as much, an equivalent *e.g.* *He gave as good as he got*.
- **as good as** almost, nearly *e.g.* *as good as a week*.
- **for any good** on any account.
- **for good and all** "once and for all".
- **good-bottomed** not completely bad or selfish.
- **good goods goes in small bundles**
- **good-hearted** kind-hearted.
- **good-humoured** good-tempered.
- **goodle** a good deal, a large quantity or number; *cf.* great.
- **goodless** useless.
- **good-like** handsome, good-looking.
- **good liver** **1** a pious person. **2** someone who is well off.
- **good livin** riches.
- **good livin of a person** religious.

- **good-living** pious, benevolent, charitable.
 - **good-looking** *of the eyes* clear-sighted.
 - **goodman, guidman** the man of a house.
 - **good-natured** *of things* easy to work with.
 - **goodness** *noun* God. *thus* **goodness be about us** expressing surprise *etc.*
 - **good ones** best clothes or footwear.
 - **good people** the fairies.
 - **good room** the best room.
 - **goodwife, guidwife** the woman of a house.
 - **good win' to you!** long life to you!
 - **guideen!** good evening!
 - **make home good** arrive safely.
 - **the good place** heaven.
 - **the good woman** a man's way of referring to his wife.
- [Scots forms *gude, guid, gid, geed*; North-Eastern Scots *gweed*.]

goodle *see* good.

goof *noun* a foolish person.

goof *see* gowf.

googie *noun* a fool.

googy *adjective* cross-eyed.

goold, goolden, gooldie, gooldspring *see* gold.

goon *noun* a gown.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

gooran *noun* a type of weed with a large, green leaf.

goosander *noun* a bird, the smew.

goose, guiss, gis; *plural* **goose**; *noun* a goose.

- **a goose couldn't graze after him** describing a very miserly person.
- **a goose must a walked on my grave** remark on being covered with gooseflesh.
- **a little too much for one an' a great dale too little for two** description of the eating in a goose.
- **Gooseberry Fair** a fair in August.
- **goosed** broken, ruined *Belfast*.
- **goosegab, goosiegab, goosegog** a gooseberry.
- **goosegrass** loosely applied to any grassy plant, *e.g.* the bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum* [in Standard English, mainly applied to cleavers *Galium aparine*].
- **goosegrease** "elbow grease", energetic work.
- **goosegreen** a shade of green.
- **goose-gull** a seagull.
- **goosehawk, goshawk** a bird: the peregrine *Falco peregrinus*. [ILLUS: goosehwk]
- **gooseplay** the custom of playing cards with a goose for the prize.
- **goosin 1** a scolding. **2** a beating.
- **he'll not sell his goose on a rainy day** he'll not make a bad bargain.
- **some people's geese is all swans, his geese is all swans** what he has is better than anything else.
- **tailor's goose** a smoothing-iron.

[Scots forms *guiss, gis*.]

gope *see* gowp.

goppen *see* gowpen.

Gor:

gor *noun* the coarse peat that forms the surface of a bog.

- **by Gor, begorra** *exclamation* a disguised oath: "by God".
- **gorry** a mess *e.g.* of churned-up mud.

[Scots and Northern English "dirt", a form of *gore*.]

gorb *noun* **1** a glutton, a greedy person or animal. **2** *schoolboys* a boy from a different school. **3** a big feed.

- ◆ *verb* eat greedily; stuff (food) into yourself.
- **gorb eel** a fish: the eel *Anguilla anguilla* [it was formerly thought that there were several species of eel].
- **gorber**: **gorbin**:
- **gorby**:
- **gorby-guts** a glutton.
- **greedy gorb** a glutton.
[Scots "a glutton"; figurative sense of Scots and Northern English *gorb* "an unfledged bird", origin unknown.]
- gorbidge, gorbitch** *see* garbotch.
- gorgie** *noun* **1** a foolish person. **2** a clumsy, silly person.
Cf. gurky.
- gorgy-mill-tree** *noun* a willow-tree.
- gorkeys** *noun* a heavy cold.
[*Cf.* obsolete Scots *gorkie* "disgusting", possibly related to *gor*.]
- gorloghan** *noun* a person who is pale, thin, emaciated or weak.
[Irish *galrachán*, formed on *galar* (*see* *galar*).]
- gorlus** *noun* a fresh water plant: Canadian pondweed *Elodea canadensis*.
[Irish *garbhluas* "cleavers", because of the similar shape of the leaves.]
- gorman searcaigh** *noun* the hedge sparrow.
- gormless** *see* gaum.
- gornet** *noun* **1** a fish: the gurnard, also known as the gurnet, *Eutrigla gurnardus* (the grey gurnard) and *Aspitrigla cuculus* (the red gurnard).
2 *figuratively* a silly person.
See also gunner.
- gornical** *noun* an odd-looking, dim-witted person *Co. Antrim*.
[*Cf.* rare Galloway *gurnel* "a thick-set, oddly-shaped man" and Staffordshire *gornel long-ears* "donkey's ears as a sign of stupidity".]
- gorrie** *see* gawrey¹.
- gorry** *see* gor.
- gorsoon, gossoon, gossin, gasoon, gasson** *noun* **1** a boy, a young lad.
2 a young man. **3** an attendant or messenger.
[Hiberno-English *gorsoon, gossoon*; from Irish *garsún*, itself from Anglo-Norman *garçon*.]
- gort**:
- gortnameliagh** *noun* the heath pea *Lathyrus macrorrhizus*.
- gortweed** *noun* a weed found in fields.
[Irish *gort* "a field" + English *weed*.]
- gortyie**: **I'll give you gortyie** a threat.
- goryat!** *see* go.
- goshawk** *see* goose.
- gosling**: **gallant ganders** *or* **geese generate goodly goslings** fine offspring come from good stock.
□ **thrive like a gosling** improve rapidly.
- gospel**: **gospel greedy, greedy for gospel** *usually in negative* not fond of church-going, not over-zealous.
- gossin** *see* gorsoon.
- gossip, gossiping** *see* God.
- gossoon** *see* gorsoon.
- gossur** *see* gasser.
- goster, goster, gaster** *verb* chatter, gossip idly.
◆ *noun* chatter, gossip, idle talk.
[Hiberno-English and English dialectal *goster*, from Middle English *galstre* "to make a lot of noise".]
- gother** *see* gather.
- gotherman** *noun* a boy (aged about 12).
- gotten** *adjective* listless.
- gotten** *see* get.
- gouf** *noun* the thumb.

gouf *see* gowf.

gouk *see* gowk.

gouldie *see* gold.

goup *see* gowp.

goupen *see* gowpen.

gouple *noun* a roof support.

gour-agh-an-derier *noun* a peculiar type of hat worn on an escapade of some sort in the last century.

goutree *noun* the bourtree, the elder.

gouteral *see* goutril.

goutrie *noun* a careless, bad-mannered, clumsy person *North-East Donegal*.

[Possibly a form of **gutter** (in its Scots sense "a stupid, awkward, untidy or messy worker") + *-ie*. *See also* goutril.]

goutril, gouteral *noun* **1** a good-for-nothing person. **2** a lout.

[Possibly a form of **gutter** (in its Scots sense "a stupid, awkward, untidy or messy worker") + *-le*. *See also* goutrie.]

gove, gav *verb* stare, gaze, *especially* in a mindless way, *frequently* **gove about or round**.

□ **govey** a person who stares vacantly.

[Scots and Northern English *gove*, Northern English also *gauve*; origin unknown.]

gowal *noun* a good deal, plenty.

gowan *noun* a wild flower: the daisy *Bellis perennis*.

[Scots and Northern English; Middle English *gollan*, origin unknown. *See also* gil.]

gowan¹ *noun* a heifer.

gowd *see* gold.

gowder *noun* large, awkward *e.g.* *He has brave gowders of feet on him*.

gowf, gouf, goof *verb* **1** slap. **2** smack (*especially* a child) on the ear.

◆ *noun* **1** a blow, a slap. **2** a blow on the ear *e.g.* to punish a child.

[Scots *gowf, gouf*; onomatopoeic.]

gowf¹ *verb* bark.

□ **gowfer** a dog.

gowk, gouk, goak, goke *noun* **1** *also* **gowk bird** the cuckoo.

2 *figuratively* a fool, a stupid person; a clown, an idiot. **3** an April Fool.

□ **gowk's errand** a fool's errand.

□ **gowk's swelling** the increase in size of a pregnant cow's udder in early May.

□ **gowk storm, gowk's storm** a storm at the time of the arrival of the cuckoo (the end of April or the beginning of May).

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *gaukr* "the cuckoo".]

gowl *see* gold.

gowl *verb* **1** howl, yell. **2** cry noisily. **3** growl. **4** threaten, scold.

◆ *noun* **1** a yell, a howl. **2** the crying of a child.

□ **gowler** **1** a dog. **2** *in plural* eddies or whirlpools at the entrance to Strangford Lough that make a roaring sound at certain states of the tide.

□ **gowling** the sound of howling.

□ **hit a dog wi' a bane an' he'll not gowl**

□ **niver gowl till ye're hit**

[Scots and Northern English "to howl", from Old Norse *gaula* "to bellow".]

gowld *see* gold.

gowlie *see* gowlog.

gowlog *see* golach.

gowlog, gaulog, gollogue *noun* **1** *also* **gowlie** a forked stick; *specifically* (a) for a catapult; (b) to hold a string of fish. **2** a catch (of fish).

[Irish *gabhlóg* "a little fork", formed on *gabhal* "a fork". *Cf.* *golach*.]

gown: **grasp a gown of gold and maybe you'll get a sleeve of it** aim

high, have high ambitions or ideals.

□ **put your gown-tail about your head** come just as you are.

gowp, goup, gope *verb*, of an injury, headache, etc. throb.

□ **gowpin** *adjective*, also **gaping** throbbing.

◆ *noun* a throbbing pain.

[Scots *gowp, goup*, rarely *gope*; origin unknown]

gowpen, goupen, goppen, goapen *noun* **1** the two hands cupped to hold something. **2** also **gowpenfu'** as much as can be held in both hands cupped together. **3** *in general* a small quantity.

◆ *verb* scoop (something) up with both hands.

[Scots and Northern English *gowpen, goupen*; Northern English also *goppen*; Wigtownshire also *goapen*; from Old Norse *gaupnir* plural "the two hands cupped to hold something".]

Gox *see* by.

gox: **by gox** also **by goxy** a disguised oath: "by God".

gra, gradh, raw *noun* **1** love, affection; friendship; **gra for** liking for (a person). **2 gra for** a fancy for (a person of the opposite sex). **3 gra for** desire for (a thing).

□ **gradea** *noun* an act of charity.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *grá*; *see also* **a**⁶.]

grab: **Grabbing Day** *Roman Catholic* the Monday before Ash Wednesday, because it was the last day when couples could marry before Lent *Co. Monaghan*.

See also **grabble**.

grabble *verb* **1** of a baby clutch at the breast. **2** tickle (fish, especially trout).

[*Grabble* "to grope" obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal); from Dutch *grabbelen*, extended form of Middle Dutch *grabben*, which gives **grab**. *See also* **grammle**.]

grace *see* **grase**.

grace *noun*, in a thing good quality, virtue, benefit.

□ **not have much of the grace of God about you** not be religious.

□ **the year of Grace** *Protestant* the year of the Evangelical Revival: 1859.

gracie, gressy *noun* a cobbler.

[Irish *gréasaí*.]

graddan, graden, greddan *noun* **1** a kind of coarse oatmeal prepared by burning off the husks. **2** oats ground along with their husks for cattle-feeding.

□ **gredin-meal** meal made from oats burned from the straw.

[Irish *greadán* "singed grain"; also Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *gradan, greadan* "singed grain; powdery refuse". *See also* **gradgins**.]

gradgins, greedins *noun plural*, also **greeds** dregs; lees, grounds (*e.g.* of coffee).

[*Gradgins* obsolete Scots form of **graddan**, rare Scots form *greidan*.]

gradh *see* **gra**.

gradle *see* **great**.

grady *see* **greedy**.

grag *noun plural* a fir root found in a bog; *cf.* illustration at moss.

[Irish *grág*.]

gragan *noun* an untidy head of hair.

grail *noun* ? the water rail.

grain¹, **grin, gren** *noun*, *see also* **graineen**.

□ **short in the grain** bad-tempered.

[*Cf.* rare Scots and Northern English form *gran*.]

grain² *noun* a prong of a fork.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), from Old Norse *grein* "a division".]

grained *adjective*, of dirt engrained.

[Southern English, shortened form. *See also* **grined**.]

graineen *noun* a grain, a small quantity.

[Irish *gráinnín*, from *gráinne* "a grain" + diminutive ending *-ín*.]

graip, grape, grip *noun* a farmyard fork; *specifically* a dung-fork.

◆ *verb* fork (dung).

□ **stone graip** a fork used for spreading stones when surfacing a road.

[Scots and Northern English *graip, grape*; Yorkshire also *grip*; from Old Norse *greip*.]

graith, greth, grath *noun* **1** equipment, apparatus, the tools of a trade.

2 the harness and trappings for a horse. **3** the straddle on a donkey's back to which creels are attached. *Illustration see* straddle.

◆ *verb* prepare, equip, make ready.

□ **graithed** *usually in negative* not dressed, without your clothes on.

[Scots and Northern English *graith*, Northern English also *grath*, Scots also rarely *greth*; from Old Norse *greiða* "to arrange", *greiði* "arrangement".]

graiv *noun* a "taste" for.

graze *see* grase.

gralin, grall *see* grawl.

gramfus *noun* a type of whale: the grampus [the name *grampus* is usually applied to the killer whale *Orcinus orca*.]

grammle *verb* **1** grope, fumble. **2** gather with both hands.

◆ *noun* a grab.

[Rare Scots alteration of *grabble*.]

gramshik *noun* a mixture of foods.

grand, gran', graun' *adjective* "grand", fine, excellent.

□ **granda** grandad, grandfather.

□ **grand on** expert, skilful with or at.

□ **grand tea** *noun* high tea.

□ **granma** grandma, grandmother.

□ **granny, grannie** **1** a midwife. **2** the caterpillar of the tiger moth *Arctia caja*. *Illustration see* hair. **3** the last sheaf of corn cut at harvest; *cf.*

cailleach. *Illustration see* churn². **4** the top sheaf of the last load of corn brought in at harvest. **5** a bunch of hay spread out at the top of a drying heap of seed hay. **6** the last stack of hay in a stackyard. **7** a game played by knocking a small stone off a larger one, duck at the table (*see* duck²). **8** "home" in playing games.

□ **granny-gills** head lice.

□ **granny-greybeard** **1** a caterpillar, *especially* a hairy one. *Illustration see* hair. **2** *loosely* a creepy-crawly. **3** an old man.

□ **granny gull** an immature gull.

□ **granny-long-legs:**

□ **grannymush, granny mush-mush** a hairy caterpillar; *cf.* granny mutch. *Illustration see* hair.

□ **granny mutch, granny mutchie** **1** a name for an old woman. **2** a name for a young girl who is unusually practical and responsible for her age. *See* mutch.

□ **granny's needle** **1** a dragonfly. **2** a daddy-long-legs. *Illustration see* Tom. **3** a caterpillar. *Illustration see* hair. **4** a centipede. *Illustration see* da. **5** an ant. *Cf.* devil. [ILLUS: granny/n]

□ **granny worm** a caterpillar.

□ **gran' wean** a grandchild; *see* wee.

□ **yer granny's needle** or **night-cap!**, **yer granny was Dogherty (an she was the stuff, she had a big pocket to carry her snuff)** dismissive responses to a silly remark.

[Scots, also South-Eastern English, form *gran'*; Scots also *graun'*.]

grane *see* groan.

grange *noun, historical, Roman Catholic* a district outside the parish system.

granma, grannie *see* grand.

grannog *see* granyog.

granny *see* grand.

grants *noun plural* emigrants *Co. Donegal*.

[Shortened form.]

granyarr, granyagh, glenyarr *noun* a wild flower: the corn spurrey *Spergula arvensis, Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

granyin' *noun* night visiting.

granyog, grannog *noun* a roll of grass cut for hay.

[Irish *gráinneog* literally "a hedgehog". *See also* hedgehog.]

grape *verb* grope.

grape *see* graip, groop.

- **grobe the ducks** check whether the ducks have laid; *hence go and grobe the ducks* a dismissive remark to a man, implying that he is only fit to do women's work.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

grase, grace, graize, graze *noun* **grase, grace** grease.

- ◆ *verb* **graze, graze** grease.

- **grazy** greasy.

[Older forms in Scots and English. *See also* creash¹.]

grass, gress *noun* grass.

- ◆ *verb* feed (an animal) on grass *e.g. They haven't a field to grass a cow*.

- **go to grass** "go to hell": said when refusing to do something.
- **grasscock** a small haycock.
- **grass day** the day when cattle are first turned out to pasture in the spring.
- **grass mouse** a shrew [the only species found in Ireland is the pygmy shrew *Sorex minutus*]. *Illustration see* screw.
- **grass rod** a straight piece of wire connecting the handle and blade of a scythe, to prevent grass from clinging to the blade. *Illustration see* sned².
- **grass rope 1** a hay rope. **2** a straw rope.
- **grass tick** a sheep tick.
- **grassweed** a seaweed, the grass-wrack *Zostera marina*.
- **gresseed** grass seed.
- **John Thompson's news: the kye eats gress on Sundays** said to someone bringing stale news.
- **not let grass grow to your heels** not dally, delay. *usu. negative* [Scots and Northern English form *gress*.]

grate

grath *see* graith.

gratis *noun* a little gift to help out a person in need.

gratta *noun* a boy (aged about 12).

grattin *noun* a grating.

[Obsolete Scots *grat* form of *grate*.]

graul *see* grawl.

graun' *see* grand.

grave: graving-bowl a bonus paid to ship-carpenters when they have completed the repair of a vessel, and she is brought out of the graving dock.

grave¹: he has wan fut in the grave and the other's diggin sods said of a man at death's door.

gravel *noun, usually the gravel* frequency in urination.

graveling *noun* a parr (a young salmon before it goes to sea).

[Hiberno-English, also Devon; possibly from Old French *gravele* "a fish, possibly the minnow".]

gravy: gravy ring a doughnut [*gravy* here has the sense "fat, grease"].

- **if ye can't get the mate, ye think a dale of the gravy**

graw *see* gra.

grawl, graul, groll, grall *noun 1* a grilse (a young salmon on its first return

from the sea). **2** a young man, a youth, *especially* an inexperienced youth. **3** a heavy, big-boned fellow. **4** *also* **gralin** a small child. **5** an immature animal.

[Hiberno-English, also Western Scots, form *grawl*, *graul*. See also *grulch*?.]

gray *see* grey.

graze, **grazy** *see* grase.

great *adjective* **1** of a person big, heavy. **2** on good terms *e.g.* *Her and us are not great*. **3** **great with** friendly with; in love with.

□ **gradle**, **greddale** a great deal, a large quantity or number; *see* *dale*¹; *cf.* good.

□ **great harrow goose** the greylag goose *Anser anser*.

□ **greatly**: **greatly failed** much impaired in health.

□ **great wild swan** the whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*.

□ **no great go** "no great shakes", useless.

[Scots and English dialectal form *gret*.]

greician *noun* **1** a strong, rough fellow. **2** a clumsy fellow.

[Obsolete Standard English *Greek*, *Grecian* "a noisy reveller; a newly-arrived Irish immigrant in England".]

greddale *see* great.

greddan *see* graddan.

gree¹ *verb* agree.

[Shortened form, obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal).]

gree² *noun* the highest honours, the prize, *especially* **bear away the gree**.

[Scots, shortened form of *degree*.]

greebagh, **greebaugh** *noun* a tirade, scolding, battle of words.

greedins, **greeds** *see* gradgins.

greedy, **grady** *adjective* greedy.

□ **grady guts** a glutton.

□ **greedy eye** the evil eye.

[Older form in Scots and English *grady*.]

green¹ *adjective* **1** of cloth unbleached. **2** of a bird's plumage grey.

□ **do you see any green in the white of my eye?** meaning that I'm a lot less gullible than I look.

□ **Dr Greentap that lives in Hedge Row** *childish* a stick, a rod.

□ **green chizzle** **1** a variety of apple. **2** a variety of pear.

[The second element is unidentified.]

□ **green cormorant** a bird: the cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

Illustration see black.

□ **green diver** a bird: the shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. *Illustration see* black.

□ **green goose** the greylag goose *Anser anser*.

□ **green gravel** a children's game.

□ **green hand** an inexperienced worker.

□ **green-headed diver** a bird: the male scaup *Aythya marila*; *cf.* grey.

□ **green linn** the greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*; *cf.* grey.

□ **green plover** the lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. *Illustration see* top.

□ **green scart** a bird: (a) the cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. *Illustration see* black; (b) the shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. *Illustration see* black.

See scarf.

□ **green shag** the cormorant. *Illustration see* black.

□ **green sod** a turf of grass as opposed to peat.

□ **green-sod-bank** a wall, a mound, a ditch.

□ **greentap**:

□ **green-worm** a caterpillar.

□ **keep the bones green** maintain good health.

green² *verb* **green for** long for; *specifically* be homesick for.

□ **greening** a pregnant woman's craving for a particular kind of food.

[Scots; from Old Norse *girna*, corresponding to Old English *ziernan*, which gives *yearn*.]

green³:

Greencastle: **Greencastle yawl** a type of boat: a double-ended clinker-built yawl. *Illustration see* Drontheim.

[Named after Greencastle in Co. Donegal.]

greer *verb* long for.

gresagh, gresach, gresay, greeshagh, greshaugh, greeshaw, gresha, greshia, greeshy, greesh, grushaw *noun* **1** hot, glowing embers or ashes. **2** a big, glowing fire.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *gríosach*. *See also* greeshan, greeshog.]

gresha *noun* charlock.

greshan *noun* hot, glowing embers or ashes.

[Irish **gríseán*, cf. gresagh.]

greeshog, gresog, greeshock *noun* hot, glowing embers or ashes.

[Irish *gríosóg* "small flying embers", influenced in sense by gresagh.]

greet; *past tense* **gret, greeted**; *verb* cry, weep; lament.

□ **greeting** the act of crying.

□ **she thinks it's Christmas all year round because she's aye greetin'**

[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *grētan*. Past tense:

Scots and Northern English *gret*, Yorkshire also *greeted*.]

greg *verb* **1** annoy, vex (a person). **2** tantalise, tease (a person) by offering something with no intention of giving it; make (a person) envious.

[Cf. Irish *gríogadh* "to tease, to annoy".]

gregagh *noun* a fish: the ballan wrasse *Labrus bergylta*; *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*.

[Origin unknown.]

gren *see* grain¹.

greshia *see* gresagh.

gress, gresseed *see* grass.

gressy *see* gracie.

gret *see* greet.

greth *see* graith.

grew *see* grue.

grewhound, gruehoun *noun* a greyhound.

□ **as hungry as a grew**

□ **grew, grue** **1** a grewhound. **2** a voracious animal. **3** a mean, avaricious person.

[Scots and Northern English *grewhound, grew, grue*; Scots also *gruehoun*. From obsolete Standard English *greund* (itself a contracted form of *greyhound*), altered as if the first element was Middle English *grew* "Greek" (from Old French *griu*).]

grey, gray *adjective* **1** sombre, dismal, sad. **2** blue.

◆ *noun* **1** *in plural* stalks of corn that grow tall but have empty, discoloured ears. **2** *in plural* green vegetables and potatoes mashed together. **3** a bird: (a) the linnet *Carduelis cannabina*. *Illustration see* thorn; (b) the house sparrow *Passer domesticus*.

□ **go a grey gate (on a misty morning), go the grey gate** go astray, come to a bad end; *see* gate.

□ **greyback** the hooded crow *Corvus cornix*.

□ **grey-backed crow** **1** the greyback. **2** the carrion crow.

□ **grey bird** the linnet. *Illustration see* thorn.

□ **grey crow** the hooded crow.

□ **grey daylight** dawn.

□ **grey flinch** a finch.

□ **grey gate** a bad course of action; *hence* **go a grey gate (on a misty morning), go the grey gate** go astray, come to a bad end; *see* gate.

□ **grey gull** **1** an immature gull. **2** *specifically* an immature herring gull *Larus argentatus*.

- **greyhead** a bird: the jackdaw *Corvus monedula*.
- **grey-headed diver** a bird: the male scaup *Aythya marila*; *cf.* green¹.
- **greying days** autumn.
- **grey linnet** the greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*; *cf.* green¹.
- **greylord** the full-grown coalfish *Pollachius virens*.
- **grey mare's tail** a "mare's tail", a long streaming cloud.
- **grey plover** a bird: (a) the golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* in its summer plumage; (b) the knot *Calidris canutus*.
- **grey robin** the dunnoek *Prunella modularis*.
- **greytot** the greyhead.
- **grey wagtail** the pied wagtail.
- grid** *noun* **1** the grating over a drain-opening. **2** a gridiron.
- griddle, girdle** *noun* **1** a gridiron, an implement with bars for cooking over an open fire. **2** a griddle, a round, flat plate of iron used for baking over an open fire.
 - **as broad as a griddle, as flat as a griddle**
 - **griddle bread** baking done on a griddle.
 - **griddle-cake** an oatcake.
 - **the griddle calls the pot black bottom** rogue accuses a rogue.

[Scots and Northern English, also South-Western English, form *girdle*. The original sense was "gridiron", from Old French **gredil* whose Modern French form *gril* gives grill. *See also* gridiron.] [ILLUS: griddle]
- gridiron** *noun* a griddle, a round flat plate of iron for baking over an open fire. *Illustration see* griddle.
 - **he was that wake he couldn't pull a herrin' aff a gridiron**

[Originally the same word as **griddle**. The altered Middle English form *gredire* was misunderstood as *grid* + Southern Middle English *ire* form of *iron*.]
- grig** *noun* a species of eel, *Anguilla latirostris*.
- griggan** *noun* a shellfish: *Arctica islandica*, *Co. Antrim*.

[Origin unknown.]
- grig-mill** *noun, historical* an early native type of watermill.
- grill: grill iron, grill brander** a gridiron, an implement with bars for cooking over an open fire; *see* brander. *Illustration see* griddle.

See griddle.
- grill¹** *noun* the seed of charlock.
- grilsh** *see* grulch².
- grim** *verb* catch hold of someone.
- grime: grimed in** of dirt engrained; *see also* grined.
- grin** *see* grain¹.
- grin, girn** *noun* **1** a snare. **2** a noose.
 - ◆ *verb* snare with a noose.

[*Grin* obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal and South-Western Scots), Scots form *girn*; from Old English *grin*.]
- grin', grine; past tense and past participle groun', grun;** *verb* grind.
 - **grinstane, grunstone** a grindstone; *see* stone.
 - **keep someone's nose on the grindstone** "keep someone's nose to the grindstone".

[Scots and Northern English form *grun'*, Scots also *grin'*. Past tense: Scots and Northern English *grun*. Past participle: Shropshire *groun'*, Scots and Northern English *grun*.]
- grin¹: grin like a cat ating sprouts**
- grined** *adjective* **grined in** of dirt engrained; *cf.* grained, grime.
- grioscan** *noun* a (large) number.
- grip** *see* graip.
- grip¹, grup** *verb* **1** grip, catch. **2** **grup on** overtake.
 - ◆ *noun* **1** a grip, a grasp. **2** *only* **growing grip** a growing pain. **3** a predicament, *frequently* a bad grip. **4** an untidy, disorderly house, *frequently* a bad or fierce grip.

- **gripper** a sheriff's officer, a bailiff.
- **grippin sense** the ability to make money.
- **he or she is fond of houlding a hard grip o' the penny** he or she is very saving.
- **this is a bad grip** meaning this is a place one would rather get out of, implying danger.

[Scots form *grup*.]

grip², gripe *noun* **1** a drainage channel in the floor of a byre. **2** a small field drainage ditch; a roadside drainage ditch. **3** a rut in a road.

[*Grip* obsolete in Standard English except in hunting terminology (still Scots and English dialectal); Hiberno-English and English dialectal form *gripe*; from Old English *grype* "a trench". *Grip* also arises as a form of Scots *grupe*, see **groop**.]

griskin *noun* **1** a piece of boiled beef. **2** an edible plant root, probably brisken. **3** *figuratively* in **griskins** describing bare feet with the skin torn by rough ground.

["The lean part of a loin of bacon" obsolete in Standard English (still Southern English); origin unknown, *cf.* Irish *grisc* "a strip of raw meat" and diminutive *griscín* "a slice of meat for cooking".]

grisset *noun* a **cam** for making rush-lights in. *Illustration see cam¹*.

[Hiberno-English form of Standard English *cresset*.]

grist¹ *noun* **1** size, thickness, *etc.* **2** the texture (*e.g.* of linen or the grain in wood), the degree of roughness or smoothness of a surface.

◆ *verb* measure, *usually* guess the weight, size or temperature of something without actually weighing or measuring it.

- **at or up to the right grist** *of paste, mortar, jam, etc.* of the right consistency.

- **have the grist of something**

[Scots, possibly related to *girth*.]

grist² *verb* warm (a churn) before use, with hot water; *cf.* **grist¹**.

grist³

- **that'll bring grist to his mill** meaning that he has done something that will be to his advantage.

gristeen blister.

groak *see* **growk**.

groan, grane *verb* groan.

- **groaning, groanin** the confinement of a woman having a baby.
- **groaning malt** malt brewed or drunk on the occasion of a confinement.

[Scots and Northern English form *grane*.]

grogan *noun* a kind of fairy, about two feet high and very strong, who helps farmers with their work but takes offence if any reward is offered to him.

[Irish **gruagán* (*cf.* *gruagach*) "a hairy goblin". *See also* **gruggy**.]

grogblossom *noun* a pimple on the face, a blackhead.

rogram, gogarim *noun* home-made linen cloth.

- **rogram grey 1** of an indefinite colour; *see also* **dimps**. **2** *specifically*, of hair mousey.

groig *noun* an indication of approaching bad weather.

[*Cf.* Shetland *gruggie* of the weather "dull, cloudy, threatening"; from Norn, *cf.* Old Norse *grug-gótr* "muddy, turbid".]

groll *see* **grawl**.

groof, grufe *noun* the front of the body; *specifically* the surface of the stomach.

- **on your groof** face downwards.
- **take the groof** fall.

[Scots, from Old Norse *á grífu* "face downwards".]

groogum *noun* a shellfish: a large type of cockle, possibly the prickly cockle *Acanthocardia echinata*, or simply large specimens of the common cockle *Cerastoderma edule*.

[*Cf.* Cornish *croggan* "a limpet", from Old Cornish *crogen* "a seashell".]

groom' *see* ground.

groop, group, grup, grape *noun* **1** a drainage channel in the floor of a byre; *also* **groop hole**. **2** a small field drainage ditch; a roadside drainage ditch.

[Scots and Northern English *groop, group, grup*; Scots *also* *grupe*; from Middle Dutch *groepe*, Middle Low German *gruppe, grope* "the gutter in a byre". *See also* grip².]

groot *noun* grout, thin mortar.

[Northern English form.]

gropin *noun* a handful.

gros *noun* a sour face.

grosert, grossart, grosset *noun, also hairy grosset* a gooseberry.

[Scots forms of obsolete Standard English *groser*, from French *groseille*.]

grossbeak *noun* the hawfinch.

grots *noun* groats (hulled grain).

[Old pronunciation (still Northern Scots).]

groucher *noun* a sporting dog *Co. Antrim*.

[Origin unknown.]

ground, grun', groon' *noun* ground, the ground.

- **ground'll** *literally* ground wall: the foundation of a building.
- **ground sweat** dampness rising from the ground.
- **on the ground** on a person's land, on the premises.

[Scots and Northern English form *grun'*, Northern English *also* *groon'*.]

groundshels *noun plural* dregs, tea leaves *e.g. Ye couldn't touch tay in their house. It's only hot wather on top o' the groundshels.*

grounsel *noun* a wild flower: groundsel *Senecio vulgaris*.

[Old form (not in Scots).]

group *see* groop.

grouse: **grouse about** *of a young man* go looking for a girl.

grout: **groutlings** sediment, lees.

groves *noun plural* graves (the refuse of tallow or lard).

[Northumberland, mistakenly "corrected", form.]

grow: **grow away fae** grow out of (clothes); *see* frae.

- **growthy** *of the weather* providing good growing conditions.
- **grow to the grave** *of a young person* grow too tall too quickly.
- **grow up (something)** grow up to be (something) *e.g. He's grown up a fine man.*

[Scots and Northern English pronunciation rhyming with "how".]

growk, groak *verb* **1** "mooch", wait around in the hope of obtaining a favour without asking for it directly; *especially of a child* hang around in the hope of getting something to eat. **2** long for.

◆ *noun* a child who waits around in the hope of a treat.

- **groaking** whimpering, whining for something.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

growter, growder *noun* small broken fragments or dust of peat *Co.*

Donegal; cf. grout.

grub *noun* **1** a greedy or stingy person, a miser. **2** a dirty, neglected child.

- **grub-axe** a mattock for loosening the soil.
- **grubber** a type of heavy iron harrow.
- **grub-hook** *literally* an implement for grubbing up roots: the little finger.
- **have a head full of grubs, head full of grubs** be silly, fanciful.

grub¹ *noun* the top board at either end of a cart.

grue *see* grewhound.

grue, grew *verb* **1** shudder with fear or disgust. **2** feel disgust or aversion.

3 shiver with cold.

◆ *noun* **1** a shudder. **2** a sensation of horror or terror.

- **gruesome** terrifying, horrible [also adopted in Standard English].

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

gruehoun *see* grewhound.

gruel *noun* punishment, severe treatment.

- **gruellin'** *e.g. one of the dogs got a quare gruellin'*; one of the dogs suffered greatly; one of the dogs had a hard run.

grufe *see* groof.

gruggy *adjective, of hair* curly.

- ◆ *noun* a person with curly hair.

[Probably Irish *gruagach* "hairy". *See also* grogan.]

grulch¹, grulsh *verb* grunt like a pig.

- ◆ *noun, also grulsher* a pig.

[Possibly onomatopoeic, but *cf.* grulch².]

grulch², grulsh *noun* **1** an undersized pig. **2** an undersized person. **3** a short, thickset animal. **4** *also* **grilsh, gulch** a short, stout adult or child.

- **grulchy, grulshy** *adjective* **1** clumsy, awkward. **2** bad-tempered, cross, unpleasant. **3** *of the temper* irritable, fiery.

- ◆ *noun, also grulshick* a stout, fat man.

[*Cf.* Scots *grulsh* "a short stout person or animal", *grilse* "an unwieldy little child"; possibly the same word as *grilse* "a young salmon", *cf.* grawl.]

grullion *noun* a fat pig *Co. Antrim; cf.* grulch¹.

grulsh, grulshick, grulshy *see* grulch².

grulsh, grulsher *see* grulch¹.

grumf *see* grumph, oats.

grumly *see* grummel.

grummel, grummle *noun* **1** *in plural* sediment, grounds (*e.g.* of coffee).

- 2** crumbs, fragments of bread, *etc.* **3** a backing of clay put round the outside of the brick lining of a wall.

- ◆ *verb* crumble.

- **grumly** *of water* muddy.

[Scots and Northern English; probably of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Swedish *grummel* "sediment, grounds".]

grummle *see* grummel.

grummle *verb* grumble.

- **on the grumble** *e.g. He's always on the grumble.*

[Scots and Northern English form.]

grumms *noun plural* crumbs.

grumph, grumf *noun* **1** a grunt. **2** a fit of the sulks, a huff.

- ◆ *verb* grunt.

- **grumphie** a sow.

- **whut can ye expect fae a soo but a grumf?**

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

grumph¹ *noun* a halo round the moon.

grun' *see* ground.

grunch *verb* grunt like a pig.

- ◆ *noun* a grunt.

Cf. grulch¹.

grunstane *see* grin'.

grunt *noun* a fish: the perch *Perca fluviatilis*. *Illustration see* hackle.

- **grunter** **1** a pig. **2** *figuratively* an incompetent footballer.

- **gruntle** the snout of a pig.

grup *see* grip¹, groop.

grushaw *see* greesagh.

guard¹, gard, gaird *noun, also guard of the arm* the outside of the arm above the elbow.

- **guardish** blackguardly, villainous.

[Scots form *gaird*.]

guard² *noun, in plural* trimmings, ornaments, decorations, finery.

- **go off with your gards hanging**

[Origin unknown.]

gub *see* gob¹.

Gubbs *see* by.

Gubbs: by Gubbs *exclamation* a disguised oath: "by God".

gubbug *see* gobbock.

gubby *see* gob¹.

gubby, gubbin *noun* a field *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

gub-dugh *noun* a black trout.

gubstopper *see* gob¹.

guddle *verb* tickle (fish, *especially* trout).

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

guddy *noun* a short knife *Co. Donegal*.

[Possibly a blend of cutty and gully².]

gude *see* good.

gudge *noun* **1** *also* **gudgeon, gudgeen** a short, stout man; *cf.* gunsh. **2** an ill-mannered person, a boor.

[Scots "a short thick-set fellow", Scots form and sense of *gouge*. The form *gudgeen* contains the Irish diminutive ending *-ín*. *Cf.* gunsh, gunshion.]

gudgeon *noun* the axle of a wheelbarrow.

gudgeon *see* gudge.

guensey *see* gansey.

guess *noun* a riddle (*i.e.* a question).

guff *noun* impertinent talk, cheek. *frequently* **oul' guff**

gug *noun* the hole used as a goal in playing marbles.

[Ayrshire *gugs* form and sense of Scots *gug* "the mark used for games such as curling, pitch and toss, *etc.*"; origin unknown.]

gugger *verb, only* **guggerin** planting potatoes using a steeveen.

□ **guggerin bag, cuggaring-bag** a bag tied around the waist to hold the potatoes when *guggering*.

[Also in Irish as *gogaireacht*, origin unknown.]

guggy *noun, childish* a boiled egg.

[Irish *gogai* childish "an egg".]

guglet *noun* a carafe.

guid, guideen, guidman, guidwife *see* good.

guider *noun* **1** one of the runners of a sledge. **2** a child's home-made vehicle constructed of planks and wheels.

guil-gowan *see* gil.

guillemow *noun* the guillemot.

guinea: guinea-hunter a person who earned a small fee at a fair by acting as a middleman between a buyer and seller of cattle *etc.*

guiss *see* goose.

gulch *see* grulch².

gulder, guldher, guller, goldher *verb* **1** shout angrily or loudly. **2** speak boisterously. **3** speak menacingly. **4** grumble.

◆ *noun* a sudden loud shout.

□ **gulder cock** a turkey.

□ **guldering** **1** shouting. **2** loud, boisterous talk. **3** the noise made by a turkey cock.

□ **gurdy** **1** someone who talks in a loud voice. **2** a rough but harmless person.

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

gulf *noun* golf *Co. Antrim*.

□ **gulf stick** a golf club.

gullantine *noun* a pair of hedge clippers.

[Cheshire *gullantine*, form and sense of *guillotine*.]

guller *see* gulder.

gullet *noun* **1** *also* **gillet** a narrow water channel, a gully. **2** a street gutter.

- **gullet hole** a deep hole in a sandbank or mud-flat.
[English *gullet* and *gully* are the same word. *See also* **gully**².]
- gullion, gulyon** *noun* **1** a muddy place. **2** *in plural* mud. **3** an open sewer or cesspit.
- **gullion hole** **1** a muddy hole. **2** a cesspit.
[Irish *goilin* "a creek". Also found rarely in Southern and Central Scots.]
- gullion**¹: **gullions of milk**
- gully**¹ *noun, usually* **make a gully** make a sudden rush (at a person) *Co. Antrim*.
[Origin unknown.]
- gully**² *noun* **1** a large knife: **(a)** a large kitchen knife; **(b)** a carving knife; **(c)** a butcher's knife; *hence, derogatory* a butcher's boy. **2** an old worn-out knife. **3** an old spade. **4** an unskilful workman; *cf.* **burn**¹.
[Scots and Northern English, possibly a shortened form of *gullet-knife*.
See also **guddy**.]
- gully**³
 - **gully hole** a drain opening.
- gullyvant, garavant** *verb* gallivant.
- gulp** *noun, figuratively* a large portion (of trouble or sorrow).
- gulpin** *noun* **1** a thick-witted, stubborn fellow. **2** a rude, boorish fellow. **3** a glutton [apparently influenced by **gulp**].
[Scots *gilpin, gulpin*; possibly a form of *galopin* "a servant boy", from French *galopin* "an errand boy". *See also* **gilpin**.]
- gulravage, gulravidge, gulravish** *see* **gilravage**.
- gulyon** *see* **gullion**.
- gum, gume, gim** *noun, in plural* the gums (of the teeth).
 - **gumbile** a gumboil; *see* **bile**.
[Scots forms *gume, gim*.]
- gum-ju-acka** *noun* a name for necessary liquids *etc.* used at work.
- gummenough** *noun* a coachman.
- gummy** *adjective* "gammy", lame.
- gump** *see* **gumph**.
- gump** *noun* a large bite (of food); *also figuratively e.g.* *He tuk gumps o hair oot with the shears*.
 - **gumpin, gompan** **1** a **gump**. **2** a fragment, a remnant, a small piece. **3** a small quantity.
 - **gumpins and menablins** odds and ends, leftovers.
[Also South-Western Scots "a large piece", origin unknown.]
- gumph, gump** *noun* a stupid person.
[Scots, also Southern English *gump*; Scots also *gumph*; onomatopoeic, *cf.* **gamph**.]
- gumption** *noun* **1** common sense; intelligence; tact; shrewdness; good judgement [also adopted in Standard English]. **2** courage.
 - **gumptionless** foolish, lacking sense or initiative.
[Originally Scots, origin unknown.]
- gun: gunner** a gunsmith, a person who repairs fire-arms.
 - **gun-shot** an approximate measure of distance: as far as a gun-shot would reach.
 - **like the man's gun that wanted a new lock, stock and barrel, some repairs and a ramrod** utterly worn out.
- gundy** *noun* candy, sweeties.
[Scots, probably a childish alteration of *candy*.]
- gunflation** *noun* a row, a commotion.
[Mock French.]
- guniog** *noun* a slap.
[Irish *goineog* "a stab, a sting", formed on *goin* "a wound", *see also* **gunnadh**².]
- gunk** *verb, usually in passive* **be gunked** **1** be disappointed and embarrassed. **2** be taken aback, startled.

- ◆ **noun 1** a mortifying disappointment. **2** a "dig" in conversation. **3** a sudden fright.
- **gunked** disappointed.
- [Scots, origin unknown; also in Irish as *gonc*. See also *begunk*.]
- gunk**¹ **noun** a dunce, a blockhead.
- gunnadh**¹ **noun** the bow or bows of a curragh *Co. Donegal*. *Illustration see curragh*¹.
- [Origin unknown.]
- gunnadh**² **noun** a fish: the lesser weever *Echiichthys vipers*.
- [Irish *goineadóir* literally "the wounder", formed on *goin* "a wound", see also *guniog*.]
- gunner** **noun** a fish: the red sea-bream *Pagellus bogaraveo*.
- [Cf. Sussex "the gurnard", Scots *gunner-fleuk* "the turbot". Cf. *gornet*.]
- gunsh** see *gansh*.
- gunsh** **noun** a small stocky person.
- [Scots "a thick chunk; a short thick-set person", cf. *gansh*, *gudge*.]
- gunshion** **noun** a thick-witted person; cf. *gansh*.
- gunterpake** **noun** a fool, a stupid person *Belfast*; cf. *gant*¹.
- gunty plucker** **noun** a fish: the short-spined sea scorpion *Myoxocephalus scorpius*.
- [North-Eastern Scots *gunplucker*, *gundy*.]
- gurin** **noun** a pimple.
- gurky** **noun** a rough, ill-mannered person.
- **gorkin** a big, stupid person.
- [Scots *gurkie*, *gurkin* "a stout, heavily-built person", origin unknown. See also *gorgie*.]
- gurly** **adjective 1** of the weather rough, windy. **2** boisterous. **3** cross, angry. **4** surly, bad-tempered.
- [Scots, onomatopoeic.]
- gurn** see *girn*.
- gurrie** **noun** a young pig *Co. Monaghan*.
- **gorrigan** a young pig [*gurrie* + Irish diminutive ending *-agán*].
- [Cf. Irish *gurrán* "the noise of suckling piglets". See also *gawrey*¹.]
- gurt** see *girt*¹.
- gus-gus** see *gis-gis*.
- gusset** **noun** a slit, an opening.
- gut** **noun 1** a glutton. *frequently* **greedy gut 2** a narrow navigable channel among sandbanks or rocks. **3** a passage between buildings.
- gutter** **noun**, usually in plural mud, mire.
- ◆ **verb**, in carpentry gouge, cut a groove in wood.
- **As I went over a gutthery gap, I met a wee fella wi' a red cap. / A stick in his ass, a stone in his belly, / Come riddle me that an I'll give you a penny** riddle a cherry.
- **guttering** a gutter.
- **guttersnipe, guttersnipe** a bird: the common snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.
- **gutter trap** a grating over a drain opening.
- **guttery** muddy.
- **guttery gap** a muddy place without a gate or path, which someone has to walk through.
- **in the gutters** figuratively in a mess.
- **the tracks of him in the gutters** the very footsteps of a person e.g. *The tracks of him in the gutters does me good*.
- guttle** **verb** drink with a noise like that made by a duck with her bill in a puddle.
- gutti** **noun 1** gutta-percha, rubber. **2** obsolete a waterproofed canvas boot. **3** also **gutti-slipper** a plimsoll, a gymshoe.
- [Scots, shortened form.]
- guzzard** see *gizzert*.

guzzle *verb* **1** seize by the throat, throttle. **2** guddle.

- **guzzling** squeezing (e.g. by a courting couple); rough courting e.g. *He giv her the quare guzzling.*

gwall *noun* a load of peat, as much as can be carried in both arms.

gwam *noun* a feeling of being unwell; a headache.

gwan *see* go.

gwid *see* good.

gwoh, gwo *exclamation* a call to an animal to stop: woah.

gwon *see* go.

gy *see* gay.

gyarden *see* garden.

gyather *see* gather.

gye, gyly *see* gay.

gype, gipe *noun* **1** a clumsy, awkward person; *especially* a young man, or a tall, long-legged person. **2** a boor, an uncouth, bad-mannered fellow.

3 an idiot, a stupid person. **4** a foolish, thoughtless person. **5** a silly girl.

6 a person who talks indiscreetly.

◆ *verb* lark about.

[Scots; probably of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Old Norse *geip* "nonsense", *geipa* "to talk nonsense", Norwegian dialectal *gipa* "to gape". *See also* *glipe*².]

H [haitch] *Roman Catholic* the letter H [also pronounced in this way by many Protestants in the west of Ulster, but usually regarded as a shibboleth of Roman Catholic speech].

ha *see* have, haw.

ha' *noun* a hall; *in place-names frequently haw*

[Scots and Northern English form.]

haa *see* haugh¹.

haa beds *noun* hopscotch.

haar *noun* a sea-mist.

[East coast of Scotland and Northern England, from Middle Dutch *hare* "a biting cold wind".]

hab *see* hob.

habber *noun* **1** someone who stammers or speaks unclearly. **2** a clumsy person.

- **habermagallion** a fool, a stupid, useless person [for the syllable *-ma-*, *cf.* *whigmaleerie*].

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

habberdasher *noun* someone who sells small wares.

habble, habbled *see* hobble¹.

hack¹, hawk *noun* **1** a wound, a gash. **2** a chap, a crack in the skin of the lips, hands or feet.

◆ *verb* cause hacks.

- **hacked, hackit** *of the skin* chapped.
- **hackle** hack, clear the throat, spit.
- **look at the hack of** look at the state of (a person or thing).

[Scots form *hawk*.]

hack² *noun* a flyer (the part of a spinning-wheel, fitted with teeth, that feeds the spun thread to the bobbin). *Illustration see* spin.

[Scots, form of Scots and Northern English *heck*, from Old English *hec*, *hæc* "a rack".]

hack³ *exclamation* a command to a horse: come here *Co. Armagh*.

[Origin unknown.]

hackle *see* hack¹.

hackle, heckle: as rough as a heckle-scrabber

- **hackle-fly** an artificial fly usually made from the neck feather of a cock.
- **hackle-scrabber** a hackle-scraper.
- **hackly** a fish: the perch *Perca fluviatilis*. [ILLUS: hackly]
- **have been through the heckling-mill** have suffered much, mentally or

physically.

- **heckled** *of flax* dressed.
- **heckler** a good fighter.
- **heckle someone his tow** give someone a severe scolding.
- **heckling, hecklin' 1** the process of dressing flax. **2 jocular** a thorough combing (of the hair). **3** a severe scolding.
- **put the box on the hackle(s) 1** complete a job, wind up an undertaking. **2** indicate that a task is complete.
- **the whole box an hekels** *i.e.* hackles, the whole lot.

[Both forms, *hackle* and *heckle*, are accepted in Standard English.]

hackleberry *noun* a growth on a horse's leg, an angleberry, *Co. Antrim, Co. Down.*

had *see* hold.

had *noun* a bare stub of a branch on a bush that has been pruned hard *Co. Donegal.*

[*Cf.* Northern English *hag* "a stump of a tree left after felling"; see *hag*¹.]

hadding *see* hold.

haddock *noun* a type of meatless sausage: a pig's stomach stuffed with oatmeal.

hae, haen, haena, haenae, haes, haet *see* have.

haffet *noun 1* the side of the head, the temple. **2** a lock of hair on the temple.

[Scots, from Old English *healfhēafod* literally "half head".]

haft:

haft *see* heft¹.

- **haftiest** the best.

hafted *see* heft¹.

hag¹, heg *verb 1* hew, cut with an axe. **2** hack, cut clumsily or roughly; disfigure or spoil by cutting.

- ◆ *noun 1* a rough, clumsy stroke. **2** the mark of an axe cut. **3 also moss** **hag** a pit or channel where peat has been dug out.

- **hagging-block, hag-block** a chopping block.
- **haggle** hack, spoil by cutting; whittle.

[Scots and English dialectal *hag*; from Old Norse *hǫggva* "to strike, to fell trees", *hogg* "a stroke, a cutting down of trees". *See also had.*]

hag² *noun* the last sheaf. *Illustration see churn*².

[The same word as Standard English *hag* "an old woman", translating Irish *cailleach* (*see cailleach*).]

haggard, haggart, heggard *noun* a stackyard (an area where hay is stored in stacks).

- **haggard bed** an outshot bed [because the bed recess projects into the haggard]. *Illustration see out.*
- **haggard paddock** a small field near a farm-house.

[Hiberno-English; also South-Western Scots and Isle of Man *haggard*; Scots form also *haggart*; from Old Norse *heygarðr* literally "a hay yard". *See also haggarden, hagyar, haygard.*]

haggarden *noun* a haggard; *see also hay.*

haggart *see* haggard.

haggary, haggoty *adjective, of the ground, etc.* rough, uneven *Co. Donegal.*

[Origin unknown.]

haggle *see* hag¹.

hag's-mash *noun 1* *literally* hog's mash: a botch, a badly done piece of work; *cf.* donkey. **2** a botcher, a bad workman.

hagyar, hagyar *noun* a haggard.

[Probably influenced by Standard English *hay-yard, stackyard, etc.*]

ha-ho *see* hi-how.

haik *see* hike.

haikie *noun* a fool, a stupid person.

[*Cf.* Scots and Northern English *haik* "an idle, wandering fellow or animal", origin unknown.]

hail *see* hale¹, hale².

hail¹ *noun*, *in games such as hurling* **1** a scored goal. **2** the goal; *also* **hail mouth**.

[Scots, from the practice of greeting a goal with the exclamation "*hail!*".]

hail² *noun* small shot.

hailstone: **oh, aye, a heap like a hailstone!** said in response to someone's exaggeration of a small quantity.

hail-top *noun* whole bulk.

hain, hane, hen *verb* **1** use sparingly, conserve, economise on. **2** save up, hoard. **3** **hain yourself** save yourself exertion, trouble, *etc.*

□ **hained** saved up.

□ **haining, hainin** sparing, saving, thrifty.

□ **hain yer win'** *or* **breath to cool yer parritch** *or* **broth**

□ **hain your kitchen** save or economise your soup, beef, or whatever else you have to eat with your potatoes.

[Scots and Northern English *hain, hane*; Northumberland also *hen*; from Old Norse *hegna* "to hedge, to protect".]

hainch *see* hinch.

hair *noun* a fight between women pulling each other's hair.

□ **hair-about** describing hair that is going grey.

□ **hairpin, herpin** *figuratively* **1** a sharp-tongued, uncooperative woman.

2 a low but cute woman.

□ **hairy** **1** cunning, knowing; *cf.* **hare**. **2** clever, sharp, capable.

3 remarkable, exceptional, usually for cunning. **4** work-shy, idle.

□ **hairy horse** a caterpillar; *see also* **horse**.

□ **hairy-hundred-foot** the centipede.

□ **hairy Mary** **1** a caterpillar. **2** a centipede. *Illustration see da.* [ILLUS: hairy/My]

□ **hairy Ned** **1** a straw rope. **2** a hay rope. **3** a rough hemp rope.

□ **hairy worm** a caterpillar.

□ **in a herpin** in a great difficulty.

□ **to a hair** exactly.

□ **you have paid for every hair in his tail** said of a horse bought for too high a price.

hairat *noun* a herald.

hairo, hayro *noun* a hero *Co. Donegal*.

hairst *see* harvest.

hairt *see* heart.

hairvest *see* harvest.

hairy *see* harry.

hairy *adjective* hoary; old; old-fashioned.

[Scots form.]

hait *see* have.

haith, heth *exclamation* a disguised oath: "faith", indeed; *also* **heth an soul, heth and troth**.

[Scots.]

haithen *adjective, noun* heathen.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

haiver, haiverel *see* haver.

haiyarded *adjective, of clothes* half-dried.

hake *verb, of a cow* butt.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

hale *see* whole.

hale¹, hail *verb* **1** arrest (a suspect). **2** flow, pour *e.g.* *The swate begun to hale aff me*.

[Older form (still Scots and English dialectal) of haul.]

hale², hail *verb, only hale yourself* enjoy yourself.

[*Cf.* Scots "to heal, to cure"; partly from *hale*, the Scots and Northern form of *whole*; partly an older form of *heal*.]

Haleve *see* hallow.

half *noun* half past (the hour) *e.g.* *half two*.

- a day and a half** a very severe day.
- a happenny is the foundation-stone of a pound**
- a little's as good as a ha'porth** *proverbial*
- bad haporth** a bad bargain.
- don't lose the ship for the want of a ha'porth of tar, don't lose the sheep for the want of a ha'porth of tar** *proverbial*
- half-aged, half-worn** middle-aged.
- half-and-between 1** neither one thing nor the other. **2** not completely sane.
- half-and-half** half-witted.
- half away** mad.
- half-baked** not quite sane.
- half bat field** a triangle of grass where two roads meet.
- half-boiled (a)** half-finished; **(b) half-baked**: not quite sane.
- half-boiled idiot** someone with little sense.
- half-cod** a codling, a small cod.
- half-door** an outer door half the height of the doorway.
- half-duck 1** any duck smaller than the mallard. **2 specifically. (a)** the teal. **(b)** the wigeon.
- half-dure** a half-door, the lower half of a door.
- half-fool**:
- half-gone** about the middle stage of pregnancy.
- half-hip roof** a roof on which the inclined edges extending down from the ends of the ridge do not reach eaves level.
- halfling 1** a young man. **2** a half-wit.
- half loft** a small loft, open to the room, in a one-storey cottage.
- half middlin** in poor health.
- half-moon 1** a bird: the goldcrest *Regulus regulus* [from the shape of its crest]. **2** a hard centre in a cooked potato; *see* moon.
- half natural** a fool.
- half-nothing** a very small sum, a negligible sum.
- half on** *adjective* slightly drunk; *noun* a stage of intoxication.
- half one, half yin, hef yin** a half glass of whiskey.
- halfpenny**
- halfpenny-face** a thin, miserly-looking person.
- halfpennyworth, haporth**
- half-piece crock** a deep bowl used in the dairy.
- halfroads** halfway.
- half-seas over** almost drunk.
- half-sir** a churlly [sic] person; a miser *e.g.* *None of your beggarly half-sirs*.
- half-sprung** drunk.
- half too much** too much by half.
- half-tore** not quite drunk; *see* tear.
- halvers** *exclamation* said by children to claim half of anything found.
- ◆ noun, also halvies** half-shares, *especially go or gang halvies* divide something into two equal shares.
- I haven't the ha'pence** I haven't the wherewithal; originally as said to a woman of ill repute.
- the half** by half *e.g.* *I've seen it [the weather] far coarser, the half*.
- the two halves of nothing 1** of quantity very little. **2** a very small person.
- "Where do you come from?" "Ballymena." "Half-Irish and half-Scotch." "Half-drunk and half-daft."** stereotyped conversational

exchange.

hallan, hollan *noun*, in a traditional house a jamb-wall, a wall or partition screening the hearth from the doorway. *Illustration see jamb.*

[Scots and Northern English *hallan(d)*, origin unknown.]

hallelujah: hallelujah ball a bun of hair [from the popularity of this hairstyle amongst women in the Close Brethren].

halliday *see* hallow.

hallion, hullion *noun, derogatory* **1** a good-for-nothing person. **2 (a)** an uncouth lout; **(b)** an insensitive, unsympathetic woman. **3** a fat, slovenly woman. **4** an awkward, clumsy person. **5** a plump boy.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

hallow: Hallowday, halliday the feast of All Hallows, All Saint's Day, 1st November.

□ **Hallowe'en, Haleve, Holleve, also holleve night** *noun* All Hallow Eve, the eve of All Saints' Day [*Hallowe'en* originally Scots, now more widely adopted]; *see also* old.

□ **Hollandtide** *incorrectly*: Hollantide, the period around All Saints' Day. *See also* holland hawk.

halse *noun* **1** the neck. **2 also hass** the throat; the windpipe.

□ **lift the palate of someone's hass** perform an operation for the removal of hoarseness.

□ **pap of the hass** the uvula.

[Scots and Northern English *halse, hass*; from Old English and Old Norse *hals* "the neck".]

halt *noun* a limp [archaic in Standard English].

□ **a halt in your step** lameness *e.g.* *She has a halt in her step.*

□ **a halt in your tongue** a stammer [influenced by Irish *stad* (*see stad*) which means both "a halt" and "a stammer"]; *cf.* stop.

halvers, halvies *see* half.

ham *noun* the part of the leg behind the knee.

ham *see* hum.

hame, hamely *see* home.

hames, hems *noun plural* hames (the two curved pieces resting on the collar of a horse, to which the traces are attached).

□ **make a hames of something** make a mess of something.

[Scots form *hems*.]

hammer, hemmer *verb* hammer.

◆ *noun* **1** a hammer. **2** a thump, a heavy blow.

□ **get the hammer 1** be severely punished. **2** get the sack.

□ **hammer, block and Bible** a boys' game in which each of the three objects in the name is represented by a boy.

□ **hammerhead** a bird: the whitethroat *Sylvia communis*.

□ **hammering** a thrashing.

[Scots form *hemmer*.]

hamper *verb* injure, disarrange, throw out of gear.

□ **hampered** *of a lock* damaged.

hamshoch *noun* an accident, an injury.

[Scots; origin unknown, *cf.* *amsha*.]

han' *see* hand.

hanamandoul *exclamation*

hanch, haunch *verb, of an animal* snap; bite; savage.

◆ *noun* **1** a snap, an attempt to bite *e.g.* *The dog made a hanch at me.* **2** a large bite.

[Scots and English dialectal, from Old French *hancher*.]

hancock, hancole *see* hand.

hand, han', haun' *noun* **1** a hand. **2** *ploughing* the horse in the hand, the one that walks on the unploughed land. *Illustration see fur.* **3** *linen manufacturing* a handful of flax in the process of rolling to break up the shows (for illustration of *rollers*, *see* *crimpers*).

- ◆ *verb* back up a person in a fight, act as a second.
- **again the han'** *ploughing, and of working conditions generally unfavourable; see again².*
- **again your hand** the difficult way of doing anything; *see again².*
- **at every hand's turn** on every occasion *e.g. He scolds me at every han's turn.*
- **a voice like a hand-saw, a voice like the sharpening of a han' saw** a harsh, sharp, disagreeable voice.
- **buy or sell by hand** buy or sell on the basis of a rough estimate of weight, *etc.*
- **come easy to your hand** be easy to do because of practice.
- **get a bad, good etc. hand** fail *or* prosper in business.
- **hand-barrow** **1** a hand-barrow. **2** a wheelbarrow.
- **hand-cloth, han' cloot** a hand towel [*hand-cloth* obsolete in Standard English]; *see clout³.*
- **handcock, hancock, handcole, hancole** **1** a small heap of hay. **2** a medium-sized heap of hay.
- **hand horse** *ploughing* the horse in the hand. *Illustration see fur.*
- **hand-idle** idle, having nothing to occupy the hands.
- **handketcher, hanketcher, hankerchay, henkychay, henkritch, henky** a handkerchief.
- **handless, hanless** incompetent with the hands; clumsy, inclined to drop things.
- **hand over fist, hands over fist** quickly; with all possible haste or speed *e.g. He's making money hands over fist.*
- **hand over head** **1** recklessly, without thinking. **2** *of a price* for the lot, indiscriminately.
- **handrick** **1** a medium-sized heap of hay. **2** *rarely* a small heap of hay.
- **hand running** continuously, "on end".
- **hand-saw:**
- **handshaker** a few armfuls of hay spread out to dry.
- **handshaking, handshakin, also handshake** **1** the first small heap in making hay. **2** a medium-sized heap of hay.
- **hand-smooth** in an energetic way, without pausing.
- **handspoke** one of two pieces of timber used to carry a coffin.
- **hand's stir** **1** a slight movement. **2** a stroke of work. **3** a very small distance.
- **hand-stave** the handstaff of a flail. *Illustration see soople².*
- **hand-sticks** an implement for lifting hay from the field.
- **hand-stroke, han's stroke** a "hand's turn", a stroke of work.
- **hand's turn** a piece of work. *usually not do a hand's turn*
- **hand-trot** a horse's pace between running and walking.
- **handwrite** handwriting.
- **hand-wrought** handmade.
- **handy:**
- **Handy Andy, handymagandy** *sarcastic* an incompetent worker [for the syllable *-ma-*, *cf. whigmaleerie*].
- **handy by** handy, close at hand.
- **handywoman** a midwife.
- **hanful** a handful.
- **han's breadth** 3 inches.
- **have no hands, have neither head nor han's, have neither hands nor feet on you** be awkward, *handless*; *specifically* be unable to drive.
- **have your hand in the pie** interfere in a matter.
- **have your two hands alike** not pay your way, not "stretch out a hand"; *see also arm.*
- **in hand, in han'** in charge.
- **in the hand** *of a horse in ploughing* walking on the unploughed ground, while the other horse walks in the furrow. *Illustration see fur.*

- **lay hands on, lay han's on** find.
- **lie to your hand** *of a job of work* be easy to do because of practice.
- **make a hand of; make a bad, sore, etc. hand of 1** spoil, destroy, make a mess of. **2 make a sore han' o yourself** make a spectacle of yourself.
- **off hand** at once, without deliberation.
- **out of hand 1** *of a child* able to walk without help. **2 also out of hands:** (a) *of work* completed, finished; (b) *of a person* out of control, unmanageable.
- **put hand to paper** put pen to paper, write.
- **strike easy till your hand is in** proceed cautiously until you are used to a new job.
- **the back of my hand to you** a dismissive remark.
- **there's my hand on it** an expression of sincere conviction.
- **there's my hand to you** an invitation to shake hands to seal a contract.
- **two hands higher 'n the turf** describing a very small person.
- **with his or her hands the like length** describing an idler; *see arm*.
- **with the hand, also down the hill an wi the han' ploughing, and of working conditions generally** favourable.

[Scots and Northern English form *han'*, Scots also *haun'*.]

handle, hannie *noun* **1** a handle. **2 in plural** the scutching blades in a flax mill. *Illustration see targe.*

◆ *verb* **1** handle. **2 handle yerself, also handle** hurry, exert yourself, be quick *e.g. Handle and get the cow in.*

- **handles, hanles** handling, care, husbandry (received by an animal).
- **handle your feet well** use your feet skilfully, *especially* in dancing or football.
- **handling, handlin, hanlin 1** a business, an affair, *especially* a troublesome one. **2 figuratively, of people** several. **3 of a child, spouse, etc.** a "handful", a lot of trouble.
- **make a handle of 1** take advantage of (a person); make a dupe of (a person). **2** try to turn (a situation) to your own benefit.
- **well handled** *of pupils* well taught.

[General dialectal and Scots form *hannle*.]

handsel, hansel *noun* **1** a good luck gift; *specifically* (a) to mark the occasion when someone first wears something new; (b) to mark the start of a new undertaking; (c) given on **Hansel Monday**. **2** an auspicious occasion; a good omen. **3** money handed over to seal a bargain. **4** a gift in return for voluntary help. **5** an early breakfast given to farm labourers before work, followed later by breakfast itself.

◆ *verb* **1** wear (a new article of clothing) for the first time; buy or use (something) for the first time; test, try (something new). **2** make the first purchase from a person starting a new business; make the first purchase of the day. **3** give money or a present to mark (a new enterprise). **4** drink to (the start of a new undertaking). **5** give earnest-money to (a newly-hired female servant).

- **Hansel Monday** the first Monday of the year. It was formerly the custom for servants and children to be given a present on this day for luck.
- **hansel penny** a luck-penny put into the pocket of a new garment to handsel it.

[General dialectal and Scots, from Old English *handselen* "giving into the hands" and Old Norse *handsal* "the act of shaking hands on a bargain".]

handsome *adverb* handsomely.

handymagandy *see hand.*

hane *see hain.*

hanful *see hand.*

hang, hing *verb* hang.

- **hang (cut) to the like o ye** expressing disgust.

- **hanged** *euphemism* damned *e.g. It's a hanged lie.*
- **hangeral, hang-rail, hingerel** **1** one of the laths carrying the sod lining of a traditional thatched roof. **2** a butcher's hook.
[Either *hang + rail*, or + *-rel* diminutive ending as in *mongrel, etc.*]
[ILLUS: hangeral]
- **hangin' from me upper lip** sarcastic answer to someone inquiring after another's location.
- **hanging, hangin, hingin** **1** a strip of hide or leather joining the handstaff and swipple of a flail. *Illustration see soople*². **2** *in plural* the part of a creel by which it is hung on a saddle; *cf. illustration at bardock.*
- **hanging gale** a half-year's rent paid in arrears; *see gale.*
- **hanging together (like a pair of trousers)** *of a person* neither ill nor completely well.
- **hang in the breeching** shirk, not pull your weight [from the idea of a horse's harness lying slack].
- **hang on your feet all day** be on your feet all day.
- **hang up your hat** *of a man* go to live in his wife's house.
- **hing back** be unwilling, hesitate.
- **hingin lamp** an oil and wick type of lamp for indoors.
- **hingit** *of plants* drooping.
- **hing on** continue to live.
- **hing round** "hang around", loiter.
- **hing the lugs** hang the head: be ashamed, despondent, *etc.*
- **his clothes are all hangin' on a tenpenny nail** he has no buttons, having "tossed" them away in gambling.
- **on the hang** *of a patient* in a doubtful condition, hanging in the balance.
- **the hang** *exclamation* a disguised oath. *especially what the hang?*
- **ye may as well or lief be hanged for an owl' or big sheep as for a young or wee lamb** *proverbial*
[Scots and Northern English *hing*; from Old Norse *hęngjan* "to hang (something)", related to Old English *hangian* "to hang" and *hōn* "to hang (something)" which together give English *hang*.]
- hank** *noun* **1** a mess, a tangle. **2** a doubt in the mind, a mental obstacle.
 - **keep the hank in your hand** *proverbial* do not abandon any advantage you possess; be master of the situation; hold your own.
 - **ravelled hank** an intricate piece of business.
[Figurative senses of Standard English *hank* "a skein of yarn, *etc.*".]
- hankerchay, hanketcher** *see hand.*
- hanking: hanking cough** a cough which affects the sufferer like one caused by the tickling of a hank of yarn.
- hanles** *see handle.*
- hanless** *see hand.*
- hanlin** *see handle.*
- hanna** *see have.*
- hannle** *see handle.*
- hanny** *see have.*
- hansel** *see handsel.*
- hant** *see haunt, hint.*
- hanted** *see haunt.*
- hap** *see hop.*
- hap** *see hup.*
- hap** *verb, also hap up, hap in* cover up, cover over; *specifically (a)* wrap (a person) up for warmth; *(b)* tuck (a person) up in bed; *(c)* cover (heaps of potatoes) with earth or straw.
 - ◆ *noun* a wrap, a rug, an extra coat, *etc.*
 - **happed up** *euphemism* buried.
 - **happed with a spade** buried.
 - **happing** **1** a covering. **2** outer clothes.
 - **happit** wrapped up.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

hape *noun* a heap; *also figuratively e.g. a hape of dacency* much politeness.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

happen *verb* befall, happen to *e.g. What on earth happened ye?*

- happen into** happen to go into.
- happen in with** meet (a person) by chance.
- happen on** meet (a person) by chance.

See also behappen.

happer *see* hop.

happy: *as happy as a mother wi' two lambs*

hapscotch *see* hop.

hard *see* hear.

hard *noun* raw whiskey.

- as hard and coul' as a river in frost** describing a hard-hearted person's heart.
- as hard as a hoor's heart**
- as hard as the hammers o' hell, as hard as goats' knees, as hard as knap stones**
- as hard as the nether mill-stone**
- crackin** *or* **nappin hardies** breaking stones; *see* knap¹; *hence* **crackin hardies in the stone jug** *euphemism* in jail.
- give someone the hard word** abuse a person verbally.
- hard as the hobs o' hell** very miserly.
- hard at hand** hard by, nearby.
- hard bow** the seedhead of ripening flax; *see* bow². *Illustration see* blue.
- hard-bowed** *of flax* having formed seed; *see* bow².
- hardbread** oatcake.
- hard chew** a "hard case", a very rough person; *see* chew¹.
- harden, harn 1** harden (oatcakes) in front of the fire. **2 harn** *loosely* cook over an open fire. **3 harden** *of the weather* become settled after rain.
- hard-faced** cheeky.
- hard-favoured** stern-faced.
- hard-fist** a miser, a hard-fisted person.
- hard frost** hoar frost.
- hardhead 1** a wild flower: the black knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. *Illustration see* bachelor. **2** the root of a seaweed, tangle *Laminaria digitata*.
- hard in the mouth** hard-mouthed, stubborn.
- hard-mouthed** stubborn, obstinate.
- hardness** gummed silk thread used for netting.
- hard oaten** oatcake.
- hard-set** *adjective* **1** hard pressed, scarcely able. **2** *childish, of an egg* not suitable for blowing because too far developed.
- hard tack** strong drink.
- hard to pay** inclined to charge very high prices.
- hard used** badly treated.
- hard water** spring water as opposed to soft water, *i.e.* rainwater.
- hard word 1** a caution to an employee; notice to quit. **2** bad opinion *e.g. Some people has a hard word of him.*
- hardy** *adjective, of the weather* frosty, very cold, *thus* **a hardy one** a very cold day or night; *cf.* hask.
- noun 1** a piece of oatcake. **2** *in plural* broken stones used as road metal.
- harley-fash** do not do it.
- harly** hardly.
- harn bread** oatcake.
- harned** hardened; *of bread* cooked *e.g. Is the oat-cake harn'd?*
- harnin stand, also harner** a blacksmith-made stand for hardening off oatcakes in front of an open fire. [ILLUS: harnin/s]
- have the hard drop in you** be miserly.

- **if or when hardy comes to hardy** if the worst comes to the worst.
- **in hard in earnest** downright in earnest.
- **it comes hard on someone** someone is in difficulties.

hare *noun* **1** a witch who can turn herself into a hare. **2** a prankster, a mischievous person; *cf.* **hair**. **3** *also* **hare's lock** the last sheaf of the harvest; *see* **lock**². *Illustration see* **churn**².

- **harebell** a wild flower: **(a)** the harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*; **(b)** the foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*. *Illustration see* **sheegie**.
- **hare-scarred** *literally* hare-frightened: hare-lipped [from the belief that the mother was startled by a hare while carrying the child]; *see* **scar**.
- **hare-scart, hare-scrat** *literally* hare-scratch: a hare-lip; *see* **scrat**¹.
- **hare-shee** a hare-lip [*cf.* Scots *shee*, form of obsolete Standard English *sheave* "a slice", from Old English **scife*].
- **have only the hare's fut for it** have only the surety of an absconding bankrupt.
- **hunt the hare** cut the last sheaf.
- **make a hare of someone** get the better of someone in an argument or discussion, or in a contest of wits.
- **there's readier mate (meat) than a runnin' hare** a saying used when someone wants a thing hard to obtain, when other equally good articles are available; there are equally good things that are easier to get than the thing you want.

haring *see* **hear**.

harish *see* **harrish**.

hark: **Hark the Robbers** a children's game.

harl¹ *verb* **1** *also* **haurl** drag. **2** peel the skin from (cooked potatoes).

3 roughcast (a wall).

◆ *noun* **1** a slattern; a big, untidy, uncouth person. **2** a big, rough worker.

3 a big pile of something awkward to handle. **4** a lump.

- **harling** roughcast, a mixture of lime and sand or small stones.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

harl² *noun* a tangle (of a line, *etc.*).

- **harl o bones** a thin person.

[Southern English, origin unknown.]

harly *see* **hard**.

harmless: **a harmless crayther** one without backbone.

harn, harner *see* **hard**.

harnish, harnishin *see* **herness**.

harns *noun plural* brains.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *hjarne* "the brain".]

harp *noun* **1** the tail of a coin [from the representation of a harp on the reverse of various Irish coins]. **2** a large sieve, a riddle.

- **go harp six** fall head over heels.
- **harp on one string** dwell constantly on something.
- **toss head and harp, toss head or harp** play pitch and toss.

harple *see* **hirple**.

harra *see* **harrow**.

harricane, herricane *noun* **1** a hurricane. **2** a fit of anger. **3** *also*

harricane lamp a hurricane lamp.

harrish, harish *verb* harass.

- **harrished** harassed.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

harrow, harra *noun* **1** a harrow. **2** *figuratively* any long thin thing or person.

◆ *verb* harrow.

- **harra cran, long-neckit harra, long-leggit harra** the grey heron *Ardea cinerea*; *see* **crane**.

□ **harrow-bones** a very thin cow, person, *etc.*

□ **harrow goose** a large bird.

- **under the harrow** suffering from ill-treatment or severe illness.
[Scots and English dialectal form *harra*.]

Harry:

harry, herry, hairy, hurry *verb* **1** harry, pillage. **2** rob (a bird's nest). **3** ruin (a person) financially.

- **harry a pun** *literally* rob a pound: *thus e.g. That hurries a pun* said when handing over a pound to pay for something costing only a little less.
[Scots, North-Western English and Isle of Man form *herry*; Scots also *hairy*.]
- **by the Lord Harry** a mild oath.
- **Harry-long-legs** the crane fly (daddy-long-legs).
- **old Harry, Lord Harry** the devil.
- **play old Harry with** "play the devil with"; annoy or punish someone.

harry¹

Harry-hundred-feet, Harry-hundred-foot, Harry-hundred-lets *see* hundred.

harse, hayse *noun* a hearse.

[*Harse* is possibly an old form, *cf. sarten* (*see* *certain*), *clergy* (*see* *clergy*), *etc.* For *hayse*, *cf.* Cheshire and Devon form *hess*.]

harvest, hervest, hairvest, hairst, herst *noun* **1** harvest. **2** autumn.

- **harvest board** a horizontal frame laid over a cart to extend the area for carrying hay.
- **harvest-day** a day in harvest.
- **harvest folk** harvest workers.
- **harvest-home** a feast given by the farmer to celebrate the conclusion of the harvest.
- **harvest-moon** a September moon.
- **harvest-play** school holidays at harvest time.
- **harwust fair**:
- **owe someone a day in harvest** owe someone a good turn.
[Scots forms.]

hash *noun* **1** *specifically* mashed potatoes and beans. **2** a person who talks nonsense. **3** a bungler.

hash *verb* close (a door).

- **hashter, hashiter** *verb* work untidily.
- ◆ *noun* **1** slovenly, badly-done work. **2** a mess, a muddle, a mix-up. **3** a careless, untidy worker.

hashy *adjective*, *of a person* cold, hard, insensitive; *cf. hask*.

hask *adjective*, *also hasky* **1** *of the weather* harsh, frosty, very clear and cold; *see also hard*. **2** *of the soil* stiff, dry, parched. **3** *of a person* harsh, unsympathetic, severe; ill-natured. **4** unforgiving, bitter. **5** *of flax, fibre, etc.* harsh, coarse. **6** *of bread* dry and tasteless. **7** husky, hoarse.

- ◆ *noun* a hoarse, dry cough.
- **haskiness** the condition of land when the soil is parched.
[Scots and Northern English *harsk, hask*; apparently of Scandinavian origin, *cf. Norwegian harsk*, corresponding to English *harsh*. *See also hashy*.]

hasp¹, hesp *noun*, *only in a hasp* in a dilemma, in difficulties.

[Scots "a length of yarn"; possibly the same word as **hasp²**, from the catch on the reel which indicated the measure of yarn.]

hasp², hesp *noun* **1** a hasp, a door-catch. **2** *usually old hasp* an insult, implying hardness.

[Scots and Northern English form *hesp*. *See also hasp¹*.]

hass *see* halse.

hassog *noun* a hassock: **(a)** a tuft of coarse grass or heather; **(b)** a stuffed cushion used for kneeling in a place of worship, or as a footstool.

[This form of *hassock* has apparently passed through Irish as **hasóg*.]

haste: **excuse haste and a bad pen, as the pig said when it broke out of the sty**

- **make haste** hurry up.
- **the more haste, the worse (or less) speed, as the tailor said to the long thread** "the more haste, the less speed".

hat: **make a bad hat of something** spoil, make a mess of something.

hatch *noun* a door-catch.

hatchet: **hatchet wind** the north wind.

hatching, hatchin'

- **not yesterday's hatchin'** *of a woman* not as young as he or she tries to appear.

hate:

hate *see* have, heat¹.

- **hateful:** **hateful Jas** a name for an unlikeable person.

hater *see* heat¹.

hatherin *see* huther.

hatterel, hatteril *noun* **1** a large number. **2** a flock; a litter. **3** a miscellaneous collection or jumble. **4** a skin eruption, a rash.

- **all in a hatterel** covered with sores.

[Scots and Northern English, extended form of Scots and Northern English *hatter* "a confused heap; a rash" (onomatopoeic). *See also* huther.]

hauch *see* haugh².

hauchle *see* hough.

haud *see* hold.

haugh *see* hough.

haugh¹, haa *noun* a piece of uncultivated ground beside a river.

[Scots and Northern English *haw*, Scots also *haugh, ha*; from Old English *halh* "a corner, a nook".]

haugh², hauch, hough *verb, also hockle* hawk, cough to clear the throat; bring (phlegm) **up**.

- ◆ *noun* a clearing of the throat.

[Scots *haugh, hauch, hough, hauchle*; onomatopoeic.]

haughle *see* hough.

haul *verb* arrest (a suspect).

- **hauling-home** the bringing home of a bride; *see also* drag.
- See also* hale¹.

haulm *noun* dirt, mud *e.g.* *The heavy boots heavier with the haulm of the yard.*

haun' *see* hand.

haunch *see* hanch.

haunt, hant *verb* **1** haunt. **2** *also* **haunt to, get haunted with** become accustomed to (a place, *etc.*).

- ◆ *noun* a custom, a habit.

- **hanted** haunted.

[Old form (still Scots and Northern English) *hant*.]

haur! *see* har!¹.

have, hae, ha, a; *present indicative 1st person singular, 2nd person singular, plural hev, hae; 3rd person singular hez, his, hiz; haes; hev; negative hevn't, hezn't; hanna, haena, hanny, haenae, hinnae, hiznae, hezna; past tense and past participle hed, past tense also haed; past tense and past participle negative; hedn't; hedna, hednae; past participle also haen; verb 1 have. **2** have (a person as a visitor) *e.g.* *Did ye hae Bella the day?**

- ◆ *auxiliary verb* have. In the (plu)perfect tense, the main verb can be postponed to the end of the sentence, when the emphasis is on the state arising from the completed action *e.g.* *I am sorry I have kept your book so long. That's alright - I had it read.* *See also* be.

- **deil haet, (the) devil a haet, fient a or the haet, feenahait, shame hait, shame a hait, shame the hait, shane a haet, not a haet, sorra a haet** *literally* devil, *etc.* have it: devil a bit, not a bit, not the least thing or

amount; hence **haet**, **hait**, **hate** a whit, the smallest imaginable thing or amount; *see* devil, fient, sorrow.

- **have drink taken** be the worse for drink, but not drunk.
- **have I anything on me belongin' ti' ye?** sarcastic question to someone who is staring.
- **have like to (fall etc.)** feel as if you are about to (fall etc.).
- **have the trade back with you** come back a master of your trade.

[Present tense: colloquial *hev*, *a*; Scots and English dialectal *ha*; Scots and Northern English also *hae*; colloquial *hez*; Scots also *haes*, *his*, *hiz*. Present negative: Scots and English dialectal *hanna*, *hesna*; Scots also *haena*, *hanny*, *haenae*, *hinnae*, *hiznae* (*see* **no**²). Past tense: colloquial *hed*, Scots also *haed*. Past tense negative: Scots and English dialectal *hadna*; Scots also *hedna*, *hednae* (*see* **no**²). Past participle: colloquial *hed*, Scots also *haen*. *See also* **a**².]

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- **Usage Have** as a main verb need not take the auxiliary **do** in questions or in the negative, *e.g.* *Have you a pound? No, I haven't any money* (in Southern England, *Do you have a pound? No, I don't have any money*).
-

havel *see* hovel.

haver, **haiver** *verb* talk nonsense; talk incoherently.

- **haverel**, **haveral**, **haiverel** *noun* **1** a half-wit, a simpleton. **2** a talkative person. **3** a rough, awkward person. **4** a slovenly woman. **5** a large, untidy heap.

◆ *adjective* coarse, improper.

- **haverer** a person who talks nonsense.
- **havering** nonsense, drivel.
- **havers!** nonsense!

[Scots, origin unknown.]

haw *see* ha'.

haw, **ha** *noun* a haw, the fruit of the hawthorn.

- **a haw year, a brow year, many haws, many snaws** *proverbial*
- **haw-stone** the stone or seed in the haw.
- **haw-tree** the hawthorn. *Illustration see* fairy.

[Scots form *ha*.]

haw-haw *see* how-how.

haw horse *noun* the shaft-horse (of a team).

hawk *see* hack¹.

hawk *verb* **1** drag (children, etc.) around with you. **2** make your way with difficulty (*e.g.* up a hill).

- **make hawk's meal of** make a complete fool of.
- **make hawk's meat of someone** beat someone up.

[The same word as Standard English *hawk* "to practise the trade of a hawker".]

hawk¹

- **make hawk's meat or mate of a person** beat up a person.

hawkit *adjective, of a cow, etc.* white-faced.

- **hawkies** a cow after her second calf.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

hay, **hey** *noun* hay.

- **hay-bird** **1** the willow-warbler *Phylliscopus trochilus*. **2** the willow-wren.
- **hay boards** a hayframe.
- **haybottom** the base of a haystack.
- **hay box** a hay-rack. *Illustration see* loft.
- **haycribbin** a hayframe; *see* crib².
- **hayfloat** a low vehicle for moving hay, a rick-shifter. *Illustration see* bogie.
- **hay-foot:**
- **hay-foot, straw-foot** substituted for "left, right" in drill instructions. To

assist Irish recruits who did not speak much English, a rope of hay was tied to one leg and a straw rope to the other.

- **hayframe, hayframes** a horizontal frame laid over a cart to extend the area for carrying hay.
- **haygarden** a stackyard, a haggard; *see* garden.
- **hayguards** a hayframe.
- **hayjinker, haylifter** a hayfloat; *see* jink. *Illustration see bogie.*
- **haykie** the beginning hay-heap.
- **hay lap** a lapcole, the first small roll into which hay is gathered.

*Illustration see hedge*¹.

- **hay-pick** the final round hay-heap.
- **hayrick** a low-platform cart upon which the rick was winched and from which removed.
- **hay rope** a rope of hay twisted round the leg to keep the trouser-ends clean.
- **hayshifter** a hayfloat.
- **he cud eat hay fae a loft** describing a tall man.
- **high-laft** a hayloft.
- **hi stack** a haystack.

[Scots form *hey*.]

haygard *noun* a haggard; *cf.* hay.

hayneedle *see* needle.

hayro *see* hairo.

hayse *see* harse.

hazel:

hazel¹: **hazel-rag** a lichen, lungwort *Sticta pulmonaria*.

hazerd, hezzard *verb* **1** dry (washing) in the open air. **2** *of the weather* dry up after rain.

- **hazerded** *adjective* half-dried, surface-dried.

[Southern and Western Scots; from the past participle of *haizer* "dry (washing) in the open air", itself an extended form of English dialectal and Scots *haize* (of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *hæsjja* "to dry out hay or corn").]

he *pronoun* substituted for *it* in the English of some Irish speakers, [because Modern Irish has no neuter gender]; *see also she*.

- **he-dandelion** **1** a particularly large dandelion. **2** applied to plants whose flowers resemble the dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*, but which have no "milk" in the stem; *specifically (a)* various species of hawksbit, *Leontodon spp*; *(b)* various species of cat's-ear, *Hypochaeris spp*. **3** a dandelion without flowers. *Cf. she*.
- **he yins** males; *see one*.

he¹ *exclamation* **1** a call to a horse that is veering off to the right, to make it return to a straight course. **2 heah heah** a call to a dog.

head, heid *noun* **1** the head, a head. **2** a postage-stamp. **3** the last sheaf of the harvest; *cf. head sheaf. Illustration see churn*².

- ◆ *verb* **1** behead, *especially figuratively heading and hanging* serious trouble or punishment. **2** "head off", depart.
- **a grey head on green shoulders** "an old head on young shoulders".
- **a head of water** a reserve or reservoir of water in a mill-pond *e.g. a good head of water*; applied to the mill-pond if full.
- **big head an' little wit**
- **have a head** be intelligent *e.g. He has a head. So has a pin.*
- **have no head of art** have no skill.
- **head and heels** completely, altogether.
- **headband** a rope tying a cow to the stall.
- **head-beetler** **1** the foreman in a beetling-mill. **2** *generally* a foreman.
- **headbin** dolt, dunderhead.
- **head buck cat** the man in charge; *see buck*².
- **head collar** a halter used to fasten a horse to the manger.

- **head end, heed end** the head of a table *etc.*
- **header** a "nutcase".
- **head-fall** a cause of sudden death in infants.
- **headland, heedlan** *ploughing* a headland.
- **headless** *of a woman* widowed.
- **head off** a call to a horse to turn to the right.
- **head out for yerself** make your own way in life.
- **head over ears in debt**
- **head o' wit** smartness, intelligence.
- **head-piece** a person's brains, intellect *e.g. He has a good head-piece.*
- **head-rig, heidrig** *ploughing* the headland, the strip at the top of the field where the horses or tractor turn, afterwards ploughed at right angles; *see rig⁴, cf. foot. Illustration see hind.*
- **head rope** *in plural* ropes used to secure a haystack.
- **head-salts** smelling-salts.
- **head sheaf, heading sheaf 1** a hood sheaf (a sheaf placed on the top of a stook to protect it from the rain). **2** *figuratively* the finishing touch; the crowning point. [ILLUS: head/shf]
- **head's man** principal man.
- **head staggers 1** a disease in cattle or horses. **2** *in a person* a mad turn, an outbreak of silliness.
- **head-steal** a headstall (the head-piece of a bridle); *see finger.*
- **head-the-ball** a name for an unstable, unpredictable man.
- **head the grittins** an aggressive person given to wildly excessive acts.
- **head the stook** place a sheaf of grain upside down on a standing one, done when the grain is fully ripe.
- **heid bummadeer** *literally* head bombardier: the chief, the man in charge; *cf bum⁴.*
- **he or she will never scratch a grey head** a prediction that a person will die young.
- **his or her head wouldn't carry him or her to the door** said of a person with a bad memory.
- **I was born with my head down** *jocular* an excuse for not singing when asked.
- **not a word out of your head!** keep quiet!
- **over the head of, on the head of** on account of *e.g. I got dismissed over the head of a letter.*
- **take a horse by the head** lead a horse by the bridle.
- **two heads are better than one, if it was only the head of a pin** "two heads are better than one".
- **you'll get your head in your hand and your tea in a tin mug, you'll get your head in your hand** a threat to beat someone up.

[Scots and Northern English form *heid*.]

heald *noun* the heddle of a loom.

health: may you have health to wear it, strength to tear it and money to buy mair o't; health to weer, strength to teer, an money to buy another said to a person wearing a new article of clothing for the first time; *specifically* when money is put into the pocket of a new garment to handsel it.

heap: all upon heaps in disorder.

hear *verb: past tense and past participle hard, heerd.*

- **hard a hearing** deaf.
- **heard said** (I, *etc.*) heard say, heard it said (that).
- **hearer** a member of a church, someone who sits under the ministry of a clergyman. *specifically, Presbyterian* a member of the congregation.
- **hearing, haring 1** news *e.g. That's a good hearing.* **2** a trial sermon preached to a congregation that is seeking a minister. **3** a rousing speech.
- **hear tell of** hear of, learn.

[Past tense and past participle: old form (still Hiberno-English, Scots,

and mainly Northern English) *hard*, Northern English and Scots also *heerd*.]

hearna *exclamation*: e.g. *Oh hierna! it's the sodgers*.

heart, hait, hert *noun* **1** heart, the heart. **2** *only* **hungry heart** an empty stomach. **3** the palm (of the hand).

□ **a full heart is aye kindly** a satisfied stomach results in happy spirits.

□ **all the veins in yer heart** e.g. *If ye do that, all the veins in yer heart, ye'll rue it*.

□ **be the heart of corn, have a heart of corn** a compliment: meaning that a person is good-hearted, kind and generous.

□ **by heart** by memory, without looking at a book e.g. *He's gettin' the wee pome off by heart*.

□ **find in your heart** find it in your heart (to do a thing).

□ **have a heart like a swingin' breek** be unfeeling, emotionally cold.

□ **have neither heart nor eye in something** not have your heart in something.

□ **heart-break** a great grief or disappointment.

□ **heart-feared, heart-scared** very much afraid.

□ **heart-fever** an illness: nervous tension.

□ **heart-fever grass** the dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*.

□ **Heart? He has no heart: only a chicken's gizzard**

□ **heart-lazy** very lazy.

□ **heart-scald** **1** heartburn. **2** *also* **heart's scald** a great grief or disappointment. **3** a person who is a source of trouble.

□ **heart-scalded** troubled, tormented, afflicted.

□ **heart-scaldin** heartbreak.

□ **heart's disease** heart disease.

□ **heart's-ease** a wild flower: self-heal *Prunella vulgaris* [in Standard English, a different flower, the pansy *Viola spp.*].

□ **heart-sick** very ill.

□ **Hearts of Down** an eighteenth-century agrarian secret society in Co. Down.

□ **Hearts of Oak, Hearts of Steel** eighteenth-century agrarian secret societies.

□ **heartsome, comparative, heartsomer** **1** encouraging. **2** merry, cheerful, pleasant.

□ **heartsomeness** cheerfulness.

□ **heart-sore** a trial, sorrow, grief.

□ **heart-tit** a pig is best that is fed at the heart-tit.

□ **heart-whole** not in love.

□ **hearty, herty** **1** in good spirits, cheerful. **2** exhilarated by drink, tipsy. **3** in good health.

□ **his heart is like the wee pot** near his mouth.

□ **it's a poor heart never rejoices** it is not right always to look on the dark side of life.

□ **it's not my heart that would hinder me** meaning that I want to do a thing, but circumstances prevent me.

□ **it would charm the heart of a wheelbarrow** describing bad singing.

□ **my hearty** a familiar term of address: good fellow e.g. *Well, my hearty! that's weather for ye!*

□ **never put a beggar away with a sore heart** meaning that if you give nothing, at least don't be abusive.

□ **take heart o' grace** take heart.

□ **the nearer the heart the nearer the mouth** meaning that people tend to speak about what they admire.

□ **warm the cockles of your heart** warm you through; *usually* said when drinking or offering spirits.

□ **where there's heart room, there's house room** generosity finds a way.

□ **with a heart and a half, wi' a heart an' a half, wie a heart-an-a-half**

gladly.

[Old form (still Scots) *hert*, Scots also *hairt*.]

heat¹, **hate**; *past tense and past participle* **het**; *verb* **1** heat, make hot; grow hot. **2** *of hay* become hot in the stack because of dampness and fermentation.

◆ *noun* **1** heat. **2** a warming, *especially* **take a heat of the fire**.

- **hater** a heater.
- **het** heated, hot; *specifically* **(a)** snug, warm; **(b)** angry.
- **het up** heated, stirred up: **(a)** excited; **(b)** angry.
- **the heat of the year** the warm part of the year, the summer.
- **ye can joost cool in the skin ye het in**

[Older form in Scots and English *hate*. Past tense and past participle: older form *het*. See also *hot*.]

heat² [he-at] *noun* a silly fellow *Co. Fermanagh*.

[Origin unknown.]

heath: **heath powt** a bird: the red grouse *Lagopus lagopus scoticus*; see *powt*.

heather: **heatherberry** the crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*; see also *she*.

- **heatherberry day** the first Sunday in August, when people go to gather crowberries *Buncrana*.
- **heather besom** a broom made of heather; see *besom*.
- **heather-birn** a bare stalk of heather.
- **heather-bush** a stalk of heather with many off-shoots.
- **heather cock** a bird: the male red grouse *Lagopus lagopus scoticus* [translation of Irish *coileach fraoich* (see *froogh*)]; see also *heather hen*.
- **heather-grey** a bird: **(a)** the twite *Carduelis flavirostris*; **(b)** the meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis*.
- **heather hen** the female red grouse [translation of Irish *cearc fhraoich*]; see also *heather cock*.
- **heatherling** a bird: the twite *Carduelis flavirostris*.

heather-bleat, **heather-bleater** *noun* a bird: the common snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

[Scots; alteration of Old English *hæfer-blæte* literally "goat-bleater" (*cf.* *air*), influenced by *heather*. See also *weather-bleat*.]

heaven: **heavens alive!** *exclamation*

- **heaven's truth** *emphatic* the exact truth.
- **under the heavens what?, what under the heavens?** expressing surprise.

heavy *adjective* rich, well-off.

- ◆ *adverb* heavily.
- **heavisome** indigestible.
- **heavy-footed**, **heavy-afoot** pregnant, *especially* far advanced in pregnancy; *cf.* *light²*, *weight¹*.
- **heavy-going** stout and clumsy.
- **heavy handful** a heavy burden.
- **heavy-headed** stupid.
- **heavy-hearted** *of the weather* threatening to rain.
- **heavy metal!** a disguised oath.
- **heavy on the leather** heavy-footed.

hech *exclamation* expressing surprise, shock, *etc.*, *frequently* **hech sirs!**

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

heck *exclamation* a disguised oath: "hell!"; also **heckie docken**; *cf.* *holy*.

[Lancashire and Cheshire *heck*, *hecky*; *heck* now adopted generally in colloquial English.]

heck¹ *noun* the part of a spinning wheel around which the thread is wound as it is spun.

heckle *see* *hackle*.

- **heckle pin** the steel tooth of a comb used for dressing flax.

heckler *see* *hackle*.

hectic: not too hectic *of a social event etc.* not very lively.

hed *see* have.

heddle: **heddle and thredde** all mixed up; *cf.* heads and throws (*see* throw).

heddles! *exclamation, also heddles alive!, by heddlesa* a disguised oath: "heavens!".

hedge¹, **hidge** *verb* **1** hedge, shuffle, shift. **2** **hedge clothes** hang washing on a hedge to dry.

- a hedge between keeps friends green**
- hedge-bill, hedge-knife** a long-handled, hooked blade for trimming hedges.
- hedge carpenter** an untrained carpenter.
- hedge-grey** a bird: the linnet *Carduelis cannabina*. *Illustration see* thorn.
- hedgehog** a small roll of hay made by hand [translation of Irish *gráinneog* (*see* granyog)]. [ILLUS: hedgehog]
- hedgeling** the dunnock *Prunella modularis*, also known as the hedge sparrow.
- hedge school** *historical* a rural or village school held in the open air or in makeshift premises and run by one man.
- hedge sparrow** the chaffinch. erroneous definition
- pulled thru a hedge backways** dishevelled.
[English dialectal form *idge*.]

hedge² *exclamation, o hedges, o!*, also **hedjins** a disguised oath: "(oh) heavens!".

hedna, hednae, hedn't *see* have.

hee *exclamation* a call to a horse: **(a)** go; **(b)** turn right; **(c)** turn left.

[*Cf.* Scots *hi* "a call to a horse, usually to turn to the left".]

heeche *tag question* "eh?" *e.g.* *You've learned your lesson now, heech?*

heed *verb* pay attention to, take notice of.

- ye hear me, but ye don't heed me** said by a parent to a child who pretends not to hear, or as a response to "I hear you".

heel¹ *noun* **1** the end slice of a loaf. **2** the remains of tobacco left in the bottom of a pipe. **3** *in general* the end, the last part of anything *e.g.* *the heel of the evening*.

◆ *verb* walk quickly.

- go out heels foremost**
- heel-and-toe** a type of polka.
- heel chapper** an unpleasant piece of news, something that "sets you back on your heels".
- heel-end** the tip of anything.
- heeler** **1** *literally* a working dog that nips at the heels of cattle to drive them: a sharp, prying, interfering woman. **2** a rapid worker.
- heel-halled** scattered about *e.g.* *The books are heel-halled through the house*.
- heeling** a scolding, verbal abuse.
- heel-ring** the ring fixing the heel of a scythe blade to the handle.
- heels up** upside down.
- heel-tap** the remains of alcohol left in a glass.
- heel-wedge** a wedge driven between the heel-ring and the handle of a scythe to tighten it. [ILLUS: heel-wdg]
- his or her heels are beginning to catch** his or her steps are getting shorter, implying that he or she is getting old.
- not put your heel where your toe is, not turn your heel to your toe** said of a disobliging person *e.g.* *He wouldn't put his heel where his toe is to oblige his Mother*.

heel² *verb, also heel up, heel over* upset, overturn (a cart, a sack, *etc.*).

heel³ *verb* **heel (a young tree etc.) in or down** plant (a young tree *etc.*) temporarily.

heeler *see* heel¹.

heelery, heelery: *e.g. They are just carryin' on heelery.*

heerd *see* hear.

heezie *see* hize.

heft¹, haft *verb* leave (the udders of a cow) un milked until the udder becomes large and hard [this is done to give the appearance of a good flow of milk when taking a cow to market].

□ **hefted, hafted 1** *of (the udder of) a cow* hard and swollen with milk.

2 *figuratively, of a person's bladder* uncomfortably full.

[Scots, from Old Norse *hefta* "to restrain".]

heft² *noun* a haft, a handle.

[Scots and English dialectal form.]

heg *see* hag¹.

heg: **heg it** "take cold feet", fail to do something because of fear *Co.*

Donegal.

[Origin unknown.]

heggard *see* haggard.

hegs *exclamation* a disguised oath: *fegs*, "faith".

[Scots.]

heicht *see* high.

heid, heidrig *see* head.

heifer *noun* **1** a cow after her first calf. **2** a cow after her second calf.

□ **beef to the ankles, like a Mullingar heifer** a disparaging description of a young woman.

heigh, hoi, hi [high] *also heigh, boy!* *exclamation* used in calling to a person at a distance a call to attract attention.

◆ *exclamation* expressing surprise.

heigh, heighmaist *see* high.

height: not the height o two peats a measure of a person's height. **the**

height of two peats a measure of a child's height.

heint *verb, only past tense* saw, observed, caught sight of.

[*Cf.* obsolete Standard English *hent* "seize; get; perceive", from Old English *hentan*.]

heir:

heirskip *noun* heirship, inheritance.

[Scots; from Middle Low German *arfskap*, Frisian *erfskip*, influenced by *heir*. Standard English *heirship* may also be modelled on the same source.]

hel' *see* hold.

hell: **hellment 1** mischief. **2 the hellment is** the worst of it is (that).

□ **hell rub it up (a person)** a malediction.

□ **kick up hell's delight** make a great disturbance.

□ **play hell and Tommy with someone** set utterly at variance.

helm: **helm-stick** the tiller of a boat.

helmet *adjective* last, hindmost.

help: **help God Almighty away with someone** be instrumental in the death of someone.

□ **the help of God is nearer nor the dure (door)**

helter *noun* a halter.

□ **bought by the halter** *of a horse* bought as it stands without any guarantee.

[Scots and Northern English form *helter*.]

helter-skelter *verb* hurry *e.g. I'll warrant her off to helter-skelter home.*

hemmer *see* hammer.

hemp *noun* an imp, a rascal.

[*Cf.* Scots *hempie* "a rogue" *i.e.* "someone destined for a hempen rope".]

hemp¹: the hemp's spun for him a hangman's rope awaits him.

hems *see* hames.

hen *see* hain.

hen: as busy as a hen with one chicken fussy.

- come from the hen's nest and the buttermilk churn** be of humble origin.
- goin' aboot like a hen with an egg** restless.
- hen-corn** inferior corn.
- hen crow** the hooded crow *Corvus corone cornix*.
- hen cuckoo** a Plymouth Rock hen. *Illustration see* Primmer-Rock.
- hen fish** the poor-cod *Trisopterus minutus*.
- hen-hearted** "chicken-hearted", timid, cowardly.
- hen hoose** a hen house.
- henis** a hen-coop.
- hen kingfisher** a bird: the dipper *Cinclus cinclus*.
- henny-penny:**
- hen's race** the least distance.
- hen-tappy** crested; *see* top.
- hen-toed** having the toes turned inwards; pigeon-toed.
- hen-wife** **1** *historical* a woman, *frequently* a farmer's wife, who kept poultry. **2** *derogatory* a man who concerns himself with things usually left to women.
- hen yellow yorlin** a bird: the corn bunting.
- it's no' the hen that cackles loudest lays the biggest egg** said to a boasting person.
- I wish I had you where the wife had the hen** *i.e.* in her arms.
- like a hen on a hot griddle** restless, moving about excitedly.
- not worth a fresh hen-egg** not worth much.
- sell your hen on a wet or rainy day** make a bad bargain.
- the hen that makes her own nest sits the langest** a warning against an arranged marriage.

hench *see* hinch.

hencherman *noun* a hearty eater.

henkritch, henky, henkychay *see* hand.

hent *see* hint.

hep *see* hup.

her, hir, hur, hor *pronoun* **1** her. **2** used instead of *she* in compound subjects *e.g.* *Her an me's no big* she and I are not friendly; *cf.* him. **3** it, applied *especially* to a clock or watch.

◆ *possessive pronoun, obsolete* substituted for *my*; *see* she.

hers *poss pronoun* mine; *cf* her.

hersel herself; *see* sel.

[Scots and English dialectal form *hur*, Scots also *hir*, Northern English also *hor*.]

herd, hurd, hird *verb* herd (sheep or cattle).

◆ *noun* **1** a herd, a flock. **2** a shepherd or cowherd.

as ill to hurd as a stockin' full o' flays

he or she cud hurd mice at a cross-roads, he or she could herd weasels at a crossroads

[Scots and Northern English form *hird*, Northern English also *hurd*.]

here: **here-about** in the neighbourhood.

here and there very few and scattered *e.g.* *I seen here and there a one*.

here's me, etc., in telling an anecdote here is what I, etc. said or did.

hern *see* heron, herring.

herness, harnish *noun, verb* harness.

harness-loom a loom fitted with a harness, a mechanism to shed the warp threads; a cross between a Jacquard loom and a plain one.

harnishin harnessing, harness.

[Scots forms.]

heron, hern *noun, also* **heron cran** or **crane** a bird: the grey heron *Ardea cinerea*; *see* crane.

[Archaic form *hern*.]

herple *see* hirple.

herricane *see* harricane.

herrim-skerrim *noun* **1** a "harum-scarum", a rash, thoughtless person; a boisterous person. **2** a person who is furiously angry.

herring, hern *noun* a fish: the herring.

- **hern-hippit** narrow in the hips.
- **hern neck** a thick neck (on a person).
- **herny: herny-looking** *of a person* thin, like a herring strung up to dry.
- **herring hawk** a bird: the Manx shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*.
- **herring-hog** a whale: **(a)** the harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*; **(b)** the Northern bottle-nose whale *Hyperoodon ampullatus*.
- **herring-pond** the sea; *specifically*. **(a)** the Irish Channel. **(b)** the Atlantic Ocean.
- **herring scale** a bird: the red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator*; *see* scale².

[Scots form *hern*.]

herry *see* harry.

hersel *see* her.

hersle *see* hirsle¹.

herst *see* harvest.

hert, herty *see* heart.

hervest *see* harvest.

he's *possessive pronoun* his.

[Scots and English dialectal.]

hesp *see* hasp¹, hasp².

het *see* heat¹, it.

heth *see* haith.

heuch *verb* hinch (a stone, *etc.*).

[*Cf.* Scots *heukbane, heughbane* "the hip-bone" (origin unknown) and Scots *hoch* "the thigh" (from Old English *hōh* "the heel").]

heugh *see* hoogh¹.

heugh *see* hoogh².

heugh *noun* a crag, a cliff, a precipice.

[Scots, from Old English *hōh* "a projecting ridge of land, a promontory".]

hev, hevn't *see* have.

hey *see* hay.

hey-how *see* hi-how.

hez, hezna, hezn't *see* have.

hezzard *see* hazerd.

hi *tag* used to round off a sentence.

- **a' right hi?** a greeting: How are you?

[Origin unknown.]

hi¹: as low as oul' hi said of a person of poor principles, *or* of a person on whom little dependence could be placed.

Hibernian: Ancient Order of Hibernians:

hide: hide-and-go-seek a children's game: hide-and-peek.

- **hide out** play truant.
- **hidlings, hidlins, hidling**, *also in hidlings* secretly, stealthily, furtively.
- **hidy-hole, hidie-hole** a hiding-place.
- **them that (or 'at) hides can find** "losers seekers, finders keepers".

hide¹: know someone's hide in a tanyard recognise someone anywhere.

- **she brought her hide with her hair** said of a red-haired woman; meaning that very fair skin typically goes with red hair.

hidge *see* hedge¹.

hie *verb, generally* **hie me, etc.** go, *especially* quickly (to a place, home, *etc.*) [poetic in Standard English].

hig *Co. Antrim, noun* **1** a lift up. **2** a helping hand to someone who has fallen.

[Origin unknown.]

higgle *verb* haggle, beat down prices.

high, heigh *adjective* high.

- **a trout's height** a measure of distance.
- **have your height on your head** have stopped growing.
- **heicht** height.
- **heighmaist** highest.
- **high-daylight** broad daylight.
- **higher** raise, make higher.
- **high evening** early in the evening.
- **high-henched** *of animals* having high thigh bones.
- **high in the instep** proud, arrogant.
- **high-jinks** a row, trouble.
- **highmadandy** a wealthy but uneducated person [for the syllable *-ma-*, *cf.* whigmaleerie].
- **high-minded** arrogant, high-handed.
- **high-stomached** proud.
- **high-up** aristocratic.
- **on your height horse** "on your high horse", standing on your dignity.

[Scots form *heigh*.]

Highland: Highland fling a Scottish dance.

high-o-scute *noun* a forked stick (*e.g.* for making a catapult).

higyard *see* hagyar.

hi-how, hey-how, ha-ho *noun* a wild flower: cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*.

[Origin unknown, also found in South-Western Scots and Argyllshire.

Cf. daho².]

hike, haik *exclamation* a call to a horse: (a) back; (b) go on.

[*Cf.* Scots *hike*, Scots and Northern English *heck* "a call to a horse to come to the left or nearside"; onomatopoeic.]

hilch, hilsh *verb* limp, hobble.

- **hilching** *nickname* lame.

[Scots form of English *halt*.]

hill, hull *noun* a hill.

- **go down the hill** "go downhill", grow old, become decrepit.
- **hill-folk** the inhabitants of a hilly district.
- **hill-peat** peat from an upland bog.
- **hullock** a hillock.
- **take the hills on your head** grow silly.
- **take to the hills** be greatly in love.
- **up the hill** *of a woman* pregnant.

[Scots form *hill*.]

hill-la-loy *exclamation* traditional call of a man selling salt herrings.

hillo, hollo

- **don't hillo till ye're out of the wood** don't boast too soon.

hilsh *see* hilch.

hilt: hilt and hair the whole of a thing, every particle.

- **neither hilt nor hair, hilt or hair** nothing at all, no sign, "neither hide nor hair".

[Scots, apparently from Old English **hild*, **hyld* "skin".]

hilt¹ *noun* the cross-piece on the shaft of a spade *etc.*

him *pronoun* used instead of *he* in compound subjects *e.g.* *him an me*; *cf.* *her*.

- **himself, himsel** *reflexive pronoun* **1** himself. **2 (a)** the master of the house; a woman's husband; **(b)** the main male personality at an event; **(c)** the boss. [Influenced by Irish (*an fear*) *é féin* "(the man) himself".]

See also his.

hime *noun* a hymn.

hin' *see* hind.

hinch, hench, hainch *noun* the haunch, the thigh.

◆ *verb* throw (a stone, *etc.*) underarm while bouncing the hand off the thigh; *see also* heuch, hough.

□ **hinched** knock-kneed.

[Scots and Northern English form *hainch*; Scots also *hench, hinch*.]

hincher *noun* the trap section in a coghel net *Lower River Bann*.

Illustration see slug².

[Origin unknown.]

hind, hin', hint *adjective* hind-, last.

□ **hind-door** the tail-board of a cart. *Illustration see* wing¹.

□ **hind-end** the latter part of anything.

□ **hindmost, hinmost** last, final.

□ **hindmost of three, hin'most of three** a game.

□ **hind rig** *ploughing* the headland, the strip at the end of the field where the horses or tractor turn, afterwards ploughed at right angles; *see* rig⁴.

[ILLUS: hind/rig]

□ **hind tit** the weakling of a litter.

□ **hinter, hinner** hinder.

□ **hinter-end** the latter end; the very end.

□ **in the hinter-end** at last.

[Scots, also Suffolk and Essex, form *hin'*; Scots and English dialectal form *hint*. *See also* hint.]

hinder *noun* hindrance, *only in the phrase without let or hinder*

hing *see* hang.

hingerel *see* hangeral.

hingit *see* hang.

hinnae *see* have.

hinner *see* hind.

hinner *verb* hinder.

[Scots form.]

hinny *see* honey.

hint *see* hind.

hint, hent, hant *verb* plough, or turn over with a spade, the strip between ridges.

◆ *noun, ploughing* the strip between ridges of opposite-turned furrows, the last furrow slice to be turned. *Illustration see* mid.

□ **hinter** a person who follows the plough with a spade and turns over the strips between ridges.

□ **hinting, hintin 1** the act of turning over the strip between ridges with a spade. **2** the hint, the last strip between ridges.

□ **hint o hairst** the final tidying up at the end of the harvest; *see* harvest.

□ **lift hintins** plough the hints.

[Scots and English dialectal forms *hint, hent* of *hind*.]

hint¹ *noun* an opportunity, an occasion *e.g.* *At their first presentation, it was their hint to fall upon their knees and ask his blessing.*

hinter *see* hind.

hiogeous *adjective* very good, excellent.

[Extended form of *odious*.]

hip *see* hup.

hip¹ *noun* the shoulder (of a hill).

□ **hip-buttons: hippin** a baby's nappy.

□ **hip-roofed** *of a building* having no gables.

□ **hipscrewed** having stiff hip-joints; *cf.* hough.

□ **hip-striddled** *of a baby* clothed around the hips; *cf.* striddle.

□ **want the hip-buttons** be slightly mentally defective.

hip²: hipped hypochondriac, depressed, melancholy.

□ **hippety:**

□ **hippety-clinch, hippety-dickety** a name for a lame person.

□ **hippity clippity clatterty clinch 1** the noise made by someone wearing

an old pair of shoes or boots down at the heels. **2** *figuratively* an untidy old person.

- **hippity-tippity** fussy, over-fastidious.
- **hipple, hyple** *verb* walk with difficulty, limp, hobble; *see also* hirple.
- ◆ *noun* a lame person; *see also* hippel.

[Scots and Northern English *hip* "to hop", from Old English **hyppan*.]

hippel *noun, derogatory* a good-for-nothing fellow.

[Scots, possibly the same word as hipple (see *hip*²).]

hippety-clinch, hippety-dickety, hippity-tippity, hipple *see* *hip*².

hippo *noun* a medicine: ipecacuanha.

[Shortening of old form *hypocochoana*.]

hir *see* *her*.

hird *see* *herd*.

hire *verb* take on a job as a farmworker.

- ◆ *noun* food given to a cow to persuade her to give milk.
- **hired man** a manservant; *specifically* a farmworker.
- **hirer** a person hired as a farmworker.
- **hiring** the occasion of a hiring fair.
- **hiring day** the day of a hiring fair.
- **hiring fair** an agricultural fair where farmworkers are hired for the next six-month period.

hirple, herple, harple, hurple, hipple *verb, frequently hirple along* walk with difficulty, limp, hobble.

◆ *noun* a limp.

- **hirpling, hirplin** lame.

[Scots and Northern English *hirple*; Northern English also *herple*, *hurple*; possibly an altered form of hipple (see *hip*²).]

hirsch *see* *hurrish*.

hirsle¹, hirstle, hissle, hersle, hursle *verb 1 also hirsle along* move awkwardly along a surface without getting up, shuffle. **2** move (something heavy) awkwardly along a surface. **3** wheeze. **4** cough in a wheezing way.

◆ *noun 1* a wheeze. **2** *also hurstling* hoarse breathing caused by congestion. **3** hoarseness; a hoarse cough.

- **get yourself hirselled up** hurry, move yourself.

[Scots and Northern English *hirsle*, *hirstle*; Scots also *hersle*, *hursle*; Cheshire also *histle*; probably onomatopoeic. *See also* hushle.]

hirsle² *noun, literally* a flock (of sheep): a quantity or collection of people or things *e.g.* a *hirsle o weans*.

[Scots and Northern English; from Old Norse *hirzla* "safe keeping", *hirða* "to tend sheep".]

hirstle *see* *hirsle¹*.

hirth *noun* the hearth, a hearth.

- **a clean hearth brings a good husband**
- **hearth-money** *historical* a tax of two shillings annually levied on every fire-hearth, stove, public oven or kiln. The tax was four shillings for a fire-place which was unfixed, or lacked a chimney.

[Older form (still Scots) *herth*.]

his *see* *have*.

his *see* *us*.

his: **hissel**, **hissel** *reflexive pronoun* himself; *see* *sel*.

hisk *exclamation, hiss hiss* a call to a dog.

his nabs *see* *knab*.

hisser *noun* a derogatory term for a female.

hissle *see* *hirsle¹*.

hissy *see* *hussy*.

hit *see* *it*.

hit; *past tense and past participle* **hut, hot**; *verb* **hit** (a train, bus, etc.) catch (a train, bus, etc.).

- **hit back** retaliate by word or deed.

- **hit in with** meet, fall in with (a person).
 - **hit it** agree *e.g. They don't hit it well.*
 - **hit like a sledgehammer** strike very hard.
 - **hit the road** begin a journey, set out.
- [Past tense: Hiberno-English and Midland English form *hot*; Scots, also Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Somerset, form *hut*. Past participle: Midland English form *hot*, Scots, also Gloucestershire, form *hut*.]

hitch *verb* run.

[Possibly the same word as Standard English *hitch*, from the idea of a woman hitching up long skirts.]

hither: **hitherside** the side nearest the speaker.

hive *verb, only hiving* swarming, crowding.

[The same word as Standard English *hive* (of bees).]

hives *noun plural* **1** a skin rash, *especially* red, itchy, spots on a child's skin. **2** water-filled blisters on the skin.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

hiz *see* have, us.

hize, hoise *verb* **1** *also heeze* hoist, raise, lift. **2** carry off.

◆ *exclamation* a command to a horse to lift its foot.

◆ *noun, also heezie* a hoist, a heave, a lift up; a "leg-up"; *see also* hoosh.

□ **send him a heezie** *contemptuous* send him a lift.

[Hiberno-English, Scots and Northern English form *hoise*; Scots and Northern English also *heeze*; Scots also *hize*; from Low German *hissen*, Middle Dutch *hiesen* "hoist". Older form (still Scots) *hize* altered to *hoise* and further altered in Standard English to *hoist*.]

hiznae *see* have.

hizzy *see* hussy.

ho *exclamation* a call to a horse to stop.

hoaching, hoachin, hoochin, hotchin *adjective hoaching with of a place* infested, alive with *e.g. The place was hoochin with rats.*

[Scots *hoach*; probably onomatopoeic, but *cf.* Dutch *hotsen* "to jog, to jolt".]

hoaf *see* hoff.

hoag *see* hogo.

hoag *verb* thrash, beat up.

□ **hoagin** a beating, a thrashing.

[Origin unknown.]

hoak *see* hoke.

hoarhoun *noun* a herb: horehound, hoarhound *Ballota nigra*.

[Older form, from Old English *hāre hūne*. Standard English has altered the second element as if it was the word *hound*.]

hoarny *see* horn.

hoast *see* host.

hob, hab *noun* **1** a hob. **2** a patch of ground on a cliff-face, from which sheep can jump to another vantage point. **3** a thick sod from the surface of an upland peat bog.

□ **hob-stone** a stone forming a simple hob at either side of a fireplace.

[ILLUS: hob-stne]

[Scots form *hab*.]

hobbetyhoy *see* hobbledehoy.

hobble¹, hubble, habble *verb* **1** hobble, limp. **2** hobble, hamper, hinder.

3 a hubbub. **4** hobble, embarrass.

◆ *noun* **1** a difficulty, a predicament; an embarrassment *e.g. I'm in a terrible hobble*. **2** a hobbleshoe, a confused or intricate affair.

□ **habbled** confused, perplexed.

□ **hobbety-curry, hobbety-causey, humaldy-hawee** a seesaw; *cf.* coggle.

[Scots form *habble*, Western and Southern Scots also *hubble*.]

hobble² *noun* an oblong haystack.

[Northern English *hobbil* "a haycock"; possibly of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Danish *hob* "a heap". *See also* hovel.]

hobbledehoy, hobbetyhoy, hobbetyhoy *noun* **1** a hobbledehoy, a clumsy, awkward youth. **2** a person with a limp.

□ **hobbetyhoy, neither a man nor a boy**

[Old forms (still Northern English) *hobbetyhoy, hobbetyhoy*.]

hobbleshoe *noun* **1** a confused or intricate affair. **2** a hobble, a difficulty, a predicament, an embarrassment.

[Scots and Northern English *hobbleshoe, hobbleshew*, Scots also *hobbleshew*; origin unknown, *cf.* *hobble*¹ and Early Modern Flemish *hobbel-s(j)obbel* "in an uproar".]

hobbetyhoy *see* hobbledehoy.

hobnob *noun* a person who is or behaves as if he is upwardly mobile.

ho-boy *noun* a scamp, a rascal.

hoch *see* hough.

hoch *exclamation* **1** expressing sympathy. **2** expressing disgust.

[Scots; onomatopoeic, *cf.* *och*. *See also* *hoogh*².]

hoch-bund, hochle, hochmagandy *see* hough.

hockey, hooky *noun* the last load of the harvest.

[East Midlands and Yorkshire *hockey*, possibly from Low German *hokk* "a heap of sheaves".]

hockle *see* haugh².

hod¹ *verb* dodge.

[Northern Scots form of *hide*.]

hod² *verb* carry (bricks, *etc.*) in a hod.

hodal [rhymes with "yodel"] *verb* ride a bicycle without using the seat.

[*Cf.* Scots *hoddle* "to waddle", onomatopoeic.]

hodden *see* hold.

hoddy-doddy *noun* a snail.

□ **Hoddy-doddy, Wee black body, Three feet and a wooden hat**

[Obsolete Standard English *hoddy-dod* (still Southern English), origin unknown.]

hoe *see* hoo¹.

hoff, hoaf, huff *exclamation* a call to a horse: (a) turn to the right; *cf.* hup; (b) turn to the left; (c) start; (d) go faster.

hoffenflinker *noun, car mechanics* an unnameable bit, a thingummy.

[Mock-German.]

hog, hogue *verb* work roughly.

hog, hoga *see* hogo.

hógan *noun* a meal bin.

hoge, hogue, hoke *noun, Co. Donegal* **1** frequently the hokes, the hoges a game played with spinning tops. The object is to attack each other's tops. The loser's top is fixed in the ground, and the winner is entitled to hit it with the spike of his own a specified number of times. **2** one of the blows given to the loser's top in this game. **3** a dent made in one top by the spike of another as a result of this game.

□ **play the hogues** *of the winner in the game of hoges* strike at the loser's top.

[*Cf.* Yorkshire *hog* "a term used in the game of spinning tops, describing a top spinning on its side", origin unknown. The form *hoke* is influenced by *hoke*.]

hoger *see* hogo.

Hogg: 'I'll giv' ye Torlogh Hogg's hay, and that manes more kicks nor happence a threat.

hoggar, huggar *noun, usually plural* socks without feet, used as leg-warmers.

□ **show (the company) the back seam o' your hoggars** leave in a hurry or in a temper.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

hogget, hoggart *noun* **1** a hogshead (a large barrel). **2** a meal bin.

Illustration see meal. **3** a measure of meal, *etc.*, containing ten bushels (363.68 litres).

[Scots *hogget*, contracted form of Older Scots *hogheid* "a hogshead".]

hogget¹ *noun* a young sheep about one year old.

Hogmanay *noun* New Year's Eve.

hogo, hoga, hog, hoag *noun*, also **hoger** a strong, usually unpleasant, smell.

[*Hogo* obsolete in Standard English (still Hiberno-English and English dialectal), from French *haut goût* "a high flavour".]

hogue *see* hoge.

ho-hi-hum-harry *exclamation* a sigh: ho-hum.

[Extended form.]

hoigh *verb*, only in passive **be hoighed** be excessively pleased with yourself.

[*Cf.* obsolete Standard English "excitement", chiefly in the phrase *on the hoigh* "excited"; origin unknown.]

hoise *see* hize.

hoister *noun* a jumbled heap (*e.g.* of clothes).

[Probably onomatopoeic, *cf.* *huther, hyster*.]

hoit *verb* **1** turn (cattle) out of a field. **2** persuade or goad (a person).

[*Cf.* Scots and Northern English *hyte*, form of Standard English *hait* "a command to a horse to urge it forward".]

hoke *see* hoge.

hoke, hoak, howk *verb* **1** hollow out. **2 hoke out** dig (something) out.

3 dig, root around; dig with the hands; scrape out (a hole in the ground), burrow; *of pigs* root (up). **4 figuratively** rummage, search around.

◆ *noun* **1** a jab with the elbow. **2** a rummage around.

□ **bin hoker** a person or animal that searches in rubbish bins for edible waste.

□ **he has a notion of his own, like a pig goin' to hoak, they have ways of their own, like the pigs when they go to hoak**

□ **hoker** **1** a digger. **2** a pig that is fond of rooting.

[Scots and English dialectal *howk*, Northumberland and Western Scots also *hoke, hoak*; from Middle Low German *holken* "to hollow out".]

hoke stey *noun* a mixture of odds and ends of food roughly mashed together.

hokey: by the hokey day, by the hokey docken, by the hokey farmer, hokey fiddle, hoky mokers, hokey smoke *exclamations*

hold, hol', hould, houll', houl't, haud, had; past tense and past participle

hel'; *past participle also* **hodden**; *verb* **1** hold. **2** retain liquid without leaking *e.g.* *Does that pot hould?* **3 usually** **hoult of a man** embrace (a woman). **4 bet** *e.g.* *I'll hold ye a hundred pound.* **5** "hold on", wait.

◆ *noun* **1** hold, a hold. **2 usually** **hoult** an embrace; kissing and cuddling.

□ **a newly-married wife and a newly-lit candle need to have their heads hodden down** *proverbial*

□ **get a hoult of someone** come across someone.

□ **get into hoult's** *literally* start wrestling: fall out (with a person).

□ **go by the hoult's of a child learning to walk** walk holding on to something or someone.

□ **hae ye nae haad in yer haan?** *literally* have you no hold in your hand: said to a person who keeps dropping things.

□ **haud grups** hold your own in bargaining *etc.*

□ **hilon** wait.

□ **hold a hard cheek about something** keep something secret.

□ **hold away!, haud awa!** go away!

□ **hold back** a call to a horse: turn left.

□ **hold foot to** keep up with (a level of expenditure).

□ **hold foot with** keep pace with [translation of Irish *cos a choinneáil le*].

- hold in** a call to a horse: keep in the furrow.
- hold off, had aff, houll' aff (ye)** a call to a horse: **(a)** go to the right; **(b)** go to the left.
- hold on** wait, stop, pause.
- hold till** continue, persist at anything.
- hold up of the weather** keep fine.
- hold up with** keep pace with.
- hold with 1** agree with. **2** approve of.
- hold your hand** stop work for a minute.
- hold your tongue, hould yer tongue** be silent; keep quiet.
- hould a candle** take second place.
- hould hard** "hold on", wait, stop.
- houldin, hadding** a holding of land.
- hould the hand** stop, desist, stay.
- hould yer loof!** an invitation to strike hands on a bargain: give me your hand!; *see* loof.
- houlin sense, hadding sense** the sense to keep what you have gained.
- houl oot** claim, tell.
- houlter** *literally* a holder: a toddler who is unable to walk without holding on.
- houl' till ye** a call to a horse: turn to the left; *see* til.
- houl' up yer head, there's money bid for you** said as an encouragement to a bashful person.
- in hoult** *literally* in a wrestling hold: in difficulties.
- neither to hold nor to bind** beyond control; *see also* bind.
- not able to hold your water** unable to keep a secret, indiscreet.
- you could have held him with the lace of his boot, you could have held him with a sthrow** said of a person laughing.
- you couldn't hold out to it** said of constant demands for donations, contributions, *etc.*

[Present tense: Isle of Man form *hol'*; Hiberno-English, English dialectal and also West and North coastal Scots form *hould*; Hiberno-English also *houl'*; Southern English form *holt*; Scots and Northern English forms *haud, had*. Past tense: Western Scots form *hel'*. Past participle: Scots and Northern English form *hodden, hauden*.]

hole *verb* lift out (peats) as they are cut.

- as often as there's holes in a riddle**
- hole-and-taw** a game played with marbles.
- holer** a person who holes peats.
- holey**:
- holing** the process of lifting cut peats and throwing them onto the top of the bank.
- like an oul' pair of britches - more holey nor godly**

hollan *see* hallan.

holland hawk *noun* a bird: **(a)** the great Northern diver *Gavia immer*; **(b)** the red-throated diver *Gavia stellata*.

[Also Ayrshire *hollan' hawk*. The first element is possibly *Holland*, but *cf.* allan hawk.]

Hollandtide, Holleve *see* hallow.

hollock *noun* a hollow in the hills.

[Yorkshire, from obsolete Standard English *holl* (itself from Old English *hol* "a hollow") + diminutive ending *-ock*. *See also* howe.]

hollow: **as hollow as a rotten turnip**

hollyhock *noun* a wild flower: a variety of pepperwort, *Lepidium tamarix* [in literary English, a cultivated flower, *Althea rosea*].

holm *noun*, *also* **holming land** a low-lying area of alluvial ground beside a river.

- hoamy soil** soil near a river.
- holmy of soil** alluvial, characteristic of a holm.

holus-bolus *noun* **1** a job lot. **2** the lot *e.g. the whole holus-bolus of them.*

[In Standard English an adverb; itself originally English dialectal, mock Latin or Greek.]

holy: as well look for holy water in an Orange lodge, holy water in an Orange lodge an impossibility.

- **holy docken!**, **(by the) holy poker!** *exclamation* *s*; see also hokey, heck.
- **holy poker** *exclamation* expressing surprise.
- **holy show** a "sight", a ridiculous object, *frequently make a holy show of yourself.*
- **holy water**:
- **more holy nor godly, like an owl' pair o' breeches, more holy nor godly, like an owl' pair o' breeks**
- **more holy than godly, more holy nor godly** *pun* said of a tattered garment.

home, hame *noun* home, a home.

- **hame's hame, no matter how bad it is**
- **homely, hamely** **1** homely. **2** friendly, sociable.
- **homely-spoken** unaffected, plain-spoken.
- **homespun** a native of a place.
- **homeways** homewards.

[Scots and Northern English form *hame*.]

homety-jamety *exclamation* expressing disappointment.

homologate *verb* express agreement with or approval of something or someone.

[Chiefly Scots, from Medieval Latin *homologāre* "to acknowledge".]

honest *adjective* **1** civil, pleasant, obliging. **2** *of a woman* chaste.

- **make an honest woman of someone** marry a woman whom one has previously seduced.

honey, hinny *noun* a term of endearment: "pet", "love". Used to women and children by men or women.

- **honey bee** the wild bee.
- **honeycomb** a sweetie: puff candy.
- **honeycup** a wild flower: the marsh lousewort *Pedicularis palustris*.
- **honey-pits** a children's game: honey-pots. The children squat down clasping their hands under their thighs and are carried by the arms, to the jingle, "Honey-pits, honey-pits, all in a row".
- **honeysuckle** **1** a cultivated shrub: the fuchsia [because children suck the nectar]. **2** a wild flower: (a) the marsh lousewort *Pedicularis palustris*; (b) red clover *Trifolium pratense*.

[Scots and Northern English form *hinny*.]

hon-hon-hon *exclamation* a call to cattle.

honking *noun* the baying sound made by a flock of Brent geese.

honour: **get honoured by** have the honour of (doing something).

- **honour bright** said by one child to another to enjoin him or her to tell the truth *e.g. Come now, honour bright, what have you in your hand?*
- **yer honour** a term of address to a man considered as a superior.
- **your honour and dog's wool would make poor stockings, your honour and pig's wool would make fine teazy woolsey** meaning that you have no honour.

hoo *see* blind, how.

hoo¹, how, hoe *noun* a roof rafter.

[Scots *hoo, how* "a hood; a roof rafter"; from Old English *hūfe* "a hood", influenced in sense by the corresponding Scandinavian word (*cf.* Norwegian dialectal *huv* "the edge of a roof").]

hoo² *verb* hew.

[Nottinghamshire form *hoo*, Derbyshire form *oo*.]

hooaniver *see* how.

hooch *see* hoogh¹.

hoochin *see* hoaching.

hood, hud *noun* **1** a hood. **2** a hoodin sheaf.

- **hooding, hoodin** a strip of hide or leather connecting the handstaff and swipple of a flail. *Illustration see* soople².
- **hoodin sheaf, huddin sheaf** a hood sheaf (a sheaf placed on the top of a stook to protect it from the rain). [ILLUS: hoodin/s]
- **hoody**:
- **hoody crow** the hooded crow *Corvus corone cornix*.
- **hudder** a hood sheaf.
- **put the hudder on the stook** finish a story.
[Scots and English dialectal form *hud*.]

hoodlum *noun* a turncoat, a man who planned to be a priest but changed his mind close to ordination.

hoody *see* howdy.

hoof cough.

hoogh¹, hooch, heugh *exclamation* **1** a shout of exhilaration, *especially* by a dancer in a reel. **2** a shout to attract attention.

- ◆ *verb* shout to attract attention.
- **with a hoogh** well and quickly.
[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

hoogh², heugh *exclamation* **1** expressing haste. **2** expressing surprise and disappointment.

[Scots *hooch*, a form of *hoch*.]

hook, hyeuk, hyuck *noun* **1** a hook. **2** *specifically* a sickle; *hence*

- hookgrass** roadside hay.
- **hooked** linked, arm-in-arm.
- **hook-em-snivey** a device used for throwing coins simultaneously in playing pitch and toss [English slang "a device for undoing the bolt of a door from the outside", originally apparently *hook and snivey*. The meaning and origin of *snivey* is unknown.].
- **hook it** go quickly; run away.
- **hook together** marry.
- **I'll get the job done now, I have the hooks and eyes with me**
- **on your own hook** on your own account.
[Scots and Northern English form *hyeuk*, Scots also *hyuck*.]

hooky *see* hockey.

hool *verb, childish* swap, exchange *Co. Donegal; cf.* blind.

hooley *noun* a social evening, a party.

[Hiberno-English, origin unknown.]

hoop *noun* **1** *specifically* a hoop around the waist used to carry two pails of water. **2** a basket containing cooked potatoes, placed in the centre of the kitchen table so that those having the meal can help themselves.

- **hooped** round-shouldered.

hooper swan *noun* the whooper swan.

hoor, hure *noun* **1** a whore. **2** a familiar or abusive term for a man *e.g.* *You lucky hoor!*

[Older pronunciation (still Scots, also South-Western English).]

hooroo *noun* a hooroosh, an uproar; uproar.

- **like hooroo** with spirit *e.g.* *The horse was going like hooroo*.
[Scots and English dialectal, onomatopoeic.]

hoose *see* house.

hoosh *noun* a hize, a lift up.

hoost *see* host.

hoot¹: hooter a boaster, a braggart.

hoot², hut *exclamation, also* **hoots, huts, hut-toot, hut-tut** expressing dissatisfaction, incredulity, irritation, impatience, *etc.*

- **hut-toot, hut-tut** *exclamation* expressing impatience.
[Scots and Northern English *hoot(s)*, Scots also *hut(s)*, *hoot-toot*, *hut-tut*; onomatopoeic, *cf.* English *tut(s)*. *See also* **toots**.]

hoot-ye-call-him *see* how.

hoozle¹, housel *noun* **1** the socket that takes the shaft or handle of an axe, hoe, *etc.* **2** the head of a hatchet. **3** the back part of the head of a hatchet; *hence, figuratively* a hunchback. **4** the spike on the head of a butcher's axe with which the animal is killed.

□ **hoozle-binder** *masonry* a stone going through the whole thickness of a wall.

[Scots, house "to fix in a socket" + *-le, -el* suffix as in *handle, kernel, etc.*]

hoozle², housel *verb, hurling* run along with the nag (the ball) between your feet.

◆ *noun, hurling* the act of running in this way.

□ **bumhoozler** a silly person.

□ **hoozler** a person who is outstanding at doing something; *cf.* fodar.

Cf. hoozle¹.

hop *see* hup.

hop, hap *verb* **1** hop. **2** jump.

◆ *noun* a hop.

□ **all of a hop** suddenly.

□ **hapscotch** a game: hopscotch.

□ **hop and go constant** **1** the uneven gallop of a horse with the cleek-ups. **2** a person who works steadily.

□ **hopper, happer** the hopper of a mill.

□ **hop short** fail to get what you wanted.

□ **hopsies, hop-says** hopscotch.

□ **hop, step and jump** **1** a boys' game. **2 with a hop, step and jump** *figuratively* in a hurry.

□ **keep the ball hopping** "keep the ball rolling", keep the fun going.

□ **take a hop at** take an unfair advantage of (a person).

□ **take the ball at the hop** take advantage of an opportunity.

□ **this will help it out of the hopper** saying of a particular teacher, when tapping a boy with the cane to urge him to speak out.

□ **two hops of a lame louse** a measure of distance.

[Scots, also Hiberno-English, form *hap*.]

hope: in hopes hoping, hopeful *e.g.* *I'm in hopes.*

hor *see* her.

horchin *see* urchin.

horeigin *adverb* scarcely, hardly *e.g.* *The cow gave the full of the can of milk horeigin.*

horlicks: make a horlicks of something *euphemism* make a mess of something.

horn *verb* saw the horns off (cattle).

□ **as crooked as a horn** very crooked.

□ **as dry as a horn** very dry.

□ **as hard as a horn** very hard.

□ **get the horn in you** become slightly tipsy.

□ **have a few rings on your horns** be older than you admit.

□ **horned** polled, having had the horns sawn off.

□ **horn-eel** the garfish *Belone belone*, also known as the horn-fish.

Illustration see sword.

□ **hornie, also Oul Hoarny Cluity** the devil; *see* cloot², old.

□ **Hornie, hornie, buckey shot, / Spill the buttermilk pot**

□ **horn ouzel** a bird: the great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*.

Illustration see tossel.

□ **make a spoon but spoil a horn**

□ **old in the horn, oul' in the horn** old, getting old.

□ **show your horns** show your real nature in a temper.

[Scots form *hoarn*.]

horrid *adjective* great, extraordinary, marvellous.

horse: a feeding horse won't founder

- a horse of a very different colour** a very different matter.
- a man on a galloping horse would never see it** said of a slight fault or defect in an article.
- horse and foot** wholly, entirely.
- horse-back** on horse-back.
- horse-button** a wild flower: **(a)** the black knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. *Illustration see bachelor*; **(b)** the common mallow *Malva sylvestris*.
- horse clock** a flying beetle [*cf.* Scottish Gaelic *capull-lin* "lint beetle", literally "horse of the flax"]; *see clock*².
- horsed** *of a mare* put to the stallion.
- horse elfstone** a fossilised sea-urchin; *see Elf*.
- horsefly** this name is universally and erroneously applied to the cleg or breeze, *Hoematopota palustris*.
- horse-godmother** a tall, ungainly, masculine woman.
- horse gull** the lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*.
- horse-hole** a drinking place for horses.
- horse knacker** a person who slaughters horses.
- horse-laugh** loud raucous laughter.
- horse-mackerel** a fish, the scad *Caranx trachurus*.
- horseman** a five-shilling piece.
- horse mill** a mill driven by a horse.
- horse-mussel** a shellfish, *Modiola vulgaris*.
- horse of a cow, horse of a pig** a cow or pig [influenced by west Ulster Irish *beathach*, which means both "a beast" and "a horse", thus *beathach eallaigh* literally "beast of a cow"; *cf. beast*].
- horse-pipe** a wild plant: **(a)** the mare's tail *Hippuris vulgaris*; **(b)** the great horse tail *Equisetum telmateia*.
- horse Protestant** a person who works like a horse all week and goes walking on Sundays (instead of going to church).
- horse rake** a horse-drawn hay-rake.
- horseshoe** a wild flower: navelwort *Umbilicus rupestris*.
- horse's mouth** a large bite.
- horse-stump** an old horseshoe nail.
- horse-worm** a caterpillar; *see also hair*.
- horsey** the game of riding pick-a-back.
- it's a brave horse that never stumles (stumbles)**
- it's the life of an old horse to work him well, and an old hat to cock it well**
- the white horses are out** said of rough weather at sea.

hort; *past tense and past participle hurted, horted*; *verb* hurt.

[English dialectal and Northern Scots form *hort*. Past tense and past participle: general dialectal and Scots *hurted*, Northern English and Northern Scots also *horted*.]

host, hoast, haust, hoost, houst, hust *noun, verb* cough.

[Scots and English dialectal *host, hoast*; Hiberno-English and English dialectal *hoost, houst*; Northern English also *hawst*; Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire also *hust*; from Old English *hwōsta* and Old Norse *hósta* "a cough".]

hot *see hit*.

hot, hut *adjective* hot.

- hot and full** prosperous.
- hot curr** a frying-pan.
- hot pickles** a scolding *e.g. You'll get hot pickles*.
- hot-spoken** sharp of speech.
- hot stitch** "hot foot", as fast as possible.
- sae het it wud scaud a pig, most too hot for a man to wear his skin**
- that hot ye cud har'ly wear yer skin**
- you were hot in the house** *ironic* said to a person who goes out

unnecessarily in bad weather without good reason.

[Yorkshire form *ut*. See also *heat*¹.]

hotchin *see* hoaching.

hotch-potch *noun* a medley; a confused jumble.

Hottentot *noun* a coarse, rough fellow.

hough *see* haugh².

hough, houch, hoch, haugh *noun* **1** the hough; the hock of an animal.

2 *cooking* a shin-bone. **3** the back of the human knee. **4** *also* **huff** the thigh. **5** the hip. **6** *loosely* the human leg. **7** occasionally, by analogy with the anatomy of a horse, the lower part of the human leg, the ankle.

◆ *verb* **1** throw (a stone, *etc.*) underarm while bouncing the hand off the thigh; *see also* hinch. **2** hamstring.

□ **hoch-bund** hobbled, prevented from walking properly; *see* bind.

□ **hochlin'** of a child sprawling, shambling, walking with difficulty; walking on the hams.

□ **hochmagandy** fornication [for the syllable *-ma-*, *cf.* whigmaleerie].

□ **houghle, hochle, haughle, hauchle** *verb* **1** walk awkwardly; *specifically* (a) in a shambling way; (b) lamely, hobbling and dragging the feet; (c) with short steps. **2** of a baby shuffle along on its backside.

◆ *noun* a person who walks in an awkward, clumsy way; *specifically* (a) a splay-footed, clumsy person; also applied to an animal; (b) a man who shambles around with his trousers sagging.

□ **houghler** someone who walks clumsily.

□ **the last hough in the pot** **1** the last portion, *especially* of food.

2 someone who is always late or behind the rest.

[Scots *hough, houch, hoch, haugh*; English dialectal *huff*; from Old English *hōh* "the heel". Standard English has altered this to *hock*.]

hough¹ *verb* breathe heavily *e.g.* *Wud ye hough on the winda? It's all steamed up.*

houghle *see* hough.

houghle *verb* hack, cut with a blunt blade.

[Possibly the same word as *houghle* "walk awkwardly; do anything awkwardly", *see* hough.]

houghler *see* hough.

houl', hould, houldin, houl, houlter *see* hold.

houn' *noun* a hound.

□ **have the hound, the hare, and the field, all in one piece**

[English dialectal form.]

house, hoose *noun* **1** a house. **2** the kitchen (*i.e.* living-room) in a farmhouse or cottage. **3** a factory, *only in compounds e.g.* **gas-house** a gasworks.

□ **bring an old house over your head** bring about a calamity by carelessness or fecklessness.

□ **hoozed** housed.

□ **hoozin':**

□ **house cat** a stay-at-home.

□ **house-easen** house eaves.

□ **house martin** the swallow.

□ **house money** **1** housekeeping money. **2** money given to the relatives of the deceased by those attending a wake.

□ **House of Commons** *jocular* the toilet, the w.c.

□ **House of Correction** the old Police Office in Howard Street, Belfast.

□ **House of Industry** the workhouse.

□ **house-show:**

□ **make a house-show of yourself** make a fool of yourself.

□ **the House of Parliament** *jocular* the necessary; the outside toilet.

[Scots form *hoose*. See also *hoozle*¹.]

housel *see* hoozle¹, hoozle².

housen *noun* part of the harness of a horse.

housen¹ *verb* raise.

housh *verb* **1** shout (at someone). **2** keen at a funeral.

[*Cf.* colloquial English *hoosh* "to drive (an animal, etc.)", onomatopoeic. *Cf.* hush².]

houst *see* host.

hove *verb* **hove out** inflate, swell out; *of bread* rise.

◆ *noun*, usually in plural raised mounds in old grassland.

□ **hoved**, also **hoved up** inflated, swollen.

[Apparently from *hove*, archaic past tense of *heave*.]

hove¹ *noun* an unpleasant smell.

hovel, **havel** *noun* **1** a stack of hay, corn, flax, etc.; specifically an oblong haystack. **2** rarely the structure forming the base of a haystack or cornstack.

□ **hovel cap** a broad piece of stone or iron placed on top of each pillar of the base of a stack to prevent vermin from climbing up to the corn.

□ **hovelstand**, **hovelstead** the base of a haystack. [ILLUS: hovelstd]

[Hiberno-English form *havel*. *See also* hobble².]

how *see* hoo¹.

how, **hoo** *interrogative adjective* **1** how. **2** why.

□ **hoo's this it happent?** how did this come about?

□ **hoot-ye-call-him** literally how do you call him: "what-d'ye-call-'im"

e.g. *What-d'ye-call 'im's daughter married hoot-ye-call-him's son.*

They've gone to thingum-derry's place to live.

□ **how about ye?** frequently shortened to **'bout ye?**, **how do ye?**, **how goes it?**, **how's a'?**, **how's a' wi you?**, **how's yerself?**, **how's you and yours?**, **how's you?**, **how's your folk?** greetings; *see also* what.

□ **howanever**, **howandivir**, **how-an-iver**, **hooaniver** however.

□ **how are ye!** indeed!, "my foot!" *e.g.* *Alsatian, how are ye! It's no more of an alsatian than I am.*

□ **how-do** a commotion, a fuss; lively proceedings.

□ **how do you do** an ado.

□ **how do you do**, **how do ye do** a mess, an unpleasant situation; a state of affairs. *generally*, *ironic*

□ **how many fingers stands up?**, **how-many-fingers-stand-up?** a children's game.

□ **howsomever**, **howsundiver** however, nevertheless.

□ **howzivver** howsoever, in whatever manner.

□ **nohow** in any way, at all *e.g.* *I can't do it nohow.*

[Scots and Northern English form *hoo*.]

how¹ *noun* a caul.

howah-home, **howah-howah** *see* how-how.

howder *see* huther.

howdy, **howdie**, **hoody** *noun*, also **howdy-woman** a midwife.

[Scots and Northern English *howdy*, *howdie*; originally Edinburgh slang, origin unknown.]

howe *adjective* hollow, empty.

[Scots and Northern English form of obsolete Standard English *holl*, *cf.* hollock.]

how-how, **howah-howah**, **howah-home**, **howie**, **haw-haw** *exclamation* a call to cattle.

[Northern English and Scots *how*, Northumberland and Cumberland also *ha*, Northern English also *how-way*.]

howk *see* hoke.

howly: **a howly** in a fix, in difficulties.

howtowdy, **howtowdie** *noun* a cockerel.

hozelly [vowel as in "go"] *adjective*, *of soil* hazelly, consisting of a mixture of sand, clay and earth *Co. Donegal*.

hubble *see* hobble¹.

hubble-trubble *noun*:

hud *see* hood, hut.

hudder, huddin *see* hood.

huddle *noun* a peat-stack, *Co. Tyrone*.

hue *exclamation* **1** a call to a horse to go on. **2 hue-hue** a call to a dog.

□ **hue up** a call to a horse to go faster.

[*Cf.* Scots and English dialectal *hoo* "a call of encouragement", onomatopoeic.]

huff *see* hoff.

huff *see* hough.

huff: **be huft with** take offence at (a person).

□ **huffy**

□ **huffy snotter** *vulgar* a name for a sulky person; *see* snot.

□ **huffy-snuffy** "hoity-toity", proud.

□ **take the huff** have a fit of anger or bad temper.

huggar *see* hoggar.

hugger-mugger *verb* humbug, confuse by mixing different things together.

◆ *adjective* secret, clandestine, sneaky.

hug-me-tight *noun* a sleeveless jacket worn over a woman's dress.

hulge *noun* a large unshapely mass *e.g.* a *hulge of a horse*.

◆ *verb* crouch.

[*Cf.* Scots *huldge* "to hunch yourself up", *hulgy* "hump-backed"; origin unknown.]

hulk *noun* a bad-tempered, stubborn person.

□ **hulkin'** idle and good-for-nothing.

hull *noun* **1** a pod, a husk. **2** an awn of barley.

◆ *verb, also hulm* shell (peas *etc.*).

hull *see* hill.

hullaballo, whullabulloo *noun* a hullabaloo, a commotion.

[Scots form *hullaballo*. *Hullaballoo*, now adopted in Standard English, was originally Scots and Northern English, an extended form of *halloo*.]

hullion *see* hallion.

hum, ham *verb* **1** give (chewed food) to a baby from your own mouth.

2 hum down *figuratively* play down (bad news).

◆ *noun* a piece of chewed food given to a baby.

□ **hummins** small pieces of chewed food.

[Scots *hum*, Orkney form *ham*; origin unknown.]

humaldy-hawee *see* hobble¹.

human *noun* a human being.

humble

□ **the more noble, the more humble**

hume *noun* a hum, a bad smell *North Londonderry*.

□ **the hum would knock down bees** *of a bad smell*.

humf *see* hump.

humft *see* humph.

humour *verb* ease (a thing) into position.

□ **humoursome** humorous, witty.

hump, humph, humf *noun* **1** *in plural* in playing marbles, the action of putting one foot in front and reaching back between the legs to gain more distance *e.g.* *No humphs allowed*. **2** the hump, a huff.

□ **humped, humpit, humpt** humped, round-shouldered.

□ **humpling** **1** a small mound in a bog or in old grassland. **2** a pile of hay.

3 a badly-built haycock.

□ **humplock** **1** a shapeless heap. **2** a badly-built haystack. **3** a cornstack.

□ **humplug** a humpling [possibly altered as if containing the Irish diminutive ending *-óg*].

□ **humpy, humpty, humphy**, *also* **humpy-backed, humpty-backed**,

humphy-backed **1** hunchbacked. **2** round-shouldered.

[Scots form *humph*.]

humph *see* hump.

humph *noun* a bad smell or taste.

- **as humph as buck**
- **humphed, humft, humphited** tainted, off, having a bad smell.
[Scots, perhaps from *humph* as an expression of disgust.]

humphy, humpty *see* hump.

hunch-backed *adjective* round-shouldered.

hundred, hundher, hunner, hunderd *numeral* a hundred.

- ◆ *noun* a measure of weight: (a) a hundredweight (one hundred and twelve pounds, about fifty kilogrammes); (b) one hundred and twenty pounds (54.43 kilogrammes).
- **hundred-feet**, *also* **Harry-hundred-foot** or **-feet**, **Harry-hundred-legs** a centipede. *Illustration see* da.
- **hunnerweight** a hundredweight.
[Scots and Northern English form *hunder*, Scots also *hunner*, English dialectal *hunderd*.]

hunger ["ng" as in "singer" in Ulster Scots]: **a hungry eye sees far** "necessity is the mother of invention".

- **as hungry as a hawk**
- **as hungry as the man that ate the back suggaun aff the donkey**
- **badly aff with hunger** hungry.
- **hunger begins at the cows' slakes, hunger begins at the cow's stakes**
- **hunger's mother 1** *derogatory* a name for a miserly person of either sex. **2 like hunger's mother** very thin.
- **hungersome** having a big appetite.
- **hungry of a haycock** not having enough hay in a particular place.
- **hungry acre** the roadside verge used for grazing cattle or for haymaking.
- **hungry drooth** hunger and thirst combined; *see* drooth.
- **hungry grass** a type of grass supposed to cause exhaustion and hunger if a person walks on it; *see* fairgorta.
- **hungry-gut** a person with a large appetite.

hunk *noun* a large thick piece of food, *e.g.* bread; a piece of oatcake; a misshapen lump; a good deal (of snow, hay *etc.*).

hunker *verb 1* *also* **hunker down** crouch, squat with the knees bent so that the buttocks rest on the heels [also adopted in Standard English]. **2** slide on ice in this posture. **3** *figuratively* "crawl" to someone in authority; debase yourself to gain a favour; knuckle under.

- **hunkerscunniagh** *of a dog, etc.* go about with a guilty look.
- **hunkerslide 1** slide on ice **on your hunkers**. **2** act in an underhand way; act evasively; try to elude observation. **3** shirk work.
- **on your hunkers** in a squatting position [also adopted in Standard English].

[Originally Scots, apparently from an unrecorded Old English word related to Middle Dutch and German *hucken* and to Old Norse *hika* "to squat".]

hunner, hunnerweight *see* hundred.

hunt: huntagowk *verb*, *literally* hunt the cuckoo: go on a fool's errand.

- ◆ *noun 1* a fool's errand, *especially* on April 1st. **2** a person sent on a fool's errand.
[Scots; *see* gowk.]
- **hunter** *of a cat* a good mouser.
- **hunting hawk** the peregrine falcon.

hup, hop, hap, hep, hip *exclamation, also hup-hup* a call to a horse: (a) *also* **hup aff, hap off, hap up** turn right; (b) *also* **hup in** turn left; (c) go on; (d) *also* **hup aff, hup along** hup, go faster; *see* off.

- **hup back** a call to a horse: (a) walk backwards; (b) turn outwards.
[Scots and English dialectal form *hap*; Scots and Northern English

haup, hop; Scots also hep, hip.]

hur *see her.*

hurchin *see urchin.*

hurd *see herd.*

hurdle *noun* a gate.

hurdy *noun, in plural hurdies* the buttocks.

□ **hurdy-bone** the thigh-bone.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

hure *see hoor.*

hurkle *verb* **1** crouch over the fire. **2** sit around when there is work to be done. **3** walk with a stoop.

◆ *noun* a stoop.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), apparently related to Middle Low German and Dutch *hurken* "to squat".]

hurl¹ *verb* **1** play the game of hurling. **2** push (a barrow).

◆ *noun* a ride (in a vehicle).

□ **hurler** a player of hurling.

□ **hurley, hurlie, horley** **1** *also hurling* a game played by two teams using sticks and a ball. **2** the crooked stick used in playing this game. **3** a two-wheeled barrow; a large wheelbarrow; a light cart; a low vehicle for moving hay. *Illustration see bogie.* **4** a child's toy: a hoop. [ILLUS: hurley]

hurl² *noun* a storm.

□ **hurlie** a noise, an uproar.

[Scots; onomatopoeic, *cf.* Modern Frisian *hurreln* of the wind "to roar".]

hurl-bassey *noun* a star thought to warn of stormy weather when seen near the moon.

hurley *see hurl¹.*

hurlie *see hurl¹, hurl².*

hurling *see hurl¹.*

hurly-burly *noun* a boys' game, involving several boys racing from different directions towards two in the middle.

hurple *see hirple.*

hurricane *noun* the grebe?

hurrish, hirrish *noun* a pig.

◆ *exclamation, also whirlish, hursh-hursh, hush-hush, hushie* a call to pigs.

□ **hurrish-thurry** a call to pigs at feeding time; *see turr.*

[Origin unknown.]

hurry *see harry.*

hurry *noun* **1** a commotion, a disturbance; *specifically, usually the hurry* or *hurries*, the Rebellion of 1798. **2** a quarrel, a row, a fight. **3** a scolding.

□ **hurry-burry** a hurly-burly, a "hurry-scurry", an uproar.

□ **in a hurry** suddenly.

□ **take your hurry (in your hand)** take your time.

□ **what's your hurry?** what's the big rush?; asked when a person prepares to leave after a visit.

hursh-hursh *see hurrish.*

hursle *see hirsle¹.*

hurted *see hort.*

hus *see us.*

husband *noun* wife.

hush¹: **hush-a-ba** hushaby, sing (a baby to sleep) [Scots and Northern English form].

hush² *exclamation* **1** a cry used to frighten away fowl. **2** a low sound made to drive a flock of fowl: hoosh!

◆ *verb* "hoosh", drive (a flock of fowl).

[*Hush* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots, also Southern English).

See also housh; cf. whish.]

hush-a-ba *see* hush¹.

hush-hush, hushie *see* hurrish.

hushins *noun plural* **1** socks without feet. **2** the feet of old socks worn as slippers.

[Scots, apparently derived from *hose*.]

hushle *noun* a slovenly woman.

[Scots, an extended form of hush¹, influenced in sense by hirse¹.]

husho: **put the husho on** hush, silence (a person).

[Hiberno-English, strengthened form of *hush*.]

hussy, huzzy, hissy, hizzy *noun* **1** *derogatory* a hussy, a huzzy. **2** a girl.

□ **wee hizzy** a lassie.

[Scots forms *hissy, hizzy*.]

hust *see* host.

hustle *noun* a gathering of neighbours to do a job of work.

hut *see* hit.

hut *see* hoot².

hut *see* hot.

hut, hud *noun* a stack of corn or hay, *especially* a small temporary stack.

◆ *verb* put up (corn sheaves) in temporary stacks in the field.

[Scots *hot, hut*; from Old French *hotte* "a creel".]

hutchey *exclamation* a call to sheep.

huther, howder *verb* **1** heap together in an untidy way. **2** crowd, swarm.

□ **hutherin, hatherin** *usually of a woman* untidy, slovenly.

□ **huthery, hutherly** untidy, rumpled.

[Scots *huther, howder*; onomatopoeic. For the *hatherin* form, *cf.* hatterel.]

huts, hut-tut *see* hoot².

huxter *noun* a badly run-down property or piece of machinery.

huxter *noun* a crowd (of people).

□ **huxterin'** *figuratively* mean and small *e.g.* *She has huxterin' ways.*

□ **huxthery** a small grocer's shop.

□ **in huckster's hands** in the power of a creditor.

[*Cf.* Standard English *huxtry* "a place where a huxter (a small retailer) carries on his or her trade".]

huz *see* us.

huzza *verb* cheer.

huzzy *see* hussy.

hyeuk *see* hook.

hyster *noun* an untidy person; *cf.* hoister.

hyte *adjective* delirious.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

hyuck *see* hook.

i *see* of.

i' *see* in.

□ **I hear ye, I'm listenin tae ye** said incredulously to a person telling a tall tale.

ice: **froze me blood like icicles hangin' from thatch**

□ **ice spike** an icicle.

□ **icicle**:

id *see* would.

idea *noun* a small amount *e.g.* *Give me an idea more of sugar.*

ident *adjective* diligent, hard-working.

[Scots, from Old Norse *idinn* "eager".]

idiot:

idle *adjective, of a house* unoccupied, empty.

□ **as idle as a scythe-stone at Chrissimus** *proverbial*

□ **he or she doesn't eat much idle bread** said of a busy person.

□ **idlese** *noun* **1** idleness. **2** idle time. **3** a large belly [regarded as the evidence of idleness].

◆ *adjective* idle, out of work.

if: if ifs and ans were pots and pans, what would become of tinker's hands?, if ifs an' an's were pots and pans, there would be no call for tinkers, if ifs an' an's were pots an' pans, there'd be no need for tinkers *proverbial*

- **if or but** let or hindrance.
- **ifs and ans** hesitation, hedging.
- **if so be** if it happen (that), supposing (that) [archaic in Standard English].

iggerent *see* ignorant.

ignolidge *verb* acknowledge.

ignorant, iggerent *adjective* **1** ill-mannered, rude. **2** presumptuous, forward.

- **as ignorant as a kish o' brogues** very ignorant; very rude.
[English dialectal and Scots, sometimes jocular, form *iggerant*.]

igzilary, auxillary *adjective* auxiliary.

ile *noun* the aisle (of a church).

ile *see* oil.

ilk: of that ilk **1** of the same name or place. **2** of the same class or set of people. **3** of the same nature.

[Scots *that ilk* "the very same (person, place or thing just mentioned)", especially in the phrase *of that ilk* "of the senior branch of that clan". Originally the Scots form of *each*, from Old English *•lc*; see also *ilka*.]

ilka *adjective* each, every.

[Scots, originally *ilk* in the sense "each" + *a*¹.]

ill, comparative, iller, superlative illest, noun harm *e.g.* *Wud there be any ill in doin it?*

◆ *adverb* sorely, badly *e.g.* *ill hurted, ill gunked*.

- **ance ill, aye waur**
- **as ill to drive as the oul mare to meeting on the Sunday**
- **as ill to herd as a basket of clocks** difficult to control.
- **have an ill-will at someone** dislike someone.
- **if I wanted you an' my mate A wud not be ill aff**
- **ill-able** hardly able.
- **ill-answered** given an impertinent reply.
- **ill-becoming** unbecoming.
- **ill-blued** upset, disappointed.
- **ill-bred** ill-mannered.
- **ill breeding** lack of manners.
- **ill broo** an unfavourable opinion; *see* broo².
- **ill brought up** badly trained.
- **ill-chance** bad luck.
- **ill come his or her road** *literally* unwelcome his or her way: very ungrateful of him or her; *cf.* common².
- **ill-convenient** inconvenient.
- **ill-doer** an animal that does not thrive.
- **ill-doing** not flourishing (in business, *etc.*).
- **ill-done of** wrong of (a person to do something).
- **ill end** a bad end.
- **ill-faced** having an evil-looking face.
- **ill-fashioned** ill-mannered, bad-mannered; quarrelsome.
- **ill-faured** ill-favoured, ugly [Scots form, *cf.* well²].
- **ill-fed** badly fed.
- **ill-hained** saved to no good purpose; *see* hain.
- **ill-like** **1** not looking well; *see* like¹. **2** ugly.
- **ill-liked** unpopular.
- **ill-luckin** ugly.
- **ill-minded** evil-minded.
- **ill nature** bad temper [in Standard English "malevolent disposition"].

- **ill-natured** bad-tempered.
- **ill-off** badly-off, in need.
- **ill-paid** sorry.
- **ill-paired** *of a married couple* badly matched.
- **ill put-on** **1** carelessly dressed. **2** ill-used, put upon.
- **ill-raered** badly brought up.
- **ill red-up** untidy.
- **ill-sarved, ill-ser'd** *of a remark, literally* ill-served: impudent; *see* sarve.
- **ill-set** **1** hard beset, hard put to it. **2** bad-tempered; *of a dog* liable to bite.
- **ill-soarted, ill-sorted** *of a marriage* badly matched.
- **ill-speaking** evil-speaking.
- **ill-spent** mis-spent.
- **ill-spoken** foul-mouthed.
- **ill talk** verbal abuse.
- **ill-tasted** unpleasant to the taste.
- **ill-thriven** *of a person or animal* stunted, not flourishing.
- **ill-tongued** abusive.
- **ill turn**: *e.g. That's the gran' day to be out of an ill turn.*
- **ill-used** put to a wrong use.
- **ill-will**:
- **ill-willed** **1** bad-tempered. **2** unwilling, reluctant.
- **ill-willy** *adjective* **1** bad-tempered. **2** spiteful. **3** grudging, mean; disobliging.
- ◆ *adverb* grudgingly.
- **ill-willy cows hes** *or should have short horns*
- **ill wind** a slander, a damaging rumour.
[English dialectal and Scots *iller, illest.*]

illigant *see* elegant.

illigant *adjective* elegant.
[Hiberno-English form.]

illuminate *verb* enlighten (a person).

- **imagination's as good as a physic, if it only works ye**

immediant, immaydiant *adjective* immediate.

- **immediantly** immediately.
[English dialectal, altered form.]

impediment *noun* a physical defect.

imperence, imperent *see* impident.

imperial *noun* a drink made of lemon, cream of tartar and water.

imph-imph *exclamation* a sound made without opening the lips, indicating agreement.

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

impident, imperent *adjective* impudent.

- **choke yer imperince!** *contemptuous* said by one person to another who is saying what he regards as impudent.
- **impidence, imperence** impudence.
[Scots forms *impident* and *impidence*; Southern English forms *imperent* and *imperence*.]

imposure *verb* impose (upon), seek refuge with.

- **imposury** imposition.

improve *verb*: *past participle* **improven**

[from confusion with **prove**]

in *preposition, also* **i'** in.

- ◆ *adverb* with omission of a verb of motion *e.g. They want in.*
- **be in ower someone** get into a position of power over someone.
- **bury a person in (a disease)** *e.g. I bured one [a child] in gastric of the stomach.*
- **have it in for someone** harbour resentment.

- **have neither in you nor on you** have neither proper food nor clothes.
- **in a bit** presently, in a short time, soon.
- **in a manner of speaking** as it were, so to speak.
- **in a present** as a present.
- **in-by** *adjective* **1** inside; within a house; in an inner room. **2** near, close at hand.
- ◆ *adverb* inwards, into an inner room.
- **in-calf heifer** a heifer in calf for the first time.
- **income** an ailment without any apparent external cause; a tumour, abscess, *etc.* that has formed spontaneously.
- **in course** of course.
- **indue** *adjective*, *of a person due*, owing.
- **in it** **1** alive; present, in existence *e.g.* *The fine weather's in it noo* [translation of Irish *ann*; also Highland English from Scottish Gaelic].
- 2** *negative not half in it* somewhat unsound mentally.
- **in or over** approximately, round about.
- **in place of** instead of.
- **ins and outs of something** the absolute truth; all that can be known about something.
- **in spite of someone's teeth** in spite of someone, against someone's will.
- **in the inside of an hour** within an hour, inside an hour.
- **in-toed** pigeon-toed.
- **in tow with** courting (a woman).
- **inunder, innunder, inanunder** *preposition* under; *see also* *anunder*.
- ◆ *adverb* underneath.
- **in years** *of a person* getting up in years, aged [archaic in Standard English].

[Old form *i'* before consonants (still Scots and English dialectal).]

inagh *exclamation* expressing surprise.

inanunder *see in*.

incapable: incapable of yourself "drunk and incapable".

incentative *noun* an incentive.

inch¹: (beat someone) within an inch of his life (beat someone) severely.

- **if ye'll give him an inch, he'll take an ell** you can't control him by ordinary rules.
- **inchin an pinchin** scrimping and saving.

inch² *noun* a stretch of low-lying land beside a river or lough.

- **inchland** low-lying land beside a river or lough.
[Hiberno-English, from Irish *inis*, *inse*; also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *innis*.]

incite *verb* coax.

incline: not be that way inclined a mild way of saying no to a young man; a polite way of refusing an invitation.

increase *verb* put on weight.

indecent *adjective*, *of dealings* unfair; *see* *decent*.

indeed: indeed and doubles indeed, absolutely certainly: said *especially* by children to make a promise binding or to emphasise that something is true; *see also* *double*.

- **Indeed an' doubles/ Spade and shovels/ Curly kail and praty stocks** *rhyme*
- **indeed (or deed) an' doubles, an' I wudn't say that in a lie** a strong asseveration.
- **indeed, if I know** indeed I don't know. *See also* *deed²*.
- **indeed no** no indeed.

India: India buck, Indian buck **1** Indian corn, maize. **2** maize meal.

3 porridge made from maize meal.

[Maize meal, a traditional food of American Indians, was imported for the relief of the starving during the Famine.]

- **Indian:**
- **Indian fog, Indian moss** applied to various mossy-looking garden plants; *especially* various species of stonecrop, *Sedum spp.*; *see fog.*
- **Indian male** maize.
- **Indian rubber** india rubber.
- **they forget the owl ass-hole that shit the Indian male** *i.e.* they forget that they once needed help, even if the help that was given was of little value to either the givers or the receivers.
- indifferent** *adjective* poorly, in bad health.
- **indifferently** badly, not very well.
- indigestion** *noun* indigestion.
- indue, endue** *adverb* due, owing *e.g.* *He was induce me a year's wages.*
[Scots *endue*, probably originally *in + due.*]
- industrious** *noun* an industrious person.
- infare, infar** *noun* **1** the bringing home of the bride to her new home. **2** the entertainment given for the reception of a bride in her new husband's home. **3** *generally* the reception after a wedding.
[Hiberno-English, also Scots, *infare*; Scots also *infar*; Old English *innfær*, from *in + fær* "a journey".]
- infectious** *adjective* taking.
- information** *noun* an inflammation.
- ingle** *noun* **1** the hearth. **2** the fireside. **3** *also* **inglenook** a chimney-corner [*inglenook* also adopted in Standard English]. **4** a kiln fire.
- **inglenook** a chimney-corner.
[Scots and Northern English; origin unknown, also in Irish and Scottish Gaelic as *aingeal* "fire".]
- ingleberry** *see* angleberry.
- inglified** *adjective* anglified: (a) learned, educated; (b) pretentious, given to "putting on airs".
[Hiberno-English and Scots form, influenced by *English.*]
- Inishowen**
- **sweet Inishowen, where they keep no Sundays**
- inject** *verb* eject.
- **injectment** ejection.
- ink: inkerrazer:**
- inkle**
- **as thick as inkle-weavers, as great as inkle weavers** particularly intimate, very friendly.
- inklin** *noun* a desire, an inclination.
- inland** *adverb* away from the main road *e.g.* *They live inland.*
◆ *adjective, of a farm, etc.* away from the main road.
- innocent** *noun* a simpleton, a person of weak intellect.
- inns** *noun plural* an inn [now only in the singular form in Standard English].
- innundher** *see* in.
- inpost** *noun* an impostume, a festering sore.
- input** *noun* money paid as a premium to obtain possession of land.
- inready** *adverb* already *Mid Ulster.*
- insect** *verb* dissect.
[Rare and obsolete in Standard English; from Latin *insecāre, insectus* "to cut into".]
- insense** *verb* **1** **insense a person into something** make someone understand something, explain something to a person *e.g.* *Come here and I'll insense you into it.* **2** **insense something into a person** instil something into a person's mind *e.g.* *I can't insense it into him.*
[General dialectal and Scots, from Old French *ensenser* "to enlighten", changed to *in-* as if from Latin.]
- inshave** *noun, cooperating* a straight-bladed knife.
- inside** *noun* the insides of the body.
- **be inside someone's door** visit someone *e.g.* *He's seldom inside*

anyone's door; he is a poor visitor.

□ **inside servant** a farm labourer who boards and lodges with the family.

□ **inside shirt** a man's undervest.

insleeper *noun*, also **insleep** an omen of a visit: **(a)** an itching. If it is in the right arm, the visitor will be a man, and if it is in the left, a woman; **(b)** a peat falling from the fire. If it is red, the visitor will come in scratching.

inspectable *adjective* available for inspection [rare in literary English].

instigation *noun* a cause *e.g.* *He took consumption, that was the instigation of his death.*

intae *preposition* into; *see also* intil.

[Scots form.]

intaliation *noun* retaliation.

interfere, interfer *verb* **1** interfere. **2** attend to something *e.g.* *The plumber interferes with them jobs*; response of a man selling a bath who was asked to repair a gas stove.

interlowper *noun* an interloper.

[Influenced by loup.]

intil *preposition* into.

□ **intil yourself, into yourself** in a whisper.

[Scots and Northern English, in + til. *See also* intae.]

intire *see* entire.

intro-juiced *particle* introduced.

inunder *see* in.

invagure *verb* inveigle, entice.

[Origin unknown.]

invention *verb* invent *e.g.* *Afore them, things were known, or inventioned.*

invite *noun* an invitation.

inwards *noun plural* the inner parts of the body.

iota *noun* a small amount *e.g.* *not one iota of drink.*

ir are.

iris *noun* the rope hanger of a creel.

Irish: drive Irish tandem go by "Shanks's pony", put one foot before the other, walk; go on foot.

□ **he's an Irishman, for he spakes first an' thinks afterwards**

□ **Irishman:**

□ **Irish moss** a seaweed, carrageen *Chondrus crispus*.

□ **Irish ortolan** a bird: the bunting.

□ **Irish scorpion** a rove beetle: the devil's coach horse *Staphylinus olens* [from its habit of extending its mandibles and lifting its tail when threatened]. [ILLUS: Irish/sc]

□ **Irish vine** a wild flower: honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*; *cf.* honeysuckle.

□ **Irish white wine** buttermilk.

□ **the Irish cry** keening.

iron

□ **have too many irons in the fire**

□ **iron horse** a railway steam engine.

irritation water *noun* effervescing soda-water.

irth *see* earth.

is, isn't *see* be.

it; emphatic hit, het; pronoun it.

□ **if I etc. didn't itself**

□ **it is, 'tis** introducing a reply *e.g.* *What happened to the calves? 'Tis, like a fool, I let them down to Greggs* [translation of Irish *tá*, the present tense form of the verb "to be", as an introductory verb].

□ **it is (glad, sorry, etc.) I am** I am (glad, sorry, etc.) [influenced by Irish word order].

□ **itself, atself** *pronoun* **1** itself. **2** used to emphasise the lack of something *e.g.* *If I had a pound itself* [based on the use of Irish *féin*

"itself; even". **3** *also in itself* even *e.g. If she would apologize, in itself, it would be better* [influenced by Irish *féin* "itself"].

□ **you have only the half of it** a reply to a remark such as "I'm glad to have seen you", meaning, "I'm as glad as you are".

[Older form (still Scots) *hit*. Scots also *het*.]

itch: **itchypoo** a rosehip [Scots *itchy-coo*. The second element is onomatopoeic].

Cf. **yewk**.

ither *see other*.

ithoot *see athout*.

iv *see of*.

iver *see ever*.

ivory *noun* the ivy *Hedera hetrix*; an ivy bush.

ivver *see ever*.

ivery, **ivry** *adjective* **1** every. **2** each of two.

□ **what's ivery body's business is nobody's business**

[Scots and English dialectal forms.]

iz *see be, us*.

jaa *see jaw*.

jaa¹, **jaw** *noun* the letter J, *Co. Donegal*; *see also judi*.

jaa² *noun* **1** the jaw. **2** "jaw", talk, chatter; offensive or abusive talk; cheek, insolent talk. **3** a "jaw", a long, boring discourse; a scolding, a lecture.

◆ *verb* "jaw", talk; talk offensively or abusively; give insolent answers.

□ **jaw-breaker** a big word *especially* one that is difficult to say.

□ **jawing** scolding, verbal abuse.

[Scots and English dialectal form *jaa*.]

jaagh *noun* a clumsy person.

jab *see job*.

jab *noun, verb* job, stab, prick.

[Scots form *jab*, also adopted in colloquial English.]

jabang *see jing-bang*.

jabber *verb* chatter.

jabber *see job*.

jabble *verb* **1** shake, disturb (liquid in a container). **2** **jabble out** spill (liquid). **3** *of liquid* spill over. **4** *of water* ripple.

◆ *noun* a slight ripple on the surface of water; a broken wave on the sea.

Cf. **jibble**.

jabers: **oh, jabers!**, **be jabers!** disguised oaths [Hiberno-English *bejabbers*; *see also by, japers*].

jack, **jeck** *noun, in plural, also jackstones* (**a**) a game played with five small pebbles, bones or earthenware pieces, thrown into the air and caught on the back of the hand; (**b**) the pebbles, bones or earthenware pieces with which it is played.

□ **as soon hit a jack-snipe as (do something)**

□ **Jack about** a jack-of-all-trades.

□ **Jack-a-box** leapfrog.

□ **Jackadandy**, **Jack o' Dandy** the little finger; *only in the jingle (see jingletree)*.

□ **jackanapes** a conceited dandy, an affected young man.

□ **Jack and his team** a constellation: *Ursa major*.

□ **jack-at-the-hedge**, **jack-in-the-hedge** a wild flower: common cleavers *Galium aparine*.

□ **jack-ba'** a cobbler's last; *see ball*.

□ **Jack blunt** a name for a man who speaks his mind freely.

□ **jack cock** a bird: the woodcock.

□ **jack curlew** a bird: the whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*.

□ **jackda** a bird: the jackdaw *Corvus monedula*; *see daw*¹.

□ **jack donkey** a male donkey.

□ **jack easy** very easy, no trouble.

- **jack hawk** a bird: the male merlin.
- **jack horse** a stallion.
- **jack-in-the-box** a wild flower: lords-and-ladies *Arum maculatum*.
[ILLUS: jack/box]
- **Jack Nod**:
- **Jack Nod is creeping up your back** said to children to persuade them to go to bed.
- **jack-plane** *carpentry* a coarse plane.
- **jack snipe** a bird: (**a**) the snipe; (**b**) *specifically* the male snipe [*cf. jack*, meaning male, in English *jack-kestrel*, *jack-hare* etc.].
- **Jack Sprat** an insignificant-looking person.
- **Jack Straw, jack-straw** a thing of very little value *e.g. I don't care a jack straw about it*.
- **jack-towel** a long, narrow towel, with the ends joined together, suspended on a roller.
- **jack whaup** a bird: the ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*; *see whaup*.
[Scots form *jeck*. *See also John*.]
- jacked** *adjective* checked *e.g. jacked duncher*.
- jacks** *noun* a jakes, an outside latrine.
[Scots form.]
- Jacob**: all in rotation, like Jacob's beetles
- jade** *noun* **1** used playfully of a giddy young girl. **2** a worthless woman.
- jaffler** *noun* probably a man who pretended to be interested in buying cattle, *etc.* at a fair, and who engaged the seller in negotiations. A genuine buyer would give him a small sum of money to clear off.
[Cumberland "a careless, idle man", origin unknown.]
- jag, jeg, jaig** *verb* **1** prick. **2** of a part of the body have a painful pricking sensation, be affected by "pins and needles". **3** *figuratively* vex, irritate, annoy.
- ◆ *noun* **1** a prick. **2** a thorn; a splinter of wood in a finger, *etc.* **3** in plural a name for the hedgehog. *Illustration see urchin*. **4** *figuratively* a pointed remark, *thus a joke with a jag in it*.
- **jagger** **1** a goad. **2** a thorn. **3** in plural a name for the hedgehog.
Illustration see urchin.
- **jaggety** rough or torn at the edges.
- **jaggly** prickly, thorny.
- **jaggy** prickly, thorny.
[Scots and Northern English *jag*, onomatopoeic; also adopted in colloquial and U.S.A. English to mean "an injection".]
- jail**: **jail-crop** a very close-cropped haircut.
- **Jailtacht** *jocular* the body of Irish-speaking Republicans who learned the language while in prison.
- jaiminy** *see* jaminy.
- jaimity** *see* jamity.
- jakers, jekers** *exclamation, also be jakers* a disguised oath.
[English dialectal *by Jaggers, be-jeggors, by Jiggers. See by*.]
- jallors** *noun plural* the jowls.
[Obsolete Standard English form *joll* of *jowl* (*see chawl*), influenced by *chollers*.]
- jalouse, jaroose, jerouse, genuse** *verb* **1** guess. **2** suspect (a person).
- **jalousings** suspicions.
[Scots *jalouse*, form of *jealous*. *See also jubuse*.]
- jam** *noun, acronym* Junior Assistant Mistress, a female teacher not fully qualified; *obsolescent*.
- jamb** *noun* a large, rambling house, especially one too big for its occupants.
- **jamb-hole** a peep-hole in a jamb-wall.
- **jamb-stone** a side-stone of a fireplace.
- **jamb-wall** a partition wall screening the fireplace from the door in a traditional house. [ILLUS: jamb-wll]

- **jammer** a jamb: **(a)** the side-post of a door or window; **(b)** the projecting side of a fireplace.
See also jumm.
- jamboree** *noun* a spree.
- jam-crock** *noun* a crock of butter.
- jaminty** *see* jaminy.
- jaminy, jaiminy, jimenty, jaminty, jementy, jaminity, jammity, jaimity, jamming** *exclamation* a disguised oath: "jiminy", *thus* **jementy ol!, jimenty katty!, jamity goose!, by jaminty, by jaminty heddles, by jaminy king**
 [Hiberno-English form *jaminty*.]
- jamming** *see* jaminy.
- jammity** *see* jaminy.
- jander** *see* janner.
- janders, jandies, jendies** *noun, also yellow janders* a disease: jaundice.
 [Hiberno-English and English dialectal form *janders*, Scots form *jandies*.]
- janius** *noun* a genius.
 [Older form in Scots and English.]
- janner, jander, jaunder** *verb* talk foolishly or idly.
 [Scots *jander* "talk foolishly", altered form of *chanter*¹.]
- jant** *see* jaunt.
- janty** *adjective* jaunty, smart, showy.
 [Older form (still Scots and English dialectal).]
- janya** *noun* some type of marble.
- jap** *see* jaup.
- Jap, Jaup: the Roussians are bad washerwomen: they are afraid of the Jaups** *pun*
- jape** *verb* play an April Fool's Day trick on (a person).
- japers** *exclamation, also by japers* a disguised oath: "jeepers"; *cf.* jabers.
- jar**¹ *noun* a stoneware hot-water bottle. [ILLUS: jar]
- **jarie** a type of marble for playing with [because made of earthenware].
- **jarley hole** the game of marbles.
- jar**² *verb* broach an unpleasant subject with (a person).
- jar**³ *noun* a small amount (of liquid).
- jarbles** *noun plural* rags, tatters *Co. Armagh*.
 [Also found in Galloway, origin unknown.]
- jarbox** *see* jaw.
- jarie** *see* jar¹.
- jarnsed** quarrel.
- jaroose** *see* jalouse.
- jarry** *see* jory.
- jar-tub** *see* jaw.
- jauk** *verb* idle; dally.
- jaunder** *see* janner.
- jaunt, jant** *noun* a jaunt, a ride, a trip in a vehicle.
 ◆ *verb* jaunt, go on a pleasure trip.
 □ **jaunting: jaunting car** a two-wheeled horse-drawn passenger vehicle.
Illustration see car¹.
 [English dialectal form *jant*.]
- jaup, jap** *verb* **1** of water lap against a boat. **2** of liquid spill. **3** splash (liquid). **4** splash, bespatter (with *e.g.* mud). **5** spoil (something) by using it carelessly or misusing it.
 ◆ *noun* **1** a splash of liquid. **2 (a)** a small quantity (of liquid); **(b)** a good deal (of liquid). **3** the mark of a splash of mud, dirty water, *etc.* **4** pulp, *thus* **boil (something) into jap, smashed to jap**
 □ **I'll jap yer brains oot**
 [Scots, onomatopoeic.]
- jaw** *see* jaa¹.

- jaw, jaa** *noun* a small amount (of liquid), implying that it is dashed inelegantly into a container.
- ◆ *verb* pour out, dash out (liquid).
 - **jawbox, jaw-tub**; *also incorrectly jarbox, jar-tub* a kitchen sink.
 - **jaw-hole** a drain opening.
 - **jaw trough** the grating over a drain opening.
[Scots, origin unknown.]
- jaw¹** *also alleyed jaw* a favourite marble for playing with.
- jaw¹** *noun* a bird, the jackdaw.
- jawbation** *noun* a "jobation", a scolding, a severe lecture.
[English dialectal form of *jobation* (from the Biblical *Job*) influenced by *jaw* (see *jaa²*).]
- jawbox** *see jaw*.
- jawrie** *see jory*.
- jawter** *see jotter*.
- jaw-tub** *see jaw*.
- jay** *noun, also jaybird, jay-thrush* the mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus* [from the harsh note of its alarm call, similar to that of the bird called the jay in Standard English, *Garrulus glandarius*]. *Illustration see shriek*.
- jealous** *adjective* suspicious; *see also jalouse*.
- jeb** *see jib*.
- jeck** *see jack*.
- jecket** *noun* a jacket.
- **jecket body** a tight-fitting bodice, buttoned from neck to waist.
[Scots form.]
- jecove** *adjective* well satisfied, very pleased; *cf. jocovous*.
- jee** *verb* **1** move; budge. **2** give way in argument.
- **jehoe** *literally* a call to an animal to stop: stop doing or trying to do (something); abandon (a project).
[Scots and English dialectal *gee* "a call to a horse", onomatopoeic.]
- jeeble** *see jibble*.
- jeeg** *see jig*.
- jeeg** *verb* creak.
- **jeegin, jiggin** a creaking noise.
[Scots *jeeg, jig*; onomatopoeic. *See also jig*.]
- jeelaght** *noun* a forlorn person.
- jeep** *nickname* the last engine type built for N.C.C., of W.T. class.
- jeesey** *adjective* juicy.
[Scots form.]
- jeetled** *adjective* very tired.
[*Cf.* Scots *jeet, jute* "sour ale; to tipple", Middle English *joutes* "vegetable soup"; from Old French *jute* "a vegetable".]
- jeg** *see jag*.
- jekers** *see jakers*.
- jelep** *noun* a medicine: jalap *Co. Antrim*.
- jelger, galager** *noun* **1** a longer than usual leg, prong, nail, spike, *etc.*
2 *generally* a large object.
[*Cf.* Irish *dealg* "a pin".]
- jellymander** form of jerry-mander.
- jementy** *see jaminy*.
- jemmy lamp** *noun* a cruisie.
- jendies** *see janders*.
- jenkin** *see jinkin*.
- jenking string** *noun* the cord connecting the treadle to the wheel of a spinning-wheel; *cf. jink. Illustration see spin*.
- Jennewerry** *noun* January.
[Scots form.]
- jenny, jinny** *noun* **1** a jenny (a female donkey). **2** *also Jinny Ann* an effeminate man. **3** a young cod. **4 jinny** a bird: the grey heron *Ardea*

cinerea.

◆ *verb, of a woman* henpeck (her husband).

□ **jenny dabber** a bird: the tern *Sterna spp.* *Illustration see fish.*

□ **Jenny Jones** or **Jo** a children's singing game, involving the acting out of a little drama.

□ **jenny longlegs, jenny spinners** a spider: the harvestman *Mitopus morio*, also known as the daddy-long-legs. [ILLUS: jenny/II]

□ **jinnied of a husband** henpecked.

□ **jinny lamp, also jenny (a)** a simple lamp consisting of a rag in a bottle; **(b)** a cruisie. *Illustration see cruisie.*

□ **Jinny Lind hat, Jinny Lin hat** *historical* a "wide-awake" hat.

□ **jinny wran, jinty wren, also jinty (a)** "jenny wren", the wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. *Illustration see tit?*; **(b)** *specifically* the female wren. *See wran.*

□ **The jinty wren, she lays but ten/ An rares them up like gentlemen**

[Scots and English dialectal forms *jinny, jinty.*]

jerg *see jirg.*

jergag *noun* a large reddish-coloured lythe.

jergag *noun* a large reddish-coloured lythe.

jerk, jirk *noun* **1** a slight blow. **2** a sudden fright.

[Scots form *jirk.*]

jerouse *see jalouse.*

jerry¹: jerried *of a building* badly built.

□ **jerry-builder:**

jerry² *noun* a chamber-pot.

jerrymander, jellymander *noun* a wild flower: the germander speedwell

Veronica chamaedrys.

jersey *noun* a jacket.

jew *verb* cheat, defraud.

jewel, jool *noun* **1** a jewel. **2** a term of endearment.

jib, jeb *noun* **1** a jib (a triangular stay-sail). **2** a sharply-angled corner; *specifically* a sharply-angled corner at the end of a plot of ground or field.

3 a triangular field.

jib¹

□ **jib at the collar** shirk work.

□ **jibber** a horse that refuses to work.

jibble, jeeble, geeble *verb* **1** spill, splash (liquid); allow (liquid) to spill over the lip of a container; disturb liquid in a container so that it spills.

2 *of a child* pour liquid from one container into another; splash around with water.

◆ *noun* a small quantity (of liquid).

[Scots, extended form of Scots *jib* "to milk (a cow) to the last drop". *Cf. jabble.*]

jiddlins *noun, usually in plural* **1** odds and ends, bits and pieces.

2 household chores.

[Scots and English dialectal *diddle* "potter, busy yourself with unimportant jobs"; onomatopoeic, related to Standard English *dawdle.*]

jidge *verb* judge.

□ **judge's weather** bad weather.

□ **judge the day** consider, examine the weather.

[Scots, also South-Western English, form.]

jiff *noun, also jiffy, jiffey, giffy* *also half a jiffy* the smallest possible period of time, a moment.

jig, jeeg *noun* a jig.

□ **go jig-jig** jerk up and down.

□ **have the jiggers up** be in a state of nervous agitation.

□ **in a jig, on the jig** in a state of flurry or expectation.

□ **jeegle** **1** jiggle, shake (something). **2** *of an object* stand unsteadily, wobble.

- **jigged** drunk.
- **jiggely, jigglety** *of a road, journey, etc.* bumpy.
- **jigger** *noun* a spinning top.
- ◆ *verb* go at a trotting pace.
- **jigger mast** a short mast carrying the jigger.
- **jigget** shake, jog.
- **jigging** *usually the jigging* dancing.
- **jig-jig**:
- **you might as well whistle jigs to a milestone** referring to an impossibility.
[Scots form *jeeg*. The Standard English word *jig* may be of Scots origin, and as such is possibly the same word as *jeeg*.]
- jigger**¹ *noun, in plural* broken pieces of china used for playing with.
- jigger**² *noun* a passage between houses.
- jiggered** *adjective* used as a mild imprecation *e.g. you be jiggered*; you be blowed.
- jiggin** *see jeeg*.
- jill** *verb* spill; splash.
 - **jill and brew, brew and jill** *of a child* pour liquid from one container into another.
[Possibly the same word as *gill* "a quarter of a pint", Scots and Northern English "to tipple".]
- jimenty** *see jaminy*.
- jimmy** *adjective* neat, tidy.
[Scots and English dialectal, possibly a variant of *jimp* in the sense "small, graceful, neat".]
- jimmy**¹: **jimmy wren**:
- jimp** *adjective* scanty, barely sufficient *e.g. jimp measure*.
[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown. *See also jimmy*.]
- jing** *see by*.
- jing-bang, jabang** *noun* **1** a number of people. **2** *derogatory* a rabble.
 - **the whole jing-bang, the whole ging-bang** the whole lot, thing, affair, party.
See also bang jang.
- jingelumboo** *noun* a fancy hairstyle *Carrickfergus*.
[Nonsense word.]
- jingle, jingly** *see chingle*.
- jingle** *noun* a row; a fight.
 - **he hasn't as much money as would jingle on a tombstone** expressing how hard up someone is.
- jingletree, jinnytree** *noun* the fourth finger; *only in the jingle: Thumbo, lispie, longman, jingletree and little Jack o' Dandy, Thumbo, Lispie, Longman, Jinnytree and Little Jackadandy*
- jink** *verb* **1** dodge, elude [also adopted in Standard English]. **2** play a trick on.
 - ◆ *noun* a trick.
 - **jinker** a hayjinker, a low vehicle for moving hay.
[Scots, onomatopoeic. *See also jinkin, jenkining string*.]
- jink**¹
 - **down with the jink**
 - **If you intend to take my drink/ First you must pay me down the jink** The Publican's Notice.
- jinkers** *see by*.
- jinkin, jenkin** *noun* **1** the fry of the salmon; *see also ginkin*. **2** the fry of the minnow.
Cf. jink.
- Jinkins, Junkins** *proper noun* Jenkins.
- jinnit, jinnetin** *noun* a mule, a cross between a donkey and a horse.
[Hiberno-English. *Cf. jinty*.]

jinny *see* jenny.

jint *noun* a "gent", a gentleman.

[Hiberno-English form.]

jinty *see* jenny.

jinty *noun* **1** a type of small horse: a jennet; *cf.* jinnit. **2** an undersized man.

jirg, jerg, jurg *verb, especially of new leather boots* creak.

□ **jirgers** creaking (*i.e.* new) boots.

□ **jirging, jergin, jirgin** the creaking sound made by new leather boots.

□ **put a pennorth of jerg in them** *historical* said to a boot-maker when ordering new boots [the addition of a small amount of special creaky leather would ensure that the boots were heard to be new].

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

jirk *see* jerk.

jirm *adjective* big, awkward, clumsy in furniture.

jist *see* just.

jo *see* joy.

joary *see* jory.

Job:

job, jab *noun* **1** a job, a piece of work; a task. **2** *in plural jobs* turds, excrement.

□ **as poor as Job's turkey** very poor.

□ **give someone up as a bad job** said of a person if the speaker finds he can do nothing with him.

□ **jabber** a jobber, a small trader; *also* **pig jabber, cow jabber** someone who deals in a small way in pigs or cattle.

□ **job lot 1** the whole lot. **2** a special lot for sale.

□ **job something into a fiddle** swap one thing for another until you are left with nothing but a fiddle.

□ **make a job of** make a success of.

□ **on the job 1** at work; absorbed in your work. **2** correct.

[Hiberno-English form *jab*.]

Jock *noun* a rustic fellow, a yokel.

□ **ivery Jock haes his Jean**

□ **jockey** a small-time horse-dealer; a horse-breaker.

[Scots form of *Jack*. *See also* John.]

jocovous *adjective* jocose; jocular.

[*Cf.* English dialectal *jococious*. *See also* *jecove*.]

jog *verb* move on slowly and steadily *e.g.* *We had better jog home*.

◆ *noun* a small quantity (of stones, grains *etc.*).

joggle *noun, eel-fishing* one of the poles forming the framework of a storage tank.

[The same word as Standard English *joggle* "a type of joint in masonry and carpentry", origin unknown.]

jogglety, joggly *see* joogle.

Johanna: Johanna of the dunghill the wagtail.

John: John Barleycorn whiskey.

□ **John blunt** one who speaks his mind.

□ **Johnny 1** a rustic fellow, a yokel. **2** a half-glass of whiskey [probably short for *John barleycorn*].

□ **Johnny Dory** a fish: the John Dory.

□ **Johnny! I hardly knew you** refrain of an old song.

□ **Johnny MacGrory** a haw (the fruit of the hawthorn).

□ **Johnny Nod:**

□ **Johnny Nod is creeping, Johnny Nod is creepin' up your back** said to sleepy children who don't want to go to bed.

□ **John's wort** a plant, *Hypericum perforatum*.

□ **there are more John ours than mad John ours**

See also jack, Jock.

John Jeffrey: have a hurry on you like John Jeffrey be in a great hurry.

[Possibly a play on Ulster Irish *deán deifre* (Standard Irish *déan deifir*) "make haste".]

Johnston *proper noun*:

joiant *see* joyant.

joice *noun* a joist, a supporting timber.

[Old form.]

join *verb* **1** begin (work). **2** scold, reprimand. **3** **join to** begin to, set to work to. **4** join battle.

◆ *noun* **1** an association of farmers to do communal work. **2** the act of combining resources, *specifically* (a) two farmers combining their horses to form a plough team; (b) farmers combining to own cheese-making equipment; (c) people pooling money to buy drink for a social event. **3** a group of people gathered to do communal work. **4** a fellow farmer with whom there is an exchange agreement. **5** a collection of money, a whip-round; the money collected.

□ **hunger joins at the back-stone** a bad season first makes itself felt by scarcity of fuel.

□ **joining** **1** a scolding. **2** an exchange arrangement between two farmers who each own one horse to combine them to form a team.

joiner *noun* a carpenter.

□ **joinery** carpentry.

[As in Scotland. In England, a *joiner* does lighter work than a *carpenter*.]

joint: a word out of joint a word or expression improper in any way, whether profane or indelicate.

□ **put yourself out of joint** get out of temper, become annoyed.

jollup *noun* a large mouthful.

jolly *adjective* **1** fat, plump. **2** *generally, of things* large. **3** pretty.

□ **jolly bag** a woolly hat with a pompom.

□ **jolly-cheeked** good-looking, glowing with health.

□ **the jolly miller** a game.

jolt, jout, jowl *verb* jolt.

◆ *noun* a large piece, a lump; *see also* jotter.

[Southern English form *jout*.]

joog *noun* a jug.

[Scots form.]

joogin *see* juggin.

joogle, juggle *verb* joggle; shake; jostle (a person's elbow).

□ **joggly, jogglety** shaky, wobbly.

[Scots form *joogle*, English dialectal form *juggle*.]

jookery-packery *see* duck¹.

joppony *noun* a hen with a tuft on its head.

[Origin unknown.]

jorry *see* jory.

jorum *noun* **1** a small quantity (of liquid, *especially* alcohol) [in Standard English, "a large quantity (of liquid)"]. **2** a large number of people gathered together to enjoy themselves. **3** *figuratively* a large number (of animals).

jory, jorry, joary, jawrie, dyorrie, deory, jarry, jury, dorry, dawry, dhorrie, dwarie, durrie, dhoory, doiry *adjective* dwarfed, undersized.

◆ *noun* **1** the smallest of a brood or litter. **2** anything small of its kind.

3 **dawry** an orphaned pet lamb. **4** *figuratively* a sickly person or animal.

[*Cf.* Irish *deorai* "a pitiable person or thing; an exile", formed on *deor* "a tear, a drop" (*see* *deor*). *See also* *gawrey*¹.]

joskin *noun* a stupid person.

joss plucker *noun* someone with superior airs.

jotter, jotther, jawter *noun* **1** a good-sized lump (of food). **2** (a) a small quantity, a dash (*especially* of whiskey); (b) a large quantity.

Cf. jolt.

jottler *noun* an odd job man.

[Scots, from Scots *jottle* "potter about", itself an extended form of *jot*.]

joult *see* jolt.

journey: journeyed horse

jowl *see* jolt.

jowl: jowler **1** a dog, *usually* a dog with a heavy jaw. **2** *in plural* the wattles of a cock; *cf.* chollers.

joy, jo *noun* **1** a term of endearment: darling. **2 jo** a sweetheart.

□ **I wish you joy of it** *contemptuous*

□ **joy go with you and sixpence, and then you'll want neither love nor money**

[The same word as Standard English *joy* "delight", Scots form *jo*.]

joyant, joiant *noun* a giant.

□ **as sthrong as a joiant**

[Hiberno-English form.]

jubous *adjective* **1** dubious. **2** superstitious.

□ **jube, dube** **1** be dubious, doubt, suspect. **2** guess. **3 jube on** become aware of (something). **4** notice, recognise; *cf.* jalouse.

□ **jubous-minded** suspicious-minded.

[Scots and English dialectal, shortened form.]

jubuse *verb* suspect.

[Apparently a blend of *jube* (see *jubous*) and *jalouse*.]

juchan *noun*, **juchan** a small bundle.

juck *see* duck².

juck *noun* a small amount (of grains).

Judas, Judas Iscariot *noun* a rove beetle: the devil's coach horse

Staphylinus olens. *Illustration see* Irish.

judi *noun* a name for the letter J; *see also* jaa¹.

juggin, joogin *noun* **1** *in plural* pieces, scraps *thus* **boiled intae juggins**.

2 a small quantity.

[Scots, from Older Scots *duigs* "fragments"; origin unknown, *cf.* Dutch *doek* "a rag". Perhaps influenced by Standard English *jug* "to boil (a rabbit or hare in a jug)".]

juggle *verb* cheat (a person).

juggle *see* joogle.

jug-jug *noun* a type of sweetie: a jujube *Co. Antrim*.

juke *see* duck¹.

jumm *noun* something large, unwieldy and worthless.

[Scots form of *jamb*.]

jummle *noun, verb* jumble.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

jump: jump-back a game: leapfrog.

□ **jump down someone's throat** rate or scold suddenly.

□ **jumper** **1** an iron bar used to bore holes for blasting. **2** a flea. **3** a maggot.

□ **jumping jeepers** a disguised oath [a blend of slang *jumping Jehoshaphat* and *jeepers*].

□ **jumping mad**, *also* **jumping** hopping mad.

□ **jump-jack** **1** two sticks propped up as an obstacle for children to jump over. **2** a jumping-jack, a child's toy made from the breast-bone of a goose.

□ **jump out of your wits** jump out of your skin, be scared out of your wits.

□ **jump over the besom** live together without being married; *see* *besom*.

□ **jump-the-bullock(s), jump-bullock** a game: leapfrog.

□ **see how the cat jumps** wait to see how things will turn out.

junder *see* jundie.

jundie, jundy *noun* **1** a nudge with the elbow or shoulder; a shake, a push, a blow. **2** a collision between two heavy objects.

◆ *verb* **1** *also* **junder** jog with the elbow; jostle, shove, push aside. **2** *also*

junder jolt; strike violently against, bang into. **3** *of a container of liquid*

rock from side to side. **4** *of liquid* gush out.

[Scots, possibly onomatopoeic.]

June:

junketing *noun* a pleasure-party with plenty of eating and drinking.

junt *noun* **1** a large piece, a lump. **2** a large quantity (of liquid).

[Scots, origin unknown.]

jupe *noun* a petticoat.

[Scots, from Old French *jupe* "a tunic".]

jurg *see* jirg.

jurr *noun, also jurred load* a cart-load of flax offered for sale under suspicious circumstances *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*.

[Origin unknown.]

jury *see* jory.

just, jist *adverb* **1** just. **2** *in replies (a)* indeed *e.g. Is this the way to Glenalla? 'Tis, just; (b)* indeed? really? *e.g. Friel wants a job. Oh, just?*

3 *in reply to the question "why?"* "just because".

he wud jist down yer throat **1** take advantage of your credulity.

2 force his views willy-nilly.

just-a-meet just so! exactly!

just na! just so! exactly! [Scots *na*, unstressed form of *noo*].

just now in a moment, right away.

just so precisely.

[Scots, also Western English, form *jist*.]

jute *noun* **jute of tea** a small quantity.

juter *noun* a lamp.

juty *noun* duty.

kabe *see* keeb.

kack *noun* a bird: the sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*.

[Onomatopoeic, from the sound of its call.]

kadeystick *noun* a sweetie: **(a)** a sherbet dab; **(b)** a stick of candyfloss.

kahoohle *verb* engage in amorous larking about.

[Possibly a blend of *cahee* and *kajool*.]

kail *see* kale.

kailey, kailyee *see* ceili.

kajool *verb* hug and kiss.

[*Cf. cajoul*, obsolete form of *cajole*.]

kakenagh *noun* one of the stages in the development of the coalfish

Merlangus carbonarius, Co. Donegal.

[Origin unknown.]

kale *see* kell.

kale, kail *noun* **1** cabbage. **2** *specifically* the colewort *Brassica oleracia*

[*kale* also adopted in Standard English]. **3** *loosely* leafy vegetables of all kinds. [ILLUS: kale]

I wish you were in the Foyle on a kale-blade and hell steering you

kale-blade a cabbage leaf; *see* blade.

kale-broo, kale-brose the water in which kale has been boiled; *see* broo⁵, brose.

kale-broth broth made with vegetables.

kale-gully a large knife for cutting kale; *see* gully².

kale-knot a raised vegetable bed; *see* knot.

kale plant **1** a cabbage. **2** any leafy vegetable.

kale-root a root of kale.

kale-runt **1** a runt, a stalk of kale from which the leaves have been cut.

2 *figuratively* a small, thin person.

kaleworm a caterpillar.

kaleyard a garden where kale is grown, a vegetable plot.

wild kale a wild flower: charlock *Sinapis arvensis*.

[Scots and Northern English form of *cole*.]

kalecannon *see* colcannon.

kaley *see* ceili.

kam *see* cam¹.

kamman *see* caman.

kanat *see* canat.

kapan¹ *noun* a slice.

kapan² *noun* the knee-cap.

kape *see* keep.

karn *see* kern².

karson *noun* a cough.

katirams *noun plural* small, swift-flying clouds.

[Shetland, from Norn *katiram* literally "a cat's paw".]

kay¹, ca *noun* a bird: the jackdaw *Corvus monedula*.

□ **kaylegs** bandy legs.

[Scots, from Old Norse *ká.]

kay² *noun* a quay.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

kay³ *noun* a key.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

keadya-atchin *noun* the cowberry, *Vaccinium vitis idaea*.

keanadha-hassog *noun* **1** the self or all-heal, *Prunella vulgaris*. **2** the marsh wound-wort, *Stachys palustris*.

keating *noun* visiting to do communal spinning *etc.*

keb *see* cob, kib.

kebber *see* kibe.

kebbie *noun* a walking stick with a crook.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

kebbock *noun* a whole cheese.

[Scots, origin unknown. Scottish Gaelic *ceabag*, *càbag*, first recorded in the eighteenth century, appears to be a borrowing from Scots.]

keck, kick: take the keck gag on food, draw back in disgust.

[English dialectal *keck* "the noise of retching", onomatopoeic. *Cf.* also Northern English *keck* "to jerk yourself backwards"; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *keika* "to bend backwards".]

keckle *see* cackle.

keddis *see* caddis.

kedgy *see* cadgy.

keeb, kabe, kybe *noun* purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*.

□ **keeb-du** the black bog-rush, *Schoenus nigricus*.

□ **keeb-roe** the scaly-stalked club-rush.

[Irish *cíb*.]

keech *see* keegh.

keed *see* kid.

keedug, keedioch, kitig *noun* **1** a little shawl or muffler. **2** an improvised cape, made *e.g.* out of an old sack, used to cover the head and shoulders when it rains. **3** a cloth worn round the head in bed.

[Irish *cídeog* "a covering over the head and shoulders to keep off rain".]

keef *see* coof.

keegh, keech, keek *noun* human excrement.

◆ *verb* defecate.

□ **keeky: keeky-breeks** a children's term of abuse; *see* breeks.

[Scots *keech*, apparently an alteration of *cack*.]

keeghle *verb* giggle; *cf.* kigher.

keeho, kehoe *noun* a loud laugh.

◆ *verb* laugh loudly.

See cahee.

keek *see* keegh.

keek *see* kick.

keek *verb* peep.

◆ *noun* a peep, a quick look; a stolen glance.

- **keekin-glass** a looking-glass, a mirror.
- **keek-in-the-cogue** a name for a person who is given to peeping; *see* cogue.
- **keek-ower-the-dyke** *historical, literally* peep-over-the-wall: a variety of potatoes; *see* dyke.
[Scots and Northern English, from Low German and Middle Dutch *kiken* "to peep".]

keeking *see on.*

keeky *see keegh.*

keel¹ *noun* **1** ruddle, a soft, red substance used for marking sheep, *etc.*

2 *loosely* any red or black marking substance; *specifically* red chalk.

◆ *verb* mark (sheep, *etc.*) with keel.

□ **keelman** *historical* an itinerant linen buyer [so called from the practice of marking the linen with keel to keep a record of the price].

□ **keel mark** a mark made with keel.

□ **keely** reddish.

[Scots, also Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, origin unknown. Irish *cil* and Scottish Gaelic *cil* may be from Scots.]

keel² *verb* scrape the outside of (a pot) to clean it.

□ **keel-draught** a false keel in a boat.

□ **keelhaul** **1** maul, handle roughly. **2** scrutinize, examine closely.

□ **keelhauling, keelhaling** a scolding; a thorough questioning.

keel³ *noun* dirt on unwashed feet.

keeler *noun* a shallow tub with handles on each side, used for letting milk settle before churning.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Hiberno-English and English dialectal), literally "a cooler". The verb *keel* (Old English *cēlan*) "to make cool" has been replaced in Modern English by *cool*, originally only "to become cool".] [ILLUS: keeler]

keelhaling, keelhaul *see keel².*

keelick *noun* a bird: the meadow pipit.

keelie *noun* **1** an unsophisticated fellow. **2** a robber, a thieving tramp.

[Scots "a rough male city-dweller", apparently from Scottish Gaelic *gille* (*see gillie*).]

keelie salmon *noun* a spent salmon.

keel-row *noun* a type of dance in Schottische time.

keely *see keel¹.*

keen¹ *adjective* **keen after** keen for.

◆ *adverb* keenly.

□ **keen on** fond of (a person or thing), in love with (a person).

□ **keen shaver** an eager, greedy person.

keen², keena, keeny *noun* **1** a traditional cry of lamentation over the body of a dead person. **2** the crying and whining of a dog.

◆ *verb* **1** make the traditional lamentation over the body of a dead person.

2 wail, lament. **3** *of a child* cry. **4** *of a dog* cry, whine.

□ **keener** a person who performs a traditional **keen** over the dead.

□ **keening, caoining** **1** the act of lamenting. **2** crying.

[Irish *caoin* *noun*, *caoineadh* *verb*.]

keenagh *noun, also keenagh-lee* mildew on cheese, jam *etc.*

keeng *see king.*

keenie *noun, playing cards* the five of trumps *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

keenk *see kink.*

keeny *see keen².*

keep, kape; past tense and past participle kep; verb **1** keep. **2** keep a noise make a noise.

◆ *noun, farming* pasture, grazing *e.g. He has plenty of keep for his cattle.*

□ **do credit to your keep** look well and healthy.

□ **he or she would keep a nation goin** said of a very troublesome person.

- **it will keep you busy, it will take you busy** "it will take you all your time", you will be hard put to it.
- **keep aff** make love to *e.g. It's hard since the war to keep the girls aff ye.*
- **keep company of a couple** court, go out together.
- **keeper 1** the governor of a jail. **2** a bent wooden thatching pin or scollop holding down a stretcher on the surface of a thatch roof by being driven over the stretcher and obliquely into the thatch material.
- **keep foot with** keep pace with.
- **keep going 1** continue about your work. **2** manage (a household) *e.g. I have kept the place going these ten years.*
- **keep in** save.
- **keeping:**
- **keep in with** stay on friendly terms with.
- **keep mind of** remember; *see* mind.
- **keep nicks** keep a tally.
- **keep on your feet** remain up and about.
- **keep someone goin** tease someone, *frequently I'm only keepin ye goin* said as a reassurance.
- **keep the ball hopping** remain relatively prosperous.
- **keep the house** stay indoors.
- **keep the pot boiling** maintain yourself, earn your living.
- **keep up, keep up of the weather** stay fine.
- **keep your hand in** refrain from striking.
- **on your keeping** on your guard, "on the run".
- **play for keeps in playing marbles** play on the understanding that those won are to be kept by the winner.
- **she cud kep Omy without a key** she is a sharp, able girl.
- **the keep of the house of a child** a well-looked after favourite.
- **you keep in with one hand, and you lather (or lether) it out with the other** you save and spend at the same time.

[Scots form *kape*. Past tense and past participle: Hiberno-English, English dialectal and Western Scots *kep*. *See also* *kep*.]

keeran *noun* moor.

keerie *exclamation* a call to a sheep or lamb.

[Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *ciridh* "a pet name for calling a sheep".]

keerog, keroge *noun 1* a beetle. **2** *specifically* a rove beetle: the devil's coach horse *Staphylinus olens*. *Illustration see* Irish.

- **me heart's as low as a keerog's kidney**
- **wan keroge knows another keroge, one keeroge knows another keeroge** "birds of a feather flock together".

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *ciaróg* literally "little jet black one".]

keery *see* *coorie*.

keeshion *noun* a wild flower: cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*.

[Lancashire *keish*, origin unknown.]

keestrel *noun* a centenarian.

keeve, kive *noun* a large tub.

[Both forms archaic in Standard English, from Old English *cȳf*.]

kehoe *see* *keeho*.

keitch *see* *kytch*.

kell, kale *noun 1* a caul (a membrane that sometimes covers the head of a baby at birth). **2** the coarse outer skin of a pig. **3** dandruff, scurf; the debris of skin. **4** a coating of dirt on the face, hands, neck, *etc.*

5 engrained, shiny dirt. **6** a deposit, *e.g.* on the inside of a kettle or behind an open fire.

- **kelled** very dirty.

[Scots and English dialectal form *kell*, Scots also *kale*.]

kelp *noun* an ungainly, self-conscious teenager, usually a girl.

[Scots, *cf.* *gilpie*.]

kelp¹ *noun* the calcined ash of sea-weed from which alkali (carbonate of

soda) and iodine are extracted.

kelp² *noun* a dog.

kelp³ *noun* a wide stretch (*e.g.* of a field).

kelpie *noun* a mythical creature inhabiting fresh water, which takes the form of a woman.

[Scots, apparently from Scottish Gaelic *cailpeach* "a colt; a heifer".]

kenlin *see* kimlin.

kemp *see* camp.

kemp *noun* a species of tall reed used for thatching cornstacks, probably the common club-rush *Scirpus lacustris*, *Co. Cavan*.

[Origin unknown.]

Kemp-Stone *noun* a large cromlech near Dundonald, County Down.

ken; *past tense and past participle* **kent**, **kenned**; *archaic negative*

kennae; *verb* know.

□ **ken fine** know well.

□ **kenned 1** familiar, known; *see also* unkent. **2** well-known, famous.

□ **kennin 1** acquaintance. **2** the least quantity; *cf.* know.

□ **ken which side of a penny is up** know how to make a good bargain.

□ **ken your own ken** know your own business best.

□ **out of ken** out of sight.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), from Old English *cennan* "to cause to know", influenced in sense by Old Norse *kenna* "to know". *See also* kenspeckle.]

kenlin *see* kinnle.

kennae *see* ken.

kennel *see* kinnle.

kennel *noun* the bed, the solid bottom of a bog.

[The same word as Standard English *kennel* "a street gutter". *See also* channel.]

kennel¹ *noun* a water channel; *specifically* a gutter in the street.

kennle *see* candle.

kenny *see* canny.

kenspeckle *adjective* **1** noticeable, remarkable, conspicuous. **2** *of colours* glaring. **3** easily recognisable because of some peculiarity or oddity.

□ **kenspeckled 1** remarkable-looking. **2** easily recognised.

[Northern English and Scots; from Northern English *kenspeck* "conspicuous" (itself from Old Norse *kennispeki* "the faculty of recognition", related to **ken**) + *-le*.]

kent *see* cant¹, ken.

Kentish: **Kentish fire** the practice of stamping on the floor, slamming desk-lids *etc* in the sequence of two slow stamps, and three quick, repeated *ad lib*.

keo, **kyo**, **keogh**, **kiow**, **kow**, **keow** *verb* **1** joke, play tricks; have a carry-on. **2** *also* **keo wi** *of a young man* trifle with, flirt with (a girl).

3 show off; put on airs.

◆ *noun, usually in plural* tricks, antics, jokes; mimicry.

□ **keo-boy**, **ceo-boy**, **teo-boy 1** a light-hearted, entertaining fellow; a self-confident, pleasure-loving fellow. **2** a ladies' man. **3** a wild, irresponsible fellow. **4** a trickster. **5** an unreliable, rascally fellow.

[Scots *keo-kiow* verb, origin unknown. *See also* skeow.]

keous *see* teou.

keow *see* keo.

kep *see* cap¹.

kep *see* cap².

kep *see* keep.

kep, **cap** *verb* **1** stop, turn aside, head off (an animal); *also* **kep back**, **kep in**, **kep out**. **2** run after (something) with the purpose of stopping it.

3 arrest the progress of (a moving object). **4** hinder, prevent. **5** catch

(something falling or thrown). **6** **kep yourself** save yourself from a fall.

- **kep-ball, cap-ball** a hand-ball; *see also cap*².
- **kepper** a person who is good at catching a ball.
- **kepshite** a bird: the skua *Stercorarius spp.* [from its habit of chasing other birds and forcing them to disgorge their catch]; *see also shite*.

Illustration see black.

[Scots and Northern English *kep*, a form of **keep**.]

kepha *noun* a cupful, a capful.

kepper *see capper*.

kerb: **kerb-side** gutter (along the side of a paved street).

kerechter *noun* character, a character.

kerfuffle *see carfuffle*.

kern¹, **karn** *noun* a sour substance that collects on the surface of stale buttermilk.

[South-Western English *kern*, verb, of milk "to curdle or turn sour", origin unknown.]

kern² *noun* **1** *historical* an Irish foot-soldier without mail. **2** *also karn* a rascal; a coarse person, a lout. **3** a person, or sometimes a dog, who smells; *cf. kern*¹.

[Irish *ceithearn*.]

kernel *noun* a grain of wheat.

keroge *see keerog*.

kerry *see carry*.

kert *see cart*.

kesh, kish, cash *noun* **1** a wicker basket; *specifically, also kesh creel* a creel. **2** *also moss kesh* (**a**) a road in peat bog, made with branches overlaid with clay, *etc*; (**b**) a bridge of poles, overlaid with branches and topped with sods, used to give access to a peat bog. *See moss*. **3** a causeway in a peat bog, consisting of uncut peat.

□ **A kash of peats, a kash of clods, / A kash of Ballybreckan sods** *rhyme*

□ **keshie** a basket made of straw.

□ **moss cash, moss kesh** a road in a bog *e.g. the Kesh o' Toome*.

[Hiberno-English *kesh, kish*; from Irish *ceis, cis*. *See also cushen, kishogue*.]

keshan *see cushen*.

kest *see cast*.

kester, kesther *noun* a "castor" (a beaver hat).

kestin *see queskin*.

ket *see cat*¹.

ketch, ketched *see catch*.

Ketholic *noun, adjective* Roman Catholic.

ketogue *see kittog*.

kettle: **kettle-bellied** pot-bellied.

ketty *see cat*².

kevalse *verb* gad about *Mid Ulster*.

[Origin unknown.]

kevel, caivil *verb* jump awkwardly.

[Northern English and Southern Scots *kevel*, possibly from Northern English and Scots *cave* "to topple over; of a horse to toss (the head)" (from Old Norse *kafa* "to dip") + *-el*. *See also cavil*.]

kex *noun* applied to various wild flowers with white umbrella-like heads, *specifically* (**a**) cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*; (**b**) hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*; (**c**) wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal and Southern Scots); of Scandinavian origin, *cf. Norwegian dialectal -kjeks*.]

kib, keb *noun* **1** a type of spade used in stony or hilly ground unsuitable for ploughing. **2** an implement, resembling a trowel, for planting potatoes. **3** a heavy blow *e.g. a kib in the ribs*.

◆ *verb* **1** *also kib* in plant (potatoes), usually with a kib. **2** *figuratively*

bury. **3** beat up; kick. [ILLUS: kib]

□ **kibbin** a steeveen, an implement for planting potatoes. *Illustration see steeveen.*

□ **kibbing, kibbin** a method of planting potatoes.

□ **kibbing bag, kippie-bag** the bag in which potatoes are carried for planting by hand.

□ **kibbing-iron, kibbing-stick** a kib, an implement, resembling a trowel, for planting potatoes.

[*Cf.* English dialectal *kibble, kibbo* "a stout staff; a cudgel" and Scots *kebbie* "a rough walking stick"; apparently from Old Norse *keppr* "a cudgel". Borrowed into Donegal Irish as *cibeáil, coibeáil*.]

kibbed *see* kibe.

kibe: **kebber** a kibe, a chilblain.

□ **kibbed**, *also* **kiby** chapped, affected with chilblains.

□ **kibey-heel** a chapped heel.

kiboosh: **the whole kiboosh** the whole lot.

kibosh, kybosh *verb* finish, stop, end, ruin.

□ **put the kibosh on something** ruin something; end, finish, *especially* destroy, spoil.

kick *see* keck.

kick, keek *noun* a kick.

□ **a kick in your gallop 1** a weak spot in your abilities or character. **2** a "skeleton in your cupboard". **3 put a kick in someone's gallop** "put a spoke in someone's wheel", pull someone up short.

□ **kick the flannel**

□ **kick-up** a disturbance; a quarrel.

□ **kick up a dust, kick up a ruction, kick up a rumpus, kick up a row, kick up a stoor** raise a disturbance.

□ **kick with the left, right or wrong foot** dig with the left, right or wrong foot (*see* dig).

[Orkney and Shetland form *keek*.]

kid *see* could.

kid, keed *noun* the cud.

[Scots forms.]

kid¹: **kid-catcher** *jocular* a midwife.

□ **kiddee-kiddee** a call to goats.

□ **kid's eye** threepence in the old coinage.

kidney *noun 1 also* **kidley** a kidney; kidney. **2** the most fertile part of a district.

□ **he has got a kidney for you** "he has a rod in pickle for you".

□ **kidney-beans, petrified kidneys** *jocular, historical* small, water-worn stones formerly used for street paving, *also* **kidney-beans pavement**

□ **kidney-dinger** a heavy blow in the region of the kidneys; *see* ding¹.

□ **Man to butcher: "Have you a pound of kidley?" Butcher: "You mean 'kidney'?" Man: "That's what I said, didl't Ah."**

kiff *see* coof.

kiffle *verb 1* potter about, do trivial jobs. **2** swither, be indecisive.

[Onomatopoeic.]

kifflogs *noun plural* ragged clothes.

□ **kiffloggy** ragged.

[Irish *ciflóg* "a rag".]

kififle *see* carfuffle.

kigher *verb* snigger, laugh in a restrained way.

[Northern Scots, *cf.* German *kichern* "to titter". *See also* keeghle.]

kilkest *noun* abundance.

kill *see* kiln.

kill: *past tense and past participle* **kilt**

□ **if ye didn't kill it, ye knocked its feathers out**

□ **kill a pig** make a holiday, have a day of celebration.

- **kill someone out** kill someone outright, *usually figuratively* "be the death of someone".
 - **kill your pig** spoil your chance of something.
 - **kilt** *figuratively* **1** overcome mentally or physically *e.g. I'm kilt with the heat.* **2** badly hurt, injured; unconscious, knocked out, *frequently* **kilt entirely, kilt out, kilt outright.** If the literal sense "killed" is meant, the form *killed* is usually used.
 - **They're not makin them the way they used to - where I come from, they had to kill a man to start a graveyard** one man's habitual comment on people being off sick.
- killeen¹** *noun* a place where unbaptised children are buried.
- killeen²** *noun* a quantity *e.g. a good killeen of money.*
- Killinchy: Killinchy muffler** someone's arm around your neck, a cuddle [Killinchy is in Co. Down]; *cf.* Ballygowan.
- killman** *see* kiln.
- killoch** *noun* the last sheaf of corn in the harvest.
- killyhawk** *noun* a bird.
- Killyman: Killyman wrackers** **1** a name given to the yeomanry of the Killyman district, who wrecked the houses of Roman Catholics during the Rebellion of 1798. **2** a variety of potato.
[Killyman is a parish partly in Co. Armagh and partly in Co. Tyrone.
See wrack².]
- killymilly** *noun* a squabble.
- kilmaddy** *noun* the angler fish *Lophius piscatorius*, *Co. Antrim, Co. Down.*
[Possibly contains Irish *madaidh* (genitive singular of *madadh* "a dog").]
- kiln, kill** *noun* a kiln.
- **fire the kiln, set the kiln aglow** start a commotion.
 - **kiln-bedding** straw on which grain is spread to be dried in a kiln.
 - **kiln-dry** very dry.
 - **kiln-fuddie** the opening through which fuel is fed into a kiln.
 - **kiln-hole** the opening through which fuel is fed into a kiln.
 - **kilnman, killman** the man who attends to a corn-kiln.
 - **kiln of lime** five quarters of lime.
 - **kiln-pot** the heating chamber under a corn-kiln.
 - **kiln-ribs** the parallel stone bars on which the straw bedding is placed in a kiln.
 - **the kiln is in a blaze** everything is in a commotion.
[In Standard English, *kill* is accepted in pronunciation, but not written.]
- kilpeen: make a kilpeen of someone** knock someone senseless.
- kilrickit** *adjective* giddy in behaviour.
[*Cf.* *caleery* and Scots *hallirackit* (from Scots and Northern English *hallock* "a giddy young woman", origin unknown).]
- kilt:**
- kilt** *see* kill.
- **kiltie** *noun* a Highland soldier wearing a kilt.
- kimeens** *noun plural* antics, capers, tricks.
[Irish *caimín* "a trick", formed on *cam* (*see* cam²) "crookedness, fault" + diminutive ending *-ín*.]
- kimlin, kemlin** *noun* a small wooden tub in which butter is made up.
[Obsolete in Standard English (latterly Northern English), origin unknown.]
- kimmer** *verb, only* **kimmering** tidying up, finishing off various little jobs.
[Irish *timireacht*, *see* timerish.]
- kimsil** *noun* a noisy quarrel *Co. Donegal.*
[Origin unknown.]
- kin** *see* kind.
- kin** *noun, used of a single person* a relative [archaic in Standard English].
- **be kin to** be related to.
 - **next kin to** almost, very nearly *e.g. Next kin to a fool.*

kinch *noun* **1** a loop, a noose, a twist in a rope. **2** an opportunity. **3** an unfair advantage, *usually* **take a kinch at**

□ **kinch knot** a type of knot.

[Mainly Scots; a mistakenly "corrected" form of English *kink*, on the model of Scots *bink* = Standard English *bench*, etc.]

kinchragerlen *noun* a small fish found in rock pools *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

kind, kine *noun, also kin* **1** kind. **2** of any kind *e.g. I haven't got a pin kind*.

◆ *adjective* **1 kind of** or **for** natural to *e.g. It's kind of a kitten to kill a mouse*. **2 of land** fertile, easily worked.

◆ *adverb* kindly.

□ **a kind o** "kind o'", rather *e.g. I was thinkin it was a kind o late*.

□ **by kind** by nature, naturally *e.g. She has it by kind i.e. she is naturally gifted*.

□ **God save you! God save you kindly!, God bless ye kindly!** a pious greeting (and reply).

□ **(he's) that mangle (etc) (he) wudnae gee ye a kine lukk** proverbial expression of meanness.

□ **kind father for** natural to *e.g. It's kind father for him to be a good worker*.

□ **kind father kind son** "like father, like son".

□ **kindly, kinely; comparative; more kinelier** **1** kindly. **2** healthy, well *e.g. How are you? Kindly, thank you*.

□ **kindness** **1** a small gift. **2** a hot drink given to a newly-calved cow.

□ **take it kind** or **kindly (of someone)** count it as a favour (from someone); accept something as well-meant.

[Scots and English dialectal form *kine*, Scots and Northern English also *kin*. See also *unkine*.]

kinel *see* cineal.

king, keeng *noun* a king.

□ **in the kingdom come** in the future state; in heaven; in a state of happiness.

□ **kingdom: kingfisher** a bird: **(a)** the dipper *Cinclus cinclus*; *cf. hen*; **(b)** the common tern *Sterna hirundo*. *Illustration see fish*; **(c)** the grey heron *Ardea cinerea*.

□ **king-gull** the great black-backed gull *Larus marinus*.

□ **King Harry** a bird: the redpoll *Carduelis flammea*. *Illustration see thorn*.

□ **king of glory!** an exclamation of surprise.

□ **king of the mullet** a fish: the bass *Labrex lupus*.

□ **king of the wood** a plant similar to the sun-dew *Dronera rotundifolia*.

□ **king's coach** or **cushion** a way of carrying a person: two people cross hands and grasp each other's wrists to form a seat.

□ **king's head** a "queen's head", a postage stamp.

□ **king's land** *in children's games* home, the place where a player cannot be touched.

□ **king's rod** a constellation: Orion's belt [translation of Irish *slat an ri*].

□ **king wigeon** a bird: the wigeon *Anas penelope*.

□ **new kings new laws** change of masters means new regulations.

□ **would not call the king your father, uncle** *etc.* be very satisfied.

[Scots form *keeng*.]

kingkisheen *see* kinkashay.

kink, keenk *verb* **1** catch the breath convulsively, *especially* in whooping-cough. **2** choke, cough uncontrollably. **3** choke with laughter.

◆ *noun* **1** a catch of the breath, *especially* the sound of whooping-cough.

2 an uncontrollable fit of laughing, crying or coughing; *specifically* a fit of the whooping cough. **3 in kinks** doubled up with laughter.

□ **kink-well** a certain spring reputed to cure chincough.

[Scots and Northern English *kink*, Scots also *keenk*; from Low German

kinken "to breathe with difficulty"; *cf.* *chincough*.]

kink¹ *noun* **1** a twist, a knot, a loop (in a chain, thread or rope). **2** a crease, fold. **3** a deficiency or warp in someone's character. **4** *figuratively* a defect, a hindrance (*e.g.* in your memory) *e.g.* *I hev a kink in my power o' remembrance.*

kinkashay, kingkisheen *noun* a person born on Whit Sunday, considered unlucky, and fated to slay or be slain.

[Irish *cinciseach*, **cincísín*.]

kinnle, kennel *verb* kindle.

□ **kinnlin, kinlin, kenlin**, *also* **kinlins, kinnlin sticks, kinnlin o fire** kindling for a fire.

[Scots forms.]

kiow *see* *keo*.

kip *noun*, *applied to a room, house, etc.* a "rubbish tip", a mess.

[English slang "a doss-house", perhaps influenced in sense by "tip".]

kipeen, kippen, kippin *noun* **1** *also* **kippuch** a small stick. **2** *specifically* a stick used as kindling.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *cipín*.]

kippage *noun* a state of uncontrollable rage or excitement *e.g.* *She flew into a kippage.*

[Scots "a crew; disorder; a state of anger or excitement"; from French *équipage*, which also gives Standard English *equippage*.]

kippen *see* *kipeen*.

kippie-bag *see* *kib*.

kippin *see* *kipeen*.

kipple *see* *couple*.

kippuch *see* *kipeen*.

kippy *noun* hopscotch.

kirk *noun* a church, *usually specifically* a Presbyterian church.

□ **at kirk and market** everywhere; at all times.

□ **kirk session** the body of elected elders of a Presbyterian church.

□ **kirkyard, kirkyard** a churchyard; *see* *yerd*.

□ **the nearer the kirk the further from God**

[Scots and Northern English; from Old Norse *kirkja*, corresponding to Old English *circe*, which gives *church*.]

Kirkmarellie *proper noun* local name of Kirkinriola.

kirtle *noun* a woman's outer petticoat or short skirt.

kish *see* *kesh*.

kishan, kishawn *see* *cushen*.

kishogue *noun* a creel, one of a pair of panniers for transporting peat by donkey. *Illustration see* *bardock*.

[Irish *ciseog*, from *cis* (*see* *kesh*) + diminutive ending *-óg*.]

kiss

□ **kissing: kissing-bough, kissing-bunch, kissing-bush** a bunch of holly *etc.* hung up at Christmas time.

□ **kissing the devil in the dark** leaping before one looks.

□ **kiss thumbs!, kiss thooms!** meaning "we are both alike".

□ **many a one kisses for the wean of the nurse, kissing the wean for the love of the nurse** meaning unknown.

□ **not worth a kiss** of little value.

□ **rub off like a weaver's kiss, go off you like a waver's (spider's) kiss** a spider hanging on a thread; meaning unknown; refers to some manual operation formerly known to weavers.

□ **troth I wouldn't kiss your betters and that's Davy Donovan's dog** expression of utter contempt.

kiss-kiss *exclamation* a call to a dog.

[Onomatopoeic.]

kist *noun* a chest, a large box.

□ **kist o drawers** a chest of drawers.

□ **kist o whistles** an organ.

[Scots and Northern English; from Old Norse *kista*, corresponding to Old English *cest*, which gives *chest* (see *chist*).]

kit *noun* **1** the entire number or quantity. *generally the whole* **kit 2** a small barrel for butter.

kitach *see* kittagh.

kitch *noun* a habitual gesture; a confirmed habit *Co. Armagh*.

[Origin unknown.]

kitchen *noun* anything served along with bread or potatoes *also*, *proverbial* **hunger's good kitchen**

◆ *verb* **1** season, give a relish to (food). **2** savour (food) fully; make (enjoyable food) last. **3** serve out sparingly. **4** *figuratively* **kitchen your work** spend more time than necessary, taking breaks to smoke, gossip, *etc.*

□ **butter to butter's no kitchen, bread to bread's nae kitchen** said of two girls dancing together or of two young people of the same sex going out for a stroll together.

□ **eat your potatoes without kitchen** *generally* go without.

□ **house kitchen** kitchen kept for emergencies.

□ **two kitchens to one bread, that's waste** a reproof to someone eating butter and jam on bread.

kitchy kitchy kaw *exclamation* said to a baby when tossing it in your arms.

kite *see* kyte.

kite *noun* a bird: (a) the buzzard *Buteo buteo*; (b) the hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*. *Illustration see* glede.

[In Standard English, a different bird, *Milvus milvus*, not found in Ireland.]

kith *noun* a relative by marriage.

□ **kith and kin** friends and blood relatives.

kit-handed *adjective* left-handed; *cf.* kittagh.

kither, kitherplak *see* kitter.

kithog *see* kittog.

kitig *see* keedug.

kitler *see* kitter.

kitling, kittling, kitlin *noun* a kitten.

□ **a noggin of could kitlins** a name for flummery.

□ **as shiny as a kitling's eye under a bed**

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), from Old Norse *ketlingr*. *See also* kittle¹.]

kitock, kitogue *see* kittog.

kittachan *noun* a left-handed person.

[Irish *ciotachán*, formed on *ciotach* (see *kittagh*).]

kittagh, kitach, citach, kittaw, kitty *adjective, also* **kittagh-fisted,**

kittagh-handed 1 left-handed. **2** awkward.

◆ *noun* **1** the left hand and arm. **2** a left-handed person.

□ **give with the kittagh hand** give in a stingy way.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *ciotach*. *See also* kit-handed, kittachan, kitter, kittog.]

kitter, kither *noun* **1** *also* **kitter-fist, kitter-paw, kitherplak, kitler** a left-handed person. **2** a fool.

□ **as mad as kitterty**

□ **kitter-fisted, kitter-handed, kitter-pawed 1** left-handed. **2** awkward, clumsy.

□ **kittery, kitterty, kitterdy** *adjective 1* *also* **kittery-handed,**

kittery-pawed, kittery-fisted left-handed. **2** awkward. **3** foolish.

4 irritable, cross; over-sensitive; *cf.* kittle².

◆ *noun* **1** the left hand. **2** a fool, someone not in possession of his or her full senses. **3** someone who is easily angered, an irritable person. **4** a giddy, flighty female.

□ **left-kitter** *noun*:

Cf. kittagh.

kitteryweary *noun* a bird: the redshank *Tringa totanus*; *cf.* cuttyweery.

kittle¹ *verb* **1** of a cat, also of a rabbit or hare give birth; also figuratively, of a woman. **2** of fish give birth to live young.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal) "to have kittens"; either derived from *kitling*, or from Old Norse *kjetla*.]

kittle² *verb* **1** tickle. **2** irritate, provoke, annoy.

◆ *adjective* **1** easily tickled. **2** over-sensitive, apt to show resentment. **3** of a person difficult to manage. **4** also **kittlesome** of a horse or cow skittish, nervous, excitable.

□ **kittle cattle** *figuratively* creatures who are difficult to manage, usually applied to the opposite sex [also adopted in Standard English].

[Scots and English dialectal, from Old Norse *kitla*.]

kitling *see* kitling.

kittog, **kittogue**, **kitogue**, **cittoge**, **kithog**, **ketogue**, **kitock** *noun* **1** also

kittog-fist a left-handed person. **2** the left hand.

◆ *adjective* **1** also **kittog-fisted** left-handed. **2** awkward.

□ **give with the kittog hand** give with the kittagh hand.

□ **kittog-fist**, **kittig-fist**, **kitthug-hand**: *adjective*

◆ *noun*

[Hiberno-English *kittogue*, from Irish *ciotóg*, itself from *ciot* "the left hand" + diminutive ending *-óg*. *See also* kittagh.]

kitty *see* kittagh.

kitty: **kitty finger** the little finger.

□ **kitty wren** the wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*; *cf.* chit. *Illustration see* tit².

kive *see* keeve.

kiver *noun, verb* cover.

[General dialectal and Scots form, from Old French (*je*) *ceuvre*.

Standard English is from the infinitive form *cuvrir*. *Cf.* cair.]

kiverty-coys *noun plural, Co. Donegal* **1** capers, antics. **2** useless things, childish things. **3** ornamental fripperies.

[*Cf.* English *cavort* and *keo*.]

kivie: **on the kivie** on the *qui vive*, on the alert *Co. Donegal*.

klitthertum-klatthertum *noun* a name for a loom.

knab *see* knob.

knab, **nab** *noun* **1** a "nob", a man of importance. **2** a conceited person.

□ **his knabs, his nabs** **1** "his nibs", an important man. **2** *ironic* describing someone who has over-reached himself. **3** *euphemism* the devil. **4** *playing cards* the joker.

□ **knabs, nabs**: **nabby** "nobby", smart, dapper.

[Scots, possibly the same word as *knob*. The similar English slang *your nabs* and *his nibs* are of unknown origin, and may be related.]

knab¹ *verb* catch, seize.

knab² *verb* snatch; steal.

knack¹ *verb* make a sharp, clicking sound.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), from Middle Low German *knaken* "strike (things together so as to produce a sharp noise)". **Knack**² is possibly the same word.]

knack²: **knack a the mug** dexterity at playing marbles.

□ **knackery** knavery, trickery.

□ **knacky, knawky, knacksy, nacksy, nawkie, knackety** **1** knacky, deft, skilful; resourceful. **2** cunning, crafty.

See also **knack**¹.

knack³: **new knacks new laws** *proverbial* change of masters means new laws.

knacker *noun* a dealer in horses for slaughter.

knap¹, **nap** *verb* **1** strike lightly, tap; *specifically* knock at (a door). **2** strike

sharply; stub (a toe). **3** strike repeated blows (*e.g.* with a hammer).

4 break (stones for road-making).

◆ *noun* a blow, a rap, a tap; a knock.

□ **hard as knap stones** very tough.

□ **knapper** a small hammer for breaking stones.

[*Knap* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal) "to tap; to break into pieces with a sharp blow"; onomatopoeic, *cf.* Dutch and Low German *knappen* "to break with a sharp crack".]

knap², nap *noun* a hill.

□ **knaperty, naperty** a wild flower: bitter vetchling *Lathyrus montanus* [*knap* (from the tubers) + *wort* + -y].

[Scots, also Southern English, form of archaic English *knop* "a knob"; from Old Norse *knappr* and Middle Dutch *cnop*, Middle Low German *knoppe*.]

knapsack-breed *noun* a term for a child born to a serving soldier.

knawky *see* knack².

knee *noun* a joint in a piece of straw.

□ **find a straw with nine knees**

□ **knee-cap** *of terrorists* punish by shooting in the knee.

□ **knee-crooking** lacking in spirit.

□ **work knee or bench** *of a shoe-maker* work either on his knee or on the bench.

knipe *noun* a piece of fireclay used in making crocks.

knirls *see* knur.

knitting: **mind your own knitting** mind your own business.

knivil:

knob, nob, knab, nab *noun* **1** a knob. **2** *cookery* a pig's knee or heel.

3 *also nobbin (a)* a raised hillock in a field; **(b)** a small hill.

□ **knobbly** *also knobby* *of a surface* rough, uneven.

[Scots form *knab*.]

knock¹: **dressed up to the knocker** first-rate.

□ **knock about** go about, move around.

□ **knock-beetle** **1** a stone. **2** an insignificant fellow who allows himself to be pushed about.

□ **knocked up** ill.

□ **Knock-em-down** *nickname* McNeill of Larne, who sold very strong whiskey.

□ **knocker**:

□ **knocking-stone, knocking-trough** a large stone mortar, a stone with a scooped-out hollow, used **(a)** for roughly grinding barley; **(b)** for pounding green furze as fodder for horses. [ILLUS: knockg/s]

□ **knock it in the head** 'stop it at once'.

□ **knock out** produce *e.g. Nettles knock out hives*.

□ **knock out a living** make a subsistence.

□ **knock out your livin**

□ **knock someone's skull down to the waistband of his breeches,**

knock someone into the middle of next week

□ **the smell wud knock ye down**

knock² *noun* a hill.

[Irish *cnoc*.]

knock³ *noun* an exchange, a bargain.

knog *noun* a small wooden keg.

[*Cf.* Standard English *nog* "a small block of wood", origin unknown.]

knoit, noit *noun* **1** *also nutyin, nutyeen, nudyan* a bunion (a swelling at the first joint of the big toe) [*nutyin, nutyeen, nudyan, etc.* possibly influenced by *bunion*]. **2** a hillock. **3** a blockhead, an idiot. **4** an insignificant person.

[Scots "a big bit; a sturdily-built person", altered form of *knot*.]

knot *noun* a bed (of flowers, *etc.*).

- ◆ *verb* come into bud, *thus knotted for flowering* in bud.
- **a knot on the puddin** an obstruction.
- **knotless**: **knotless thread** a feckless person; a person who can't be relied on in an emergency.
- **knotted**:
- **knotted wrack** a seaweed: **egg wrack**, *Ascophyllum nodosum*.
- **knotty** of *porridge, etc.* lumpy.
- **like a knotless thread** "at a loose end", not usefully occupied.
- **tie a knot with the tongue which the teeth can't loose** get married.

See also knoit.

knot¹ *noun* a bird: the ringed plover.

know *see* knowe.

know *verb*: *past tense and past participle* **knowed**.

- **d'ye know, d'ye know what A'm going to tell ye** used in introducing a remark.
- **he doesn't know what he has** expressing how rich someone is.
- **I'm towl' by them that knows** said to give weight to a statement.
- **I wud know his hide or skin on a bush**
- **know a thing or two, know how many banes (beans) make five** be cute; be shrewd.
- **knowing, knowin, noan** *noun* the least amount *e.g. Just a wee knowin of milk in the tea; cf. ken.*
- **knowledgeable, comparative knowledgeable** knowing, shrewd, cunning.
- **know-nathin** a know-nothing, an ignoramus; *see* no¹.
- **know what's stickin' ti' ye** be painfully aware of someone's retribution.
- **not know a know** *emphatic* not know at all, *thus the divil a know I know, hang the know I know, not a know I know, also not a know I do.*
- **not know what money you're worth, not know what you're worth** have plenty of money.
- **what you might know, what you could know** the least detectable amount (*e.g. of sugar in tea*); a very small amount of alcohol.
- **what you would know** appreciably *e.g. He felt what you would know better.*

[Past tense and past participle: English dialectal *knowed*.]

knowe, know, knowl *noun* **1** a knoll, a hillock. **2** *also* **knowe head** the crest of a hill.

[Scots and Northern English form *knowe, know*; English dialectal also *knowl*.]

knuck *see* neuk².

knuckle *noun* a measure of thread, from the tip to the knuckle of the second finger.

- ◆ *verb* measure thread with the knuckle.
- **knuckle down** *in playing marbles* shoot with knuckles on the ground.
- **knuckle in** *in playing marbles* no "span" allowed.
- **knuckle up** *in playing marbles* shoot with knuckles off the ground.

knule-kneed, nool-kneed *adjective* knock-kneed.

[Scots; formed on Scots *knule* "a knob; a swelling", possibly from Low German *knulle* "a knob, a lump".]

knur, nurr, nirr, nyirr *noun* **1** *also* **knur-nag** a wooden ball, *especially* the ball used in the game of hurling. **2** a stunted animal or thing. **3** a small, insignificant person or thing. **4** a wizened person. **5** a small, ugly person. **6** a bad-tempered person; a cantankerous person.

- **knirls, nirls, nerls** **1** *also* **nerl-pox** chicken-pox. **2** *loosely* any disease producing a rash.
- **nurred, nurled** stunted.
- **nyirl** *noun* a derogatory term for a person: a **knur**.

[The same word as Standard English *knur* "a knot on a tree trunk"; Scots forms *nirr, nyirr*. Scots and Northern English also extended form

nirls. See also gnarl², nargie.]

koit-koit-koit *exclamation* a call to cows.

kow *see* keo.

krenagh *see* cranagh.

krittity *adjective* touchy, irritable; cross; *cf.* crut.

kue-te-kue *noun* a bird: the great tit.

kusick: **not worth a kusick** not worth anything.

kwai, kwalt, kwalth *see* twelve.

kwap *see* cope.

kwid *see* could.

kwy *noun* a female calf.

kwy *see* quey.

kyar *see* car².

kyart *see* cart.

kybe *see* keeb.

kye *see* cow¹.

kyle *verb* economise.

□ **kylin** the act of economising.

[*Cf.* Irish *caolú* "to reduce".]

kyo *see* keo.

kyoch *adjective, of food* inedible: (a) raw, not fully cooked. (b) stale.

kytch, keitch *noun* **1** an upward jerk. **2** a lift up.

◆ *verb* jerk upwards.

□ **kytchin** a shaking about on a bumpy road.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

kyte, kite *noun* the stomach, the belly.

[Scots and Northern English, *cf.* Middle Low German *kūt* "entrails".]

kyte¹ *adjective* not wise.

kythe *verb* come to light.

[Scots, from Old English *eȝðan* "to make known".]

kyutor *noun* a tutor.

laach *see* laugh.

laanch *verb* launch.

□ **launch out** spend money freely.

[Old pronunciation (still Northern English).]

lab *see* lob.

lab *verb* lob, throw, hit (*e.g.* a ball).

◆ *noun* a game of marbles.

[Scots form.]

labber *verb* slabber; slurp.

[Scots, apparently an extended form of Scots *lab*, itself an alteration of *lap*; but *cf.* Low German *labberen* "to lap".]

labour *verb* cultivate, till, dig.

□ **labour in vain, like suppin' sowans wi' a knittin' needle**

□ **labour-ian'** land fit for cultivation.

□ **labour-man** a labourer.

□ **laboursome** laborious.

labscouse *noun* "lobscouse", "scouse", a stew.

[Hiberno-English form.]

labster, lapsther *noun* a lobster.

□ **as red as a labster's cla', that a chile cuts its teeth wi'**

[Scots, also Hiberno-English, form *labster*; Scots also *lapster*.]

lace: **lacer** a shoelace.

□ **lace someone's jacket** "lace", beat up, thrash someone.

□ **lacing** **1** a beating, a flogging. **2** a scolding.

lachter *see* laghter.

lachy *see* laughy.

lackin *see* leak.

lacklea *noun* a hard pan of subsoil, a channel.

lad *noun* **1** anything extreme of its kind *e.g.* *That's the lad of a day, i.e. a very bad day; cf. boy. 2 in plural, euphemism lice.*

- **laddie** *familiar or affectionate* a lad.
- **lad's love** a shrub: southernwood *Artemisia abrotanum*.

ladder *noun* a larder.

[Old form.]

laddi-da, lawdy-daw *noun* a fellow who acts the gentleman, a dandy *e.g. a laddi-da of a fella.*

lade *see* lead¹.

lade¹ *noun* **1** *also* mill-lade a lead, a mill-race (a waterway supplying a mill-wheel). **2** a tail-race (a channel to draw off water from a mill-wheel).

3 the gullet, the throat.

- **mill lade, mill lead** the canal or trench which carries the water of a river or pond down to a mill.

[Scots, from Old English *lād* "a waterway". *Lade* can also occur as a form of lead¹.]

lade² *verb* bale out, empty (water) by scooping it.

[Now only in technical senses in Standard English, from Old English *hladan*.]

laden *see* load.

ladle: *nivver hev t' look for the ladle when the pot's boilin, nivver hev t' look for the ladle when the pot's on the fire* be prepared, take proper precautions.

lady: lady-beetle a ladybird.

- **lady duck** the pintail *Anas acuta*.
- **lady or lady's finger(s)** a wild flower: the foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*. *Illustration see* sheegie.
- **lady lintwhite** a bird: the whitethroat *Sylvia communis*; *see* line².
- **Lady Muck from Clabber-hill** "Lady Muck", a name for a snobbish woman; *see* clabber.
- **lady-pans** the shells or valves of the window oyster *Monia patelliformis*.
- **lady's comb** a fern: common polypody *Polypodium vulgare*.
- **lady's day** Lady Day, March 25th.
- **lady's mantle** *Alchemilla vulgaris*.
- **lady's thimble** a wild flower: the harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*.
- **lady wrack** a seaweed: horned wrack *Fucus ceranoides*.

laer *noun* a layer.

lafe *see* lave, leaf.

Lá Fheil Muire *literally* Mary's festival day: Assumption Day.

lafler *noun* a scraw spade.

laft *see* loft.

lag *see* lig².

lag¹ *noun* **1** a loose handful of hay. **2** a small quantity of wool.

[Shetland; shortened form of *laget*, from Norn *lagat* "a tuft".]

lag² *noun, frequently* *oul' lag* a lazy, idle person.

- **lag-a-bag** a lag [probably *lag + aback*].
- **lag-lost** a lag-last, someone who is always late.

lagger, laiger, legger *verb* **1** bespatter. **2** wade through mud.

◆ *noun* a sticky substance, such as porridge or grease; a spot of such a substance.

- **laggerit, legged** **1** bespattered. **2** covered (in mud).

[Scots *lagger, laiger*; origin unknown.]

laggin, leggin *noun* **1** the projecting parts of the staves at the bottom of a barrel. **2** *in plural, loosely* the staves of a barrel. **3** the projecting part of a churn above the lid. **4** the angle or space between the bottom of a barrel, churn or similar wooden container, and the edge resting on the ground.

[ILLUS: laggin]

[Scots and Northern English *laggin*, Scots also *leggin*; formed on

obsolete Standard English *lag* "a stave of a barrel", from Old Norse *logg*.
See also *lip*, *lug*.]

lagh, yagh *noun* a seaweed: (a) *Laminaria dystata*. (b) *Laminaria bulbosa*.
lagheryman *see* loughryman.

laghter, lachter, lauchter; larter *Co. Tyrone; noun* **1** a clutch of eggs; a sitting of eggs, *i.e.* thirteen. **2** a brood of chickens, ducks, *etc.*

3 *figuratively* a crowd (of people).

[Irish *lachtar*, Tyrone Irish also *lartar*, "a clutch; a brood"; also Scots *lachter*. Old Norse **lahtr, látr* "the lair of an animal" has been suggested as the source of both the Scots word and the Irish word.]

laghy *see* laughy.

lag-lag, leg-leg, lig-lag *exclamation* **1** a call to geese. **2** *also* **soo leg-leg!** said to shoo geese away.

◆ *verb* **lig-lag** gossip loudly.

[English dialectal and South-Western Scots *lag*, South-Western Scots also *leg, lig* "a call to geese"; Scots *lig-lag* to chatter; possibly of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *laga* "to chatter".]

lagonish *exclamation* never you mind; mind your own business.

lahotch, lahoatch *noun, Co. Donegal* **1** anything big and awkward.

2 *specifically* a fat, unwieldy woman.

[Origin unknown.]

laid *see* load.

laid, leed *noun* the lead (of a pencil).

□ **leed pencil** a lead pencil.

[Older form in Scots and English *laid*, Scots and Northern English *leed*.]

laiger *see* lagger.

laigh, laich *adjective* low.

◆ *verb* **laich yersel out** stretch yourself out.

◆ *preposition* at the foot of (a hill, *etc.*).

[Scots form of *low*.]

laimeter *see* lameter.

laimity *exclamation* a disguised oath; *cf.* *jaminy*.

lain¹, lair *noun* a crowd *e.g.* *There was a lain of people at the wake.*

lain² *verb* sit *e.g.* *Your reverence is kindly welcome. Will you come forrad to the fire and lain down.*

lained *see* lay¹.

lainity *noun* lenity, leniency *Co. Antrim*.

lair *verb* **1** become bogged down, stick fast in mud, snow, *etc.* **2** wallow.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *leir* "mud".]

lair¹ *noun* an enclosure to protect cattle sleeping outdoors.

lait *see* lythe.

laith *see* lythe.

laith *adjective* loath, reluctant.

[Scots and Northern English form. *Cf.* *loathing*.]

laivins *see* leave.

lake *see* leak, like¹.

lale-tat *noun* a blow.

lally *noun* a lollipop.

lam *verb* beat up, thrash.

◆ *noun* a thump, a heavy blow.

□ **lambaste, lam-beest** beat.

□ **lambastin** a beating.

lamb: in three shakes of a lamb's lug in a very short time.

□ **lambie, lammie** **1** a term of endearment. **2** an egg-flip.

□ **lamb's quarter** a wild flower: the common wild orache *Atriplex patula*.

□ **lamb's tails** the catkins of the willow tree.

□ **the lamb teaches its mother to bleat**

Lambeg *noun, also in full Lambeg drum* a very large, loud drum now associated with Loyalist demonstrations.

[Named after Lambeg in Co. Antrim.]

lame: **lamendhar** someone laid aside by an accident.

- **lamester** a lame person, a cripple.
- **lameters are gamesters** lame or deformed people are given to retaliate gamely.

lamentable *adjective* unpleasant, disagreeable *e.g. The smell of the fish was most lamentable.*

◆ *adverb* lamentably, dreadfully *e.g. lamentable wet.*

lameter, lamiter, laimeter *noun* **1** a lame person, a cripple. **2** a deformed person.

[Scots and Northern English, from Scots *lamit* "lamed" + *-er*.]

Lammas: **Lammas-apple** an early variety of apple ripening about Lammas (August 1st).

- **Lammas Day** August 1st.
- **Lammas fair** a fair held at the beginning of August.
- **Lammas flood** a heavy flood around the beginning of August.
- **Lammas night** the night of August 1st.
- **Lammas plumps** heavy showers around the beginning of August; *see* plump.
- **latter Lammas** an impossibly long time, never *e.g. I'll do it against latter-Lammas.*

lammie *see* lamb.

lamord *noun* a large hammer, a sledge-hammer.

[Irish *lámhord*, from *lámh* "a hand" + *ord* "a sledge-hammer".]

lamp¹ *verb* stride, walk quickly.

[Scots and English dialectal; possibly of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *lampa* "to trudge". *See also* lamp².]

lamp² *verb* limp.

lamper eel *noun* the lampern or river lamprey, *Lampetra fluviatilis*.

lance *noun* a lancet.

◆ *verb* throw.

land, lan' *noun* **1** land. **2** a townland, a district.

◆ *verb* **land in on** descend upon, visit unannounced.

- **keep land in** keep land in cultivation.
- **land barnacle** the brent goose *Branta bernicla*; *cf.* barnacle.
- **land-drake** a bird: the corncrake *Crex crex*.
- **landed** *figuratively* "made", assured of success.
- **lander**:
- **landfall** a windfall (of fruit).
- **land horse** *ploughing* the horse that walks on the unploughed land. *Illustration see* fur.
- **land march** a boundary; *see* march.
- **land mouse** the shrew [the only species found in Ireland is the pygmy shrew *Sorex minutus*]. *Illustration see* screw.
- **land rail** the corncrake *Crex crex*.
- **land reek** a mist rising from the ground; *see* reek.
- **land's-end, land-end** *ploughing* the headland, the strip at the end of the field where the horses or tractor turn. *Illustration see* hind.
- **send someone a lander** pitch someone head-over-heels.

[Scots and English dialectal form *lan'*.]

lane *see* lone.

lang *see* along¹, long.

langel *see* langle.

langens *noun plural* parts of cut potatoes of no use for seed *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown, also in Irish as *langáin*.]

langer *see* long.

langige *noun* language, a language.

[Scots form with *ng* pronounced as in "bang", not as in "anger".]

langle, langel, lanyell, lengel *noun* **1** a tether used to hobble an animal.

2 *figuratively* a long, thin man; *cf.* **lingel**.

◆ **verb** hobble (an animal). [ILLUS: **langle**]

□ **get or go out of the langle** *figuratively* go on the spree.

□ **langled** hobbled.

□ **sheep's langle** a short piece of rope with a slip knot on each end passed over the fore and hind legs of a sheep to hobble it.

□ **side-langeled** hobbled with a **side-langle**.

□ **side-langle** a **langle** used on horses and cattle, connecting a foreleg and a hindleg, as opposed to the two forelegs; *cf.* **illustration** at 1 *above*.

[Scots and Northern English; either from Old French **langle* (itself from Latin *lingula* "a thong", *cf.* **lingel**); or of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *langhelda* literally "long hold".]

langsome, langsyne *see* **long**.

languor: **langersome** slow, tedious.

lant, lanty *verb* scold.

◆ **noun** a scold.

[*Cf.* Scots *lant* "to jeer at, to make a fool of", Westmoreland "to beat, get the better of"; from Scots and Northern English *lant*, short for *lanterloo* (now called *loo*) "a card game", itself from French *lanturlu* "a meaningless refrain to a song".]

lanthorn, lantrin, lenter, lenthern *noun* a lantern.

[Old forms *lanthorn* (still Southern English), *lantrin*.]

lanty *see* **lant**.

lanya walya *noun* a good deal (of a liquid).

lanyell *see* **langle**.

lap *verb* **1** roll (hay) into a loose bundle for drying. **2 lap up** *figuratively* embellish a story or explanation so as to make it more enjoyable or understandable to the hearer.

◆ **noun** **1** a lapcole. **2** *rare* a small haycock; a medium-sized haycock.

□ **lapcock** **1** a small haycock. **2** a lapcole.

□ **lapcole** the first small roll into which hay is gathered; *see* **coil**.

Illustration *see* **hedge**¹.

□ **lapping, lappin** a lapcole.

lap-cole *see* **coil**.

lappeen *noun* a bird: the lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. *Illustration* *see* **top**.

[Medieval Anglo-Irish; from Old English *hlēapewince*, altered as if containing the Irish diminutive ending *-ín*. Standard English has altered the word as if from *lap* + *wing*.]

lapper *noun* a handkerchief.

lapped *adjective* clotted; *of blood* coagulated.

[Scots; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Old Norse *hløypa* "to curdle milk".]

lappin, lapping *see* **lap**.

lapsther *see* **labster**.

lar *noun* lard *Mid Ulster*.

larach *noun* the site or foundation of a building.

[Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *l'àrach* (corresponding to Irish *láithreach*).]

large: **large pile** the intermediate hay-heap.

□ **larger fork cock** the penultimate hay-heap.

□ **larger handcock** the medial hay-heap.

lark¹ *noun* a person who is fond of a "lark".

□ **larky** fond of fun.

□ **larky boy** a fellow who is fond of a lark.

□ **on the lark** indulging in a lark.

lark², **laverock, lavrock, larrack, levrock, leverock** *noun* a bird: the lark *Alauda arvensis*.

□ **if the lift fall ye maun gather larks, when the sky falls, ye'll catch**

larks said to someone who is always wondering what to do if such-and-such should happen.

□ **lark-heeled** **1** having projecting heels, supposed to be a sign of a good

singer. **2** nimble.

□ **lark heels** projecting heels on a person.

□ **lesser field lark** a bird: the meadow pipit.

[Scots and Northern English forms *larrack*, *laverock*, Scots also *levrock*, *leverock*. *Laverock* also accepted in Standard English.]

larn, larnin, larning *see* learn.

larrack *see* lark².

larrup *verb* beat up, thrash.

□ **larruping** a beating, a thrashing.

larter *see* laghter.

lase *noun* a lease, a contract of letting.

□ **beyond the lease** of a person's age over the "three score and ten"
e.g. three years beyon' the lase.

□ **forever lease:**

[Older form in Scots and English.]

lash *noun* **1** a stroke with the **tawse**. **2** a heavy fall of rain; a dash or fall of water. **3** *also in plural* **lashes** a large number or amount.

◆ *verb* **1** perform an action violently; *specifically* (a) rush *e.g. She lashed up the stairs*; (b) throw something down violently; (c) **lash rings round you** vomit violently; (d) **lash off** or **up** vomit up, bring up. **2** lash out, spend money freely. **3** thresh (grain) by holding a sheaf and beating the heads against a stone or other surface.

□ **lasher**, *also ee-lasher* an eyelash; *see* eye.

□ **lashing, lashin** *noun, in plural, especially of food* plenty, an abundance, a large amount.

◆ *adjective, of a person or thing* strapping; large.

□ **lashings and leavings, lashins an lavins** **1** plenty and to spare.

2 either **lashings or leavings** either a feast or a famine. *See* leave.

□ **like a man's whate: in want of a lashin**

lass *noun* **1** *also lassie* a girl; a young woman. **2** a maid-servant.

last: lasty lasting, of an enduring nature.

□ **till the last day in the afternoon** never.

last¹: that's what the cobbler killed his wife with - the last, the last, what the cobbler beat the wife with said when finishing a job of work.

□ **the last what killed Ned** said when something is accomplished after several unsuccessful attempts.

laste *see* least.

lat *noun* a lot.

lat *see* lath.

latchico *noun* an undesirable fellow, a ruffian.

[*Cf.* Scots *latch* "indolence; an idle person", from Old French *laschier* "to relax".]

late *adjective* **late of** late in (doing something).

□ **a late road** a road that is dangerous to travel at night.

□ **late on** very late.

□ **latesome** rather late.

□ **you're late, as Paddy said t' the ghost, ye're late, as Paddy Loughran say'd t' the ghost**

lath, lat *noun* **1** a lath. **2** a receptacle formed of laths.

□ **lathy** of a person thin.

[Older form (still Northern English and Southern Scots) *lat*. The Modern Standard English form *lath* may have been influenced by Welsh *llath* "a lath".]

lather, lether, leather *noun* a ladder.

[Scots and English dialectal forms.]

lather¹, lether *verb* **lather it out** spend money freely.

latherin *see* leather.

latitat having the last word.

latitude: out of your latitude **1** highly elated. **2 out of your latitude (for)**

very much in love (with).

latracann, lattrachan, yaghracan, yatethragan *noun* the smaller or common scallop, *Pecten opercularis*.

latracann:

lauch *see* laugh.

lauchter *see* laghter.

lauchy *see* laughy.

laugh, lauch, laach *verb* laugh.

◆ *noun* a laugh.

□ **a lauchin rain that makes fools vain** when rain comes from the south-west with a somewhat clear horizon, with the appearance that the rain would cease in a short time it is called "a lauchin rain," and is believed to last for some time.

□ **laffin-stock** a laughing-stock.

□ **laugh at or with the other side of your face or mouth, laugh with the wrong side of yer face or mouth, laugh at the other side of your mouth** cry; look rueful; regret your present actions or attitude at some future time.

□ **laugh before they cry** said of a variety of potato that burst their skins before they are properly boiled.

□ **laughing of potatoes boiled in their skins** bursting open.

□ **laughing gull** the herring gull *Larus argentatus* [from its cry].

□ **laughing sport 1** a laughing stock *e.g. They made him a laughin sport.*

2 no laughing sport no laughing matter.

□ **laughter** [laa:ftyer] *noun* laughter.

□ **leaughing like an ass eating thistles** *i.e.* against his will.

□ **them that wins laughs, let them laugh 'at wins**

□ **they laugh best who laugh last**

[Scots forms *lauch, laach*. *See also* laughy.]

laughy, laghy, lachy, lauchy, lawky *adjective* **1** good-natured, pleasant; bright, cheerful. **2** handsome, attractive. **3** abundant, plentiful.

4 good-sized, large.

[Irish *láiche* *noun* (earlier *láighche*) "fun, mirth; decentness", *adjective* *lách*.]

launey *exclamation, usually launey, launey* gently, gently *e.g. Launey, launey, Mat dear, dinnae offer me any mair.*

lave *see* leave.

lave¹, lafe *noun* the remainder, the rest.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *lāf*.]

lave² *verb* bale out, empty (water) by scooping it [obsolete in literary English].

lave³ *verb* throw (a ball, stone *etc.*).

laver *verb* haver, slaver.

□ **laveren** bleating or nonsensical, tiresome talk.

laverock *see* lark².

laverock *noun* a leveret, a young hare.

[Northumberland form, influenced by lark².]

Lavery: **you'll be like the fool Laverys, convoy one another till morning**

lavins *see* leave.

lavrock *see* lark².

law, la: **have the law agin someone** take legal action against someone.

□ **law Bible** *Roman Catholic* the Authorized Version of the Bible, as used for taking oaths in a court.

□ **take the law of someone** take legal measures against someone.

[Scots and English dialectal form *la*.]

law¹ *noun* a disguised oath: "Lord". *also* **O law**

lawk: **lawk-e-deery** a disguised oath: "lawk-a-daisy", "Lord" [possibly influenced by *dear*¹].

lawky *see* laughy.

lawn *noun* unploughed land in front of a house.

lawny *see* lonny.

laws *exclamation, also by the laws* expressing surprise *etc.*

lawth conyae *exclamation* an exclamation of surprise or wonder.

lay *see* lea, leave.

lay¹, *past participle* **lained**, *verb 1 of crops* be flattened by wind or rain.

2 re-steel (a plough iron).

◆ *noun* a piece (*e.g.* of cake or an apple).

- **laid by** chronically laid up with illness.
- **lay about you** preach with great elocution.
- **lay a finger on** attack or touch aggressively.
- **lay a hand to** begin work on.
- **lay at** box, strike (someone).
- **lay by** leave aside for future use; save up, hoard.
- **lay down your bone** *or* **lugs** set to work vigorously; *see* lug.
- **laying: laying-ground** the ground on which newly-cut peat is laid.
- **laying-time** the season, about the beginning of November, when sheep are covered by the ram.
- **lay into** attack fiercely.
- **lay it down** use gestures while speaking.
- **lay it home** administer a thrashing.
- **lay it off** give off, speak forcefully.
- **lay off** divide up, share out.
- **lay on** beat up, thrash (someone).
- **lay out** plan out work resolutely.
- **lay-over:**
- **lay-overs for meddlers, and crutches for lame ducks** an answer to over-curious children.
- **lay-poke** the cavity in a goose where the egg is carried; *see* poke¹.
- **lay till again** set to work with renewed force.
- **lay-to** a lean-to building.
- **lay to** *or* **till** do (a thing) vigorously; *see* til.
- **lay yourself out** arrange, plan (to do something).
- **them that lay down with dogs rise up wi' fleas**

See also lie².

lay² *noun* a measure of linen yarn: a lea (three hundred yards, *i.e.* 274.32 metres).

[Older form in Scots and English.]

laylock *noun* a tree: the lilac.

[Old form (still Scots and English dialectal).]

lays: his lays, his lays himself the male head of a household.

[Possibly an alteration of *liege*.]

laze *see* lease².

lazy: as lazy as the Tinker as laid down the budget t' laugh, as lazy as the dog that laid its head agin the wall to bark

- **lazy acre** the lazy bed method of cultivating potatoes.
- **lazy-bed** a cultivation ridge made by turning over sods with the spade, formerly the usual way of preparing the ground for potatoes in particular.
- **Lazy! He was born tired!** reply to the comment that someone is lazy.
- **lazy man's burden** a "lazy man's load", an excessive load carried to save a second journey.

lea *see* leave.

lea, lay: ae lea former pasture on which one crop has been grown; *see* one.

- **lea corn** the first crop of oats after the ploughing up of lea; *see* corn.
- **lea crop** the first crop after the ploughing up of lea.
- **lea ground** land that is lying fallow.
- **lea-rig** *ploughing* an unploughed headland, the strip of land where the horses or tractor turn; *see* rig⁴.

[Both forms, *lea* and *lay*, are accepted in Standard English.]

lead¹, lade *verb* **1** lead. **2** cart home (peat, corn, *etc.*).

◆ *noun* **1** also **mill-lead** a **lade**, a mill-race (a waterway supplying a mill-wheel). **2** the gullet, the throat.

□ **leader** **1** a sinew *e.g. He's hurt wan of the leaders of his leg-sinews.*

2 the shaft-horse of a team; the left-hand horse in ploughing.

□ **leading** the act of carting (peat, *etc.*).

□ **leading-road** **1** *formerly* a road formed by leading horses along it.

2 *now* a major road, a road on which there is heavy traffic. **3** a road giving access to a peat bog.

□ **led** spare, extra. *thus led part* a spare part.

[Older form in Scots and English *lade*.]

lead² *noun* hurry, haste; excitement *Co. Donegal*.

[*Cf.* Orkney and Shetland *leed* "energy, application", from Norn.]

leaf, lafe; *plural leafs*; *noun* **1** a leaf. **2** a blade, a measure of soft fruit, sold wrapped in a cabbage leaf.

◆ *verb* **leaf over** leaf through (a book).

□ **leaf grub** an insect: the froghopper.

[Older form in Scots and English *lafe*. Plural: Scots form *leafs*.]

lea'ins *see* leave.

leak, lake, leck *verb* **1** leak. **2** *of the weather* be wet.

◆ *noun* **1** a leak. **2** a round (of tea), *especially* when the tea-pot is refilled.

□ **a dry May and a lakin' June makes the farmer whistle a merry tune**

□ **leaky**, also **leckin**, **lackin** *of the weather* wet.

□ **leckin-can** a watering-can.

[Older form in Scots and English *lake*, Scots and Northern English *leck*.]

leal *adjective* **1** loyal, faithful. **2** upright, honest, sincere.

[Scots and Northern English form; from Anglo-Norman *leal*

(corresponding to Central and Northern Old French *loial*, which gives Standard English *loyal*).]

lean: as lean as a leek

leanbh, lanna: lanna bought a term of endearment.

leap, lep; *past participle luppen*; *verb* **1** leap. **2** throb.

◆ *noun* a leap.

□ **leppin** *noun* horse jumping.

◆ *adjective* **1** hoaching, infested. **2** *loosely* extremely dirty or smelly.

□ **lep-the-frog** a game: leapfrog.

□ **luppen, leppen** *of a tendon* luppen, torn, strained.

□ **luppen shinnen** a started sinew.

□ **three lepps of a lame louse** very quickly.

[Present tense: Hiberno-English and West Midland English form *lep*.

Past participle: Scots and Northern English form *luppen*. *See also loup*.]

learn, larn *verb* **1** learn. **2** teach, instruct.

□ **larning, larnin** learning, education.

□ **larn someone another road to the peas** not allow someone to do something again; said in correcting someone for doing something wrong.

□ **larn someone the Latin**

[Old form (not Scots) *larn*.]

lease¹ *verb* glean (corn).

[Obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal), from Old English *lesan*.]

lease², lees, laze *noun* **1** weaving the lease (the division of the threads in a warp). **2** *figuratively* order *e.g. I've got things into some sort of lees.*

◆ *verb*, *frequently* **lees out** unravel, disentangle.

□ **get the lees of** **1** get a proper understanding of (something or someone). **2** put (something) into order.

□ **have the lees of something** have an outline understanding of something.

□ **his dhressin's near the lees rods** said of an old man showing rapid signs of decay; be drawing near the end, be unable to last long in the

present state of affairs.

□ **leasing** a twisted thread of cotton or flax used for tying **cuts** of linen yarn.

□ **lees rod** *weaving* a lease-rod (a rod used to divide the threads of a warp). [ILLUS: lees/rod/P]

□ **lose the lees** **1** lose the thread of an argument. **2** lose the order of something.

□ **not make any lees of** not make any sense of *e.g. Ye couldnae mak any lees o what she's sayin.*

[Scots and Northern English form *leeze*, Yorkshire form *laze*.]

leash *noun* a long piece of rope or twine.

least, laste *adjective* least.

◆ *noun* the least.

□ **leastways, leastway** at least, at any rate.

[Older form in Scots and English *laste*.]

leather *see* lather.

leather *see* lether.

leather: a long strap of another man's leather said when someone is careless with another's property.

□ **give him or her a leather medal** *ironic* said when someone shows stupidity.

□ **latherin** a beating, a thrashing.

□ **leather-backs** a variety of apple.

□ **leather-bat, leather-bird, leather-wing, leather-winged bat** a mammal: the bat [*cf.* Irish *sciathán leathair* literally "leather-wing", *mioltóg leathair* literally "leather-midge"].

□ **leather-coats** potatoes with thick skins.

□ **leatherer** a cobbler.

□ **leather-head** a stupid person.

□ **leather jacket** the daddy-long-legs.

□ **leather-lungs** a loud-voiced person.

[Scots and English dialectal form *lather*.]

leave *see* lief.

leave, lave, lev *verb* **1** *also* **lea, lee, lay** leave. **2** allow to, permit to *e.g. Will you lave me do it?* **3** **leave (someone) to (somewhere)** accompany (someone somewhere). **4** **leave (something) down** put (something) down [translation of Irish *fhágáil síos*].

◆ *noun* leave, permission.

□ **by the leave of his coat** an apologetic or deferential expression when referring to the clergy: "begging his pardon".

□ **laivins, lavins, lea'ins** leavings, left-overs.

□ **lave him to God, lave him to his Maker** advice to someone offended against, not to take action against the offender.

□ **leave be** leave alone, let be.

□ **leave go** let go.

□ **leave good-bye** bid good-bye [translation of Irish *slán a fhágáil*].

□ **leave hold off of** let go, release.

□ **leave is light** meaning that you have only to ask to get permission.

□ **leave off** stop.

□ **leave out** spend (money).

□ **leave over!** stop, leave off, "give over"!

□ **leaving-time** *historical* a fixed day when farmworkers' contracts ended, traditionally May 12th or November 12th.

□ **take clane lave of yourself** act contrary to your usual habits.

[Older form in Scots and English *lave*; Lancashire *lev*; Hiberno-English, also Scots, form *lay*; Scots form *lee*.]

lecherous: as lecherous as a drake very lecherous.

leck *see* leak.

leck *see* like¹.

leck *see* like².

leckan

- **have a leckan on you**

leckin *see* leak.

lee:

lee *see* leave, lie¹, lief.

- **leeside: the leeside of the pot** the good side of the pot where the fat is, the side where the ebullition is weakest.

leeb *noun* a youth.

leebien *noun* a small fish.

leech *noun* a doctor, a physician, a surgeon.

leed *see* laid.

leef, leefu, leeful, leelane, leelang, leelone, leelong *see* lief.

leef *see* loof.

leenge, linge *verb* **1** beat with a cane or belt. **2** beat up, thrash. **3 leenge at** swing a blow at. **4 leenge at** jump at. **5 lunge.**

- ◆ *noun* **1** a blow of a cane or whip; a stroke with the tawse. **2** a lunge.

- **leenging** a beating, a thrashing.

[*Cf.* English *lunge*; and also Scots *leenge* "to lounge, to slouch", origin unknown.]

leep *verb* parboil (potatoes).

[Scots and Northern English, also Shropshire; from Old English

**hlīpan* or Old Norse *hleypan* "to curdle (milk) by heating".]

leer *see* lief.

lees *see* lease².

leeshins *noun* a licence.

[Scots form.]

leesk *see* lisk.

leesome *see* lief.

leet¹ *noun* **1** a row, layer or section of a peat stack. **2** a section of a peat-bank.

[Scots from Old English *hlēte* "a share, a portion".]

leet² *noun* a list of candidates or nominees.

[Scots, shortened form of *élite*.]

leet³ *noun* a watery discharge from a wound.

[Scots, also Nottinghamshire, from Old English *litan*. This is the normal development of the Old English word, which also gives *let¹*.]

leet⁴ *noun* a four-legged stool.

leet-tlee-lee *exclamation* a call to ducklings *Co. Donegal*.

[Onomatopoeic.]

leeve *see* lief, live.

left: left-clittered/jittered, left-jittered left-handed.

- **left-hand** wrong.
- **left-handed** underhand; malicious.
- **left-handed blessing** *euphemism* a curse or malediction.
- **left-handed friend** an enemy.
- **left-hand spoke of a cart-wheel** a non-existent thing.
- **left-legged** "left-handed", wrong, abnormal.

leg *noun, in plural* socks without feet.

- ◆ *verb, also leg it* walk, *especially* walk fast.

- **a leg that follaes you** a lame leg.
- **come, leg, or I'll leave ye, leg come alaang an fuit fawla efter**
- **give or take leg-bail** run away from arrest.
- **have a long leg and a fellow for it** be free from engagements, have time at your own disposal; *cf.* foot.
- **leg-bone** the shin bone.
- **leg out** set out, depart.
- **leg-out** a quick walk.
- **leg-over** a leg-up, assistance.

- **on leg** on your legs, out of bed after an illness.
- **on the leg** gadding about.
- **put legs and arms to** embellish (a story).

leg¹ *verb* **A leg** (I) allege.

legger, legged *see* lagger.

leggin *see* laggin.

leg-leg *see* lag-lag.

- **leg-of-mutton case** a type of leather gun case.

leister, lyster *noun* an illegal fishing implement: a fork with three prongs for spearing fish.

leisure *noun* poor grazing used in order to rest other pasture.

leller *noun* cowhide.

lemon sole *noun* a fish: the smear-dab *Pleuronectes microcephalus* [in literary English, a different fish, the lemon dab].

lend, len', lent *noun* a loan *e.g. I got the lend of it.*

- **a borrowed lend should gang laughing hame** *proverbial* what is borrowed should be returned cheerfully.
- **lend the loan of** lend, give the loan of.
- **take the lend of** take advantage of (a person); mock (a person).

[Scots and Northern English form *len'*, Southern English form *lent*.]

lengel *see* langle.

length, lenth *noun* **1** length. **2** *with reference to a person* height. **3 (a) the length of** as far as; **(b) that length** as far as that *e.g. I doubt they'll never get that length*; **(c) your length** the distance to your house *e.g. I'll go over your length to see you.*

- **as the day lenthens, the coul' sthrentens**
- **fall your length** fall flat on your face.
- **give someone his length** knock a person flat on the ground.
- **give someone the length of your tongue** scold, verbally abuse someone.
- **lenthen** lengthen.

[Scots and English dialectal form *lenth*.]

lent *see* lend.

lentern *see* lanthorn.

lenth *see* length.

lenthern *see* lanthorn.

lep:

lep *see* leap.

- **lep dog** a lap-dog.

leppen, leppin *see* leap.

leprechaun *noun* **1** a fairy shoemaker. **2** a hobgoblin, a bogle.

[Hiberno-English; from an altered form of Old Irish *luchorpán* (apparently *lú* "small" + *corpán* "little body"), which also gives loughryman.]

lerk, lerked *see* lirk.

lesk *see* lisk.

leskel, lescal, leath-scéal *noun* an excuse.

less *conjunction* unless.

[Obsolete in Standard English, still Scots and dialectal. *Unless* was originally *on + less*.]

less¹: **the less ye hae, mak' less dae** live within your means, however small.

- **you might** *or* **mebby ye'll make less do ye, afore all's over** a sort of veiled threat.

let¹, *past tense and past participle* **lot, verb** **1** *also* **let up** utter, let out *e.g. He let a shout.* **2** **let yourself to someone** hire out your labour to someone.

- **he** *or* **she will not let his** *or* **her bone with the dog** he or she is not soft.
- **let a-be** let be, leave alone; desist, stop.

- **let alone** not to mention, apart from.
- **let down** *verb* **1** swallow (something). **2** *of a cow* yield (milk).
- ◆ *noun* a downpour of rain.
- **let-down** a downpour of rain.
- **let drive** **1** throw, strike with great force. **2** **let drive at someone** strike someone violently.
- **let fly** *of a horse* kick.
- **let intil** attack.
- **let it with someone** allow someone to have his or her way.
- **let off** scold, give vent to anger.
- **let on** **1** tell, inform, mention; show knowledge of something; act in such a way as to reveal something *e.g. She didn't let on she knew me; frequently negative* **not let on** conceal knowledge, generally with the implication of pretending that things are other than they actually are. **2** act in such a way as to suggest that something is the case *e.g. He's not as innocent as he lets on.* **3 never let on ye** take no notice.
- **let out** **1** divulge, make known. **2** utter *e.g. He let a curse out of him.* **let out at someone** abuse someone verbally.
- **let round a decade** *Roman Catholic* say a decade of the Rosary.
- **let stand** let a matter rest.
- **let wind of** let out (a secret).

[Past participle: *cf.* Scots form *lotten*. See also *leet*³.]

let²: **let who will** no matter who obstructs *e.g. Let who will, I'll do it.*

lethal *adjective* excellent.

lether *see* lather.

lether, leather *noun* lather, soapsuds.

[Older form of the corresponding verb.]

lethroma, leathromach *adjective* slight, delicate-looking.

letter¹ *noun* a spark on the wick of a candle, supposed to be an omen of a visitor.

- **letter-head** a postage stamp.

letter² *adjective* latter.

- **letter end** the last part; the finish of something.

[Old form.]

letter bird *noun* the cormorant.

leuk *see* look.

lev *see* leave.

level¹: **be level with** be "even with".

- **level best** the best that one can do.
- **level-full** brim-full, completely full.
- **level-going** even-tempered.
- **level-headed** cute.
- **level mind** an equable, unhurried mind.
- **level money** *betting* even money.
- **on a level** similarly situated.

level² *verb* levy.

[English dialectal, *cf.* Old French *levaille* "a tax".]

leven, leventh *see* eleeven.

lever *noun* **1** a louvre, a ventilator in a green-house. **2** an opening in a roof, for instance to let out smoke.

[*Cf.* Shropshire "one of the movable boards of a barn door".]

leverock *see* lark².

levet *noun* **1** a stream of gossip. **2** a scold.

- ◆ *verb* scold.

[Obsolete Standard English "a trumpet call", probably from Italian *levata* "a war march on the trumpet".]

levrock *see* lark².

lew, loo, lue *adjective*, also **lew-warm** lukewarm, tepid.

- ◆ *verb* become warm *e.g. My ears are lewin.*

- **lue-water**:
[*Lew* "lukewarm" obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), from Old English **hlēow*.]
- lewd** *adjective* ashamed.
- lewdeen, ludgeen** *noun* the little finger.
- lewder** *see* looder.
- lexative** *noun* a laxative.
- liagh** *noun* a seaweed: kelp *Laminaria spp.*
 - **liagh knife** a knife used for cutting seaweed stumps.
 - **liagh-roda** the broad-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton natans*.
[Irish *leathach* "broad seaweed", *see also* **feamain**.]
- liarintit** *verb* lay into (food *etc.*).
- libbock** *noun* a small, loose piece of anything.
[*Cf.* Southern English *libbet* "a rag; a fragment", origin unknown.]
- libel** *noun* a label.
- lice** *noun plural* the gills of a crab or lobster, mistakenly thought to be parasites.
- lichnin, licht** *see* light¹.
- licht** *see* light².
- lichtnin** *see* light¹.
- lick** *verb* **1** take (snuff). **2** move at full speed.
 - ◆ *noun* a lickspittle, a sycophant, a crawler.
 - **a lick and a promise** **1** a cat-lick, a slight wash; a superficial dusting.
 - 2** any work done hastily.
 - **give someone his full ov a lickin'** give someone a severe beating.
 - **lick butter** do something that is pleasant or easy.
 - **lickerty spit** haphazard.
 - **licking, lickin** fodder for cattle.
 - **lick-lip** fawning.
 - **lick-me-lug** a name for a sycophant, a crawler; *see* **lug**.
 - **lick over** wash hastily.
 - **lick-over** **1** a "cat-lick", a slight wash. **2** a thin coat (*e.g.* of whitewash).
 - **lick-platin** grovelling to gain something.
 - **lick-skillet** someone who meddles with food.
 - **lick someone into fits** surpass someone.
 - **lick-spittle** a sycophant, a flatterer.
 - **lick thumbs and touch elbows** be matched in badness; said when one person tries to make out he or she is more innocent than another.
 - **lick thumbs on** seal (a bargain).
 - **lick-up** a cow lick, a lock of hair on the head that will not lie flat.
 - **lick your calf over again** do your work over again.
- lickorstick** *noun* a stick of liquorice.
[Scots, shortened form of *liquorice-stick*.]
- lid**: **my** *etc.* **lids niver met** *or* **touched other** I never slept.
- lie**¹, **lee** *noun* **1** a lie. **2** a black speck on a person's tooth, supposedly caused by telling a lie.
 - ◆ *verb* **1** lie. **2** **lie on someone** make up tales about (someone).
 - **as big a liar as John Green**
 - **as big a liar as Strabane clock** *proverbial*
 - **lee-like, lee-luckin** having the appearance of being a lie; *see* **look**.
 - **liar: lie like a dog licking a plate** lie glibly.
 - **the sin of a lie's the pinchin' of it**
 - **ye can lock from a thief, but not from a liar**
[Scots and Northern English form *lee*.]
- lie**² *verb* **1** be confined to bed with illness *e.g.* *She's lying these two months.*
2 lay, *thus* **lie into** "lay into"; **lie by** lay by.
 - **a lying-in job** the confinement of a pregnant woman.
 - **it lies upon you** it is up to you.
 - **lie-a-bed** a late riser.

- **lie about** idle about.
 - **lie at** frequent (a place).
 - **lie-by 1** a neutral, someone who does not take sides. **2** a lay-by, a railway siding. **3** a paddock. **4** a lay-by, a nest egg, money put aside.
 - **lie in** lie in bed later than usual.
 - **lie out 1** *of cows* be left out to sleep in the fields. **2** *of a schoolchild* play truant.
 - **lie out (money) 1** be out of pocket. **2** **lie out of** not get (money due).
 - **lie the clock round** sleep for twelve hours.
 - **lie to** have a fancy for (someone of the opposite sex).
- See also* lig¹.

lief, leef, leave, leeve, live, love, lee; *comparative*; **liefer, leer**; *adverb* lief, willingly, gladly.

- **had liefer** 'd liefer, would liefer, would rather *e.g. I had liefer not do it.*
- **have as lief** would just as soon, would prefer to *e.g. I'd as lief go.*
- **have liefer** have rather, have sooner.
- **I'd as leer be an ass to a cuckle-man**
- **leelang, leelong, lee an long** livelong *e.g. the lee-long day; see long; see also* lifelong.
- **leesome** pleasant, lovable.
- **lief alone, leef alane, lee-alone, lief lone, leelane, leelone**; *also incorrectly leefu lane, leeful lane, lief an lonely* completely alone, all alone, *usually my, etc. lief alone* completely by myself, *etc. e.g. in the house my lief alone; see* alane, full, lone.

[Scots and English dialectal form *leave, leeve*; Warwickshire, Worcestershire *live*; Scots, also Devon, *lee*. Comparative: Scots form *leer*.]

life: **as you live your life you dread your neighbours, as ye lade yer own life, ye judge yer neighbours, as ye live (or lade) yer life, ye judge yer nabors (neighbours)** "evil to him who thinks evil".

- **change your life** get married [*cf. Irish an saol úr* "marriage", literally "a new life"].
- **for (dear) life** vigorously.
- **life-like**:
- **lifie** merry; lively, active.
- **living and life-like** in excellent health.
- **there's life for the living and a hole for the dead** there's a place for everybody.

lifelong *adjective* livelong, *usually* **the lifelong day** all day.

[Altered form. English *livelong* is itself an alteration of *lief* + *long*.]

liffōg *noun* a foolish person.

liffogue *noun* a very small eel, probably a sandeel, *Ammodytes tobianus*.

[Probably Irish *leathóg* "a flat fish", Donegal Irish *leifeog* "a flat thing".]

lift¹ *verb* **1** gather up corn cut by hand. **2** gather, collect (subscriptions, tickets, *etc.*); *also* **lift the plate** help with the collection in church. **3** take up the coffin preparatory to commencing a funeral procession *e.g. What time will they lift?* **4** *of rain* stop. **5** *of company* break up, disperse. **6** *historical, of a frost-bound road* thaw [before bitumen was introduced in the 1860s, a frozen road surface would heave up when it thawed]. **7** catch, understand (something said).

- ◆ *noun* **1** a bout, a spell of work; *hence* **for a lift** for a while. **2** the degree of curvature in the blade of a spade or the prongs of a fork. **3** the start of a funeral procession. [ILLUS: lift]
- **as fast as his or her legs could lift** as fast as he or she could run.
- **better kicking than lifting** *proverbial*
- **come here till I lift you** *jocular* said to someone who has fallen.
- **give someone a lift 1** put in a good word for someone. **2** **give someone a lift with something** give someone assistance to lift something.

- **he can't lift a tune** he has no ear for music.
 - **I'll give ye a lift with my toe** a threat.
 - **lift and lay something like the lugs of a laverock** describing the action of someone who makes frequent changes, *e.g.* moving things about from one place to another.
 - **lifted** elated, in high spirits.
 - **lifter 1 lifter** someone who gathers up cut corn. **2** an old cow or weak calf, *literally* one that cannot stand up without help; *cf.* **a-lifting** (*see a*³).
 - **lifting, liftin 1** of cattle or a person **a-lifting** (*see a*³). **2** *loosely* "starving", very hungry.
 - **lift the temper** make angry.
 - **lift yer feet and they'll fa' themselves, left yer feet an' they'll fall themselves** hurry up!
 - **lift your hand** strike.
- lift**² *noun* the sky; the air; the heavens.
- **twa moons in the lift** indicating a time that will never come.
 - **up in the lift** in high spirits.
- [Scots and Northern English, from Old English *lyft*.]
- lig**¹ *verb* **1** lie at rest. **2** *in playing marbles* (a) **let it lig** let the marble lie; (b) **let him lig** let his marble lie.
- [Scots and English dialectal form of *lie*².]
- lig**², **lag, lug** *noun* **1** a gangling, simple-minded person; an easily-led fellow. **2** a stupid, slovenly person; an awkward, clumsy fellow. **3** a foolish person; a silly person; someone who acts the fool. **4** a prankster. **5** an untrustworthy, unreliable person. **6** a dishonest rogue.
- [*Lug* also Western Scots, Devon and U.S.A. slang; origin unknown; *cf.* *lug* and *lag*².]
- liggety, liggoty** *noun* **1** a tall, useless fellow. **2** an excitable, foolish person. *Cf.* *lig*².
- light**¹, **licht** *noun, verb, adjective* light.
- **atween or between the (two) lights** *literally* after daylight had gone, and before candles were lighted: twilight.
 - **let the light into** shoot (a person).
 - **lichtnin, lichnin** lightning.
 - **lighten** dawn, become day.
 - **lightening** the dawn.
 - **lightsome** well-lit, bright.
 - **New Light** describing a liberal movement within Presbyterianism, which led to a schism in the Church of Scotland in the eighteenth century, emphasising individual belief; *cf.* **Old Light**.
 - **Old Light** describing the more traditional branch of Presbyterianism, emphasising adherence to the Westminster Confession of Faith; *cf.* **New Light**.
 - **put (a person's) light out 1** kill (a person). **2** blind (a person).
 - **she luks wile weel in cannel likht** damning with faint praise.
 - **take the light from your eyes** *literally* make you lose your sight: said of a sight which greatly impresses you.
 - **wheelin a likht up a dark entry**
- [Scots form *licht*.]
- light**², **licht** *adjective* **1** light in weight. **2** slightly mentally unstable. **3** quick-tempered, volatile.
- **as lightsome as a lamplighter**
 - **light-a-foot** describing a woman after giving birth; *cf.* **heavy**.
 - **light bobs** young boys.
 - **lighten** lessen *e.g.* *His work is a bit lightened*.
 - **lightening**:
 - **lightening before death** a sudden relief in bad symptoms and apparent improvement in health.
 - **lighten someone up** cheer someone up.

- **light-fingered 1** inclined to steal; dishonest, thievish. **2** dexterous, handy.
- **light-fingered gentry** *euphemism* thieves.
- **light-fisted** niggardly, stingy.
- **light-foot 1** nimble, active. **2** of immoral character.
- **light-handed** short-handed, not having sufficient workers.
- **light-running** describing a horse with good action.
- **lightsome:**
- **lightsomer** *of a sick person* easier.
- **light stepper** a horse with good action.
- **light-timbered** *of a horse* active, light-footed.

[Scots form *licht*.]

light³ *verb* **1** **light off** light, alight, dismount (from). **2** land *e.g. I lit on tap o the hedge.*

- **he or she never lights** he or she is always active, always working.
- **I'll light on you with a scraigh, as the Divil said to the ould seceder**
- **I'll light on you with a scraigh, as the Divil said to the ould seceder**
- **light, light low, the butterfly low** sung by children who are chasing butterflies.

lighter: **as much as would sink a lighter** expressing a large amount of money.

light fisted *adjective* niggardly, stingy.

lig-lag *see* lag-lag.

lik *see* like¹.

like¹, **lik**, **lake**, **leck**; *comparative*; **liker**, **more liker**; *adjective* **1** like.

2 likely, probable.

◆ *adverb* **1** likely, probably. **2** used to modify the force of an assertion *e.g. It was raining like.* **3** **like to** as if about to *e.g. He drew his fist like to hit me.*

- **as like as not** very probably, in all likelihood.
 - **be like to**, *progressive* **be liking to be** on the point of.
 - **had like to**, **had a like to**, **had liked to** was likely to.
 - **it's likes** it is likely.
 - **like a cow's tail, behind, like the old cow's tail, all behind** said of someone who is behindhand with work.
 - **like anything** vigorously; excessively *e.g. He ran like anything.*
 - **like as if** as if, just as though.
 - **like enough 1** very probable. **2** very probably.
 - **like enough you!** meaning that that is typical of your bungling ways.
 - **like himself 1** not changed in appearance. **2** in keeping with his reputation.
 - **like I don't know what** a vague but common comparison; used instead of a more suitable comparison for something of excessive size, fluency, *etc.*
 - **likely 1** good-looking. **2** suitable, desirable.
 - **likely-looking** good-looking, promising.
 - **like soups!** meaning that something is highly improbable.
 - **like the way** as, the way *e.g. You couldn't work him like the way ye wud his brother.*
 - **like yourself** in your usual state of health or disposition.
 - **lik Taam Brenyan** as Tom Brennan would say.
 - **more like** more to the purpose *e.g. It would be more like if you did it yourself.*
 - **no matter what he's like, he's a good like**
 - **that like him, ye wud think the wan had smit the t' other**
 - **the like of that** *derogatory* someone like that.
 - **what like?** of what sort? *e.g. What like's she?*
- [Scots and English dialectal form *lik*, Scots and Isle of Man also *leck*, Shetland also *laek*.]

like², leck *verb* **1** like. **2** like worst dislike most. **3** like yourself be content, be comfortable in your position *e.g. I like myself well in this new job.*

◆ *impersonal verb* please, be agreeable to *e.g. Do it if it likes you.*

- **as good (bad etc.) as you like** very good (bad etc.).
- **likens** a liking.
- **likin'** liking.

[Shetland and Caithness form *leck*.]

likely *see* like¹.

likens *see* like².

lils *noun plural* (hanging in) tatters.

lilt *verb* **1** sing softly to a cheerful tune. **2** dance to music.

◆ *noun* a song, *especially* a song to a cheerful tune.

- **lilty 1** a bird: the linnet *Carduelis cannabina*; *cf.* line². *Illustration see* thorn. **2** a silly person, *especially* a giddy woman. **3** a bouncy, energetic woman.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

lilty *noun* a beating *e.g. He would give ye lilty.*

[*Cf.* Scots *get or give laldy* "to get or give a beating", origin unknown.]

lily *noun*, *loosely* a daffodil.

limb: **limb of the devil**, **limb of Satan** a "limb", a mischievous person (child or adult); *see also* devil.

- **limb of the Law** an arm of the law, a policeman.

limber, **limmer** *adjective* **1** limber, supple, flexible; nimble, active, lithe.

2 *of a corpse* without the usual stiffening of the joints that follows death, believed to portend another death in the house. **3** light, frail.

- **limbersome 1** *of a person* supple. **2** *of a corpse* limber.

[English dialectal form *limmer*.]

lime: **as dry as a lime-burner's wig**

- **lime-burner** someone who makes lime by burning limestone in a kiln.
- **lime-cob** a barge used for transporting lime; *cf.* cobble³.
- **limewash** whitewash.

limmer *see* limber.

limmer *noun* a wicked person.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

limn *verb* **1** paint, sketch. **2** *loosely* photograph.

- **limner 1** a portrait painter. **2** *loosely* a photographer.

limpet, **lempit** *noun* the limpet.

- **limpet picker** a bird: the oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*.

Illustration see pyot.

[Older form (still Scots) *lempit*.]

limpy-coley *noun* a boys' game.

line¹ *noun* **1** *in plural* a certificate of any kind, *especially* (a) a certificate of church membership; (b) a doctor's prescription; (c) a written document supplied to an employee, *specifically* discharge papers; *hence* **get your lines** be dismissed. **2** a road, *especially* a new road. **3** a towpath along a canal.

- **be on a line** be in a bad mood.
- **get your lines** "get your books", be fired.
- **give someone a line of your mind** give someone a piece of your mind, scold someone.
- **leave your lines** change your church by removing your certificate of membership *e.g. He has left his lines.*
- **out on his lines** *obsolete*, *of a dispensary doctor* going on his rounds in his district, having received a line or order.

line², lin *noun* flax.

- **linen** *in plural* underclothing and shirts.
- **linen lease** *historical* a renewable lease, granted under the provisions of the Linen Act, providing for the keeping of a certain number of looms

on a farm.

- **line yarn** yarn made from flax that has been dressed and sorted.
- **linstone** a lintstone.
- **lintwhite**, *also* **lentie** a bird: the linnet *Carduelis cannabina* [Old English *līnetwiȝe*, apparently *līn* "flax" + *-twiȝe* "plucker"]; *see also* **lilt**. *Illustration see* **thorn**.

[*Line* obsolete in Standard English (still Northern English), from Old English *līn*. English dialectal and Southern Scots form *lin*. *See also* **lint**.]

ling *noun* heather; *specifically*: (a) *Calluna vulgaris*. (b) bell-heather *Erica cinerea*.

linge *see* **leenge**.

lingel, **linge** *noun* **1** a shoemaker's waxed thread. **2** *figuratively* a tall, thin person; *see also* **langle**.

- **lingalee** a rigmarole, a long-winded story, sermon, speech, *etc.*
- [Scots, from Old French *ligneuil* "a shoemaker's waxed thread".]

lingo *noun*, *weaving* a long, thin iron weight used in a Jacquard loom.

lingo¹ *noun* talk *e.g.* *None of yer lingo*.

lining *noun* food and drink.

link *verb* walk arm-in-arm with; support by the arm.

- ◆ *noun* **1** *usually in plural* sausages in a chain. **2** a stack of four or five clamps of peat.
- **link down** **1** lower (a pot suspended on a crook). **2** unhook (a pot).
- **linked**, **linkit** (walking) arm-in-arm.
- **link off** remove (a pot).
- **link up** raise (a pot).

linker *verb* linger, loaf, idle about.

[Shropshire form.]

linky: **linky long legs** a tall, thin person.

linn *noun* a waterfall.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Northumbrian *hlynn* "a torrent".]

linsey-woolsey *noun* originally, a dress material made of flax and wool; later, a dress material of cotton and coarse wool.

linstone *see* **line**².

lint *noun* flax. *Illustration see* **blue**.

- **hair like a lint-tap**
- **lint-bells** the flowers of flax. *Illustration see* **blue**.
- **lint-bow** the boll (the seedpod) of flax; *see* **bow**². *Illustration see* **blue**.
- **lint-break** an implement used to break the shows of flax. [ILLUS: lint-brk]
- **lint churn** a celebration at the end of the flax harvest; *see* **churn**².
- **lint field** a field where flax is grown.
- **lint-haired** flaxen-haired, blonde.
- **lint hole** a lint dam, a pond where flax is steeped to ret it.
- **lint-pole** the pole on which the lintstone revolves.
- **lintstone** a revolving circular stone for crushing flax. [ILLUS: lint-stn]
- **lint-tap** *spinning* the quantity of flax put on the distaff at one time; *see* **top**. *Illustration see* **spin**.
- **lint-wheel** a spinning-wheel for flax. *Illustration see* **spin**.
- **lint-white** flaxen-coloured.

See also **line**².

lentie, **lintwhite** *see* **line**².

linty-la:

liobar, **libber** *noun* a pout, from peevishness or anger *e.g.* *He had (or put) a libber on him*.

lion, **loy-on** *noun* a lion; *figuratively* a man with a dangerous temper.

lip *noun*, *derogatory*, of a person a "mouth", a loud-mouth.

- ◆ *verb* **1** taste. **2** **lip over** overflow.
- **from the lip to the laggin** **1** of alcohol in a tilted vessel (reaching) from the bottom to the lip; *see* **laggin**. **2** *pun* the district between Lough

Swilly and the Laggan (*i.e.* between Letterkenny and Raphoe).

□ **have a lip on you** be in the sulks [translation of Irish *liobar a chur ort féin*].

□ **have a lip on you like a motherless foal**

□ **lip and laggin** *adverb* **1** (full) to the brim; overflowing. **2** *of a boat* almost awash.

◆ *noun* a wet-mouthed person.

◆ *verb, of alcohol in a tilted vessel* make an angle reaching from the bottom to the lip. If it will not reach, the drink may be refused as inadequate.

See laggin.

□ **lippin** *adjective, of a container* full to the brim.

◆ *noun* a fair lippin a good deal (of a liquid).

□ **mak someone leaugh wie the ither side o' his or her lip** make someone cry instead of laugh.

□ **put your lip out** go into the sulks.

□ **short in the upper lip** a bad sign in a potential husband.

□ **the lip is up** meaning that a person is in the sulks.

□ **tight about the lip** firm, unyielding.

lippen *verb* **1** trust (a person). **2 lippen to** trust in, depend on. **3** entrust (something) to (a person).

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown. See also mislippen.]

lippin see lip.

Lipton: **Lipton's orphan** a pitiful child.

liquorice: **liquorice-ball**: *e.g.* A pennorth o' liquorice-ball.

lirk, lerk, lurk *noun* a crease, a wrinkle, a fold; especially a wrinkle in the skin.

◆ *verb* fold, crease, rumple.

□ **lerked** wrinkled, crumpled.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

lis *noun* an earth fort.

Lisbellaw: **Lisbellaw for wappin' straw**, **Lisbellaw for wopping straw**

lish *adjective* lissom, nimble, flexible.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

lisk, lesk, leesk *noun* **1** the groin. **2** the flank.

[*Lisk* (still Scots and Northern English), *lesk* (still Northern English) obsolete in Standard English; probably of Scandinavian origin, cf. Danish *lyske*. Scots form *leesk*, cf. Middle Low German *leesche*, Middle Dutch *liesche*.]

lispie *noun* the forefinger; children's rhyme.

lissom *adjective* bright, cheerful.

list¹ *verb* listen.

list² *verb, literally* enlist as a soldier.

listen *exclamation* used to draw particular attention to what follows.

litch *noun, angling* an arrangement of hooks and spinners *Co. Donegal*.

[Cf. East Anglia "a string of things", origin unknown.]

lith *noun* **1** a segment of an orange, etc.; one of the layers of an onion. **2** a layer of a slaty rock, a flake.

□ **lithy** **1** flaky, consisting of thin layers. **2** *of peat* containing the fibres or roots of bog fir.

[Scots and Northern English; from Old English *lip*, Old Norse *liðr* "a joint".]

lithe see lythe.

lithe *verb, also lythe* thicken (broth, etc.) with flour or oatmeal.

□ **lithesome** *of a person* engaging, genuine.

□ **lithing** **1** a smooth paste of flour or oatmeal with water or milk, used to thicken broth, gravy, etc. **2** the thickening or congealing of jam, soup, etc.

[Scots and Northern English usages of English *lithe* "supple".]

litherog *noun* a heavy swath.

lithmore *noun* the foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*.

lithy *see* lith.

litter *noun* a brood (of chickens).

little: **a little of everything, like Moll's bag** when asked what had she in the bag, Moll said, a little of everything.

a little word is a bonny word *proverbial* "least said soonest mended".

little altar a place where Mass was celebrated during Penal times.

little-coatie a petticoat.

little Dick the little finger.

little goat of the night a bird: the snipe.

little head of gold a bird: the goldfinch.

little Joany of the road a bird: the pied wagtail.

little miller a type of small white moth [possibly the small ermine moth, whose sticky pupae trap debris and give a dusty appearance to trees].

little said's aisy mended. Nothin' at all said needs no mendin', little said's aisy mended, but nothing said needs no mendin' at all, least said's aisy mended, but nothin' said at all needs no mendin', little said's aisy mended

little-wit silly, wanting in wit.

loud and little small but loud-spoken.

make little of someone belittle someone, cause someone to be looked down upon.

live *see* lief.

live, leeve *verb* live.

at your living best or strength with your utmost power.

he or she cud live on the smell of an oil rag he or she could live on very little.

leeve someone oot outlive someone.

live at home have no business, but live on your savings.

live on your money have no business, but live on your savings.

living 1 extreme, dreadful *e.g. It's a livin shame. 2 living with* alive with *e.g. It's livin with fleas.*

livin lights "living daylight" *e.g. I'll whale the livin lights oot o ye; see whale.*

you don't know you're living you don't realise how fortunate you are.

[Scots and Northern English, also Somerset, form *leeve*.]

livery: **livery-fish** the striped wrasse *Labrus mixtus*.

lizard *noun* a newt [in Standard English, applied to a reptile].

'll, 'llot *see* will.

'llow *see* allow.

lo: **lo and behold you** *emphatic* mark you.

loach *noun* the minnow *Phoxinus phoxinus* [in Standard English, a different fish, the stone-loach *Barbatula barbatulus*].

load, laid *noun* a load.

◆ *verb, also loaden* load.

get your load be drunk; have taken an immoderate quantity of strong drink.

loadened, ladened laden, burdened.

loadened bull, loadened butt a loaded whip, a whip with a lead-weighted handle.

loadenin-bay a loading-bay.

load of cold a heavy cold.

[Scots and Northern English form *laid*.]

loaf: **loaf-bread** bread in the form of loaves, ordinary shop-bought bread.

loaf sugar lump sugar.

loamy *adjective, of soil* damp, thick, tenacious.

loan¹ *verb* **1** lend [now rare in Standard English]. **2** borrow.

for the long loan (borrowed) with no intention of paying back.

take a loan of someone

- loan²** *noun*, also **loaning**, **loanin**, **lonen** **1** also **loaney** a lane; a track; a by-road. **2** a paved road leading to a house.
- **loan-end** the end of a lane where it joins the road.
- [Scots and Northern English; from Old English *lone*, an alternative form of Old English *lane*, which gives Modern English *lane*.]
- loast** *see* loss.
- loathing** *noun*, figuratively nausea *e.g.* a loathing on the stomach; *cf.* laith.
- lob, lab** *noun* **1** **lob** a lob-worm, a large earthworm, *Arenicola spp.*, used for angling. **2** a large amount, usually of money; a hoard. **3** **lab** the crook over an open fire on which a pot is hung. *Illustration see* crook.
- ◆ *verb* lob, throw.
- [Scots, also Hiberno-English, form *lab*.]
- lob-sided** *adjective* lop-sided.
- loca** *noun* a balm that could instantly cure all wounds and even restore life to the dead.
- loch** *see* lough.
- lochan** *noun* a small lake.
- [Irish *lochán*, from *loch* (see lough) + diminutive ending *-án*.]
- lochter** *see* luchter.
- lock¹**: **lock-jaw** *verb* suffer the symptoms of lock-jaw (*i.e.* tetanus) *e.g.* She lock-jawed.
- **lock-spit** *noun* a furrow cut with a spade; *frequently*. (**a**) made in ground not previously cultivated, to divide it into two ridges. (**b**) made to mark a boundary.
 - ◆ *verb* cut a furrow with a spade.
 - **lock-spitied** fenced out or in.
 - **lock-split** a small drainage channel; *cf.* spit².
- lock²**, also *incorrectly* lough, *noun* **1** a (usually small) quantity of anything. **2** **brave lock**, **good lock**, *etc.* a considerable quantity.
- **lock a hippince** a small amount of money.
 - **wee lock** the first small heap of hay, usually about three feet high.
- [Hiberno-English, the same word as Standard English *lock* (of hair).]
- lodthore** *adverb* willingly.
- lo'ed** *see* love.
- loft, laft** *noun* **1** a loft. **2** *specifically*, also **hay-laft** a hay-loft. **3** a hay-rack in a byre. **4** the upper floor of a house with two stories; an upper room, a garret. [ILLUS: loft]
- [Scots, also Hiberno-English, form *laft*.]
- log**: **loggish** *of a person* thick-bodied, stout.
- logg** *adjective*, also **loggy** *of weather* close, clammy.
- [*Cf.* obsolete Standard English *loggy*, Scots *lug(gie)* "of a crop or soil producing too much green growth"; origin unknown. *Cf.* luggish.]
- loggerhead** *noun* a fish: the shanny *Lipophrys pholis*.
- loggie** *see* logie.
- loggy** *see* logg.
- logheryman** *see* loughryman.
- logh-shuler** *noun* a vagrant.
- logie, loggie** *noun* **1** the space in front of a kiln-fire. **2** also **logie-hole** the hole at the bottom of a lime-kiln.
- **logie-hole** **1** a logie. **2** a peep-hole in a jamb-wall. *Illustration see* jamb. **3** *loosely* a small aperture. **4** a cubby-hole, such as the space under a staircase.
- [Scots, *cf.* Scottish Gaelic *log* "a hollow".]
- lo-hawn** *noun* the weakling of the litter; the youngest of a brood.
- loke** *adjective* lukewarm *Co. Antrim*.
- loke¹** *adjective*, *of a smell* nasty, sickening.
- **loke-smell** a nasty, sickening smell.
- lokial** *adjective* local.
- loldy** *verb* loll, lean idly.

[*Cf.* Yorkshire *lolder*, apparently an extended form of *loll*.]

lollion *noun* a fat, awkward person *Co. Donegal*.

[Possibly Standard English *loll* + *-ion*.]

lomine, lominty *exclamation* a disguised oath: "Lord", *thus Lomine bless me!*

London: London bridge a children's game.

□ **London lord** a type of potato.

□ **London pride** a garden flower: the rose campion *Agrostemma coronaria* [in Standard English, a different flower, *Saxifraga x urbium*].

lone, lane *adjective* **1** lone, solitary. **2** unmarried, *thus lone boy* a bachelor; *see boy*; **lone girl** a spinster. **3 my, their, etc. lone** alone, by myself, *etc.*, *e.g. He went his lone*.

□ **his lone** by himself, alone.

□ **its lone or lane, its lone** alone, by itself *e.g. Can the chile go its lone?*

□ **lone bird** a person living alone and having no friends, a loner.

□ **lone-bush** a solitary bush in a field; generally said to be fairy-haunted.

□ **lonesome of a place** lonely.

□ **my lone** alone, by myself.

[Scots form *lane*.]

lonen *see* loan².

long *see* along¹.

long, lang; comparative; langer; adjective **1** long. **2** of a price high.

◆ *adverb long of* long in (coming, *etc.*).

□ **afore long days** before long.

□ **a long way on til it, a long ways on til it** very nearly.

□ **as long as the day an' the morra**

□ **as long as the moral law**

□ **at long and at last; at long and length; at long, at last** at last.

□ **by a long odds, by a long sight, also a long sight** by a great deal, much *e.g. She's by a long odds better*.

□ **by long and late** after a long time.

□ **have a long back** be able to bear a lot of bad treatment.

□ **have a long face to wash in the morning** be bald.

□ **have a long head** be long-headed, have foresight.

□ **lang fiel'** the long acre, the grass at the side of a road; *see field*.

□ **lang-heided** long-headed, shrewd; *see head*.

□ **langsyne** **1** long since. **2** long ago; *see syne*.

□ **long acre** **1** the grass at the side of a road, used for grazing or haymaking. **2** also **long-acre hay** hay cut from roadside verges.

□ **long and many a day ago** *emphatic* many a long day ago.

□ **long Andy** a bird: the grey heron *Ardea cinerea*.

□ **long-avised** having a long, thin face; *cf. black*.

□ **long cut** a long stone.

□ **long-eyed** sharp-sighted.

□ **long hat** a dress hat; possibly a stove-pipe (earlier, higher type of top-hat) at the time when the fashion was for shorter ones (i.e. the Edwardian period).

□ **long home** the grave.

□ **long hundred** a measure of herring; a measure of fish: one hundred and twenty, or sometimes one hundred and twenty-seven, with the extra thrown in "for luck"; 120, plus a cast thrown in for luck, giving 123.

□ **long in the lugs** long-eared.

□ **long in the tooth and short in the steps** elderly.

□ **longish** somewhat long.

□ **long-legs** a name for the hare.

□ **long line** a fishing line with several hundred hooks.

□ **long-lippit** sulky.

□ **long-lugged** **1** long-eared; *see lug*. **2** nosy, prying.

□ **long man** the middle finger; *children's rhyme*.

- **long-nebbit, long-nebbed** **1 long-nebbit things** hobgoblins. **2** nosy.
- 3** *of words* long, difficult. *See* **neb**.
- **long necked heron, lang necked hern, long necked hern** the heron.
- **long of your memory** having a long memory.
- **long-shanked** long-legged; *see* **shank**.
- **long shootie** a form of street football where the ball is kicked from goal to goal with no outfield play.
- **long since by** long ago.
- **longsome, langsome** slow, tedious, tiresome.
- **longsomeness** loneliness.
- **long stone** a measure of weight: sixteen pounds (e.g. of flax, 7.26 kilogrammes) [the *stone* varied from one commodity to another, but was normally fourteen pounds (6.35 kilogrammes)].
- **long-tholance** long-suffering; *see* **thole**.
- **long-tongue** a tell-tale.
- **long-tongued** talkative; unable to keep a secret.
- **longways** a long distance apart.
- **long-wund** *of a story* tedious, over-long.
- **put something on the long finger** postpone something indefinitely; *hence on the long finger* indefinitely postponed [translation of Irish *rud a chur ar an mhéar fhada*].
- **so long** au revoir.
- **the long count** the herring count; 123 for 120.
- **the longer a body lives, they'll know the more**
- **the longest day I live** expressing how long something will be remembered *etc.*
- **the long leventh of June, as long as the long eleventh of June** a saying used as a comparison of length; very long; before the adoption of the Gregorian calendar the longest day was the 11th in the "old style".
- **the long night** death, old age.
- **the Long Stone** in Lisburn.
- **to make a long story short** used in conversation to indicate that the speaker is coming to the main point, and is dropping any more redundancy.
- **what's lang a comin' is aye guid**
[Scots and Northern English form *lang*.]
- lonny, lawny** *exclamation, also lonnies, lonny days* a disguised oath: "Lord".
[Hiberno-English.]
- loo** *see* **lew**.
- looby** *see* **lubby**.
- loochee** *noun* price, value.
- lood** *adjective* loud.
- **lood-in-the-loan** a name for a loud-spoken person who is noisy arriving at or leaving a house; *see* **loan**².
[Scots form.]
- looder, loodher, lewder, ludher, lowder** *noun* **1 lowder** a stout, rough stick. **2** a heavy stroke or blow, a thump.
- ◆ **verb** **1** strike heavily. **2** thrash, "wallop" (a person).
- **loodering** a severe beating.
[Scots *looder, lewder*; North-Eastern Scots also *lowder*; Shetland *luder*; from Old Norse *lúðr* "the block under a grinding stone in a mill". *See also* **lunder**.]
- loof, leef** *noun* the palm of the hand.
- **loofin** a smacking with the open hand.
- **many a one spits on his loof and does nothing** *proverbial*
[Scots and Northern English *loof*, Scots also *leef*; from Old Norse *lófi*.]
- looftee** *noun* a thump.
- look, luk, luck, leuk** *verb* **1** look. **2** **look in of** look in at (a door, *etc.*).

3 examine, inspect *e.g. Away and look the child's head.* **4** look after, attend to, watch. **5** look for, be on the look-out for. **6 look away, look out, etc.** desire to go away, get out, *etc.* **7** expect.

◆ *noun* a look; the look of something.

□ **a luck that wud have turned milk, a luck that wud turn sweet milk sour**

□ **as cross a man as iver looked from under a hat**

□ **give a look to** look at, examine.

□ **look a person out of face** stare a person down.

□ **look-at exclamation** used to draw particular attention to what follows: look *e.g. Look-at, it's easy for people that haven't a bull.*

□ **look a thing till ye fin' it, an' then ye'll not loss yer labour**

□ **look at the riders while the walkers pass by** aim too high and miss everything.

□ **look for** expect. *hence looked-for* expected.

□ **looking-glass** a chamber-pot.

□ **lookin out also on the look-out** on the watch.

□ **look over** overlook, forgive.

□ **look over your shoulder, look round you** *usually negative* "not look behind you", progress favourably.

□ **look seven ways for Sunday** squint.

□ **look to advantage** make the best of your appearance.

□ **look-up** a (good, bad, *etc.*) look-out.

□ **make someone look someone every way** shame someone.

□ **naw be able to luk oot o' your face** be ashamed.

□ **niver look near someone** pay someone no attention.

□ **not look of clothes, etc.** not look well (on a person).

□ **the look of her would turn a bottle of porter sour**

[English dialectal, also Western Scots, form *luk, luck*; Scots and Northern English form *leuk*.]

loom¹ *noun* a haze on the horizon ["the indistinct appearance of an object when it first comes into view on the horizon", seaman's term].

loom²: loom-stays the part of a loom that moves backwards and forwards.

loon, loun *noun* **1** a boy, a lad, a youth. **2** a scamp. **3** a rascal, a scoundrel.

4 an idle, stupid fellow. **5** a vagabond, a ragamuffin.

□ **let alone makes many a loon** want of correction makes a bad boy; "laissez faire, laissez aller".

[Scots and English dialectal, from Middle Dutch *loen* "a fool, a lout".]

looney *adjective* **1** a fool, a simpleton; a lunatic; a person not in his right mind. **2** a clumsy, awkward fellow.

◆ *adjective* imbecile; foolish.

loop: looper *salmon fishing* a man employed to stand on the rocks with a loop net.

□ **loop net:**

□ **loopy** crafty, deceitful.

loop¹: loop-hole a slit in the wall of a barn for ventilation.

loop man a stranger.

□ **on the loose** on the spree; indulging in jollification.

loose¹, lowse *adjective* **1** loose, at large. **2** free, not occupied with anything *e.g. I'll talk to you when you're loose.*

◆ *verb* **1** loose, let loose. **2** *also* **loosen** loosen. **3** unyoke, unharness (horses). **4** *in general* stop work.

□ **have a loose foot and a fellow for it, have a loose leg** *said of a bachelor* be free to come and go; *cf* foot.

□ **loose-footed, loose-foot** free from prior engagements [*cf.* Irish *cos scaoilte*].

□ **loose in the heft** *of a person* worthless, useless; *see* heft².

□ **loose-tongued** bawdy in speech.

□ **lowsing-time** the time for finishing work.

[Scots and English dialectal form *lowse*.]

loose² *noun* a louse.

- **he would skin a louse for the skin (or hide) an' talla (tallow), he would skin a louse for the tallow** said of a very grasping person; he is very greedy; said of a niggardly person.
- **not have the life o a looce**
- **skin a louse** be very stingy and grasping.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

loot *see* lout.

lope *see* loup.

lora: **lora hainey** an emphatic exclamation.

Lord

- **by the Lord Harry** *exclamation* a disguised oath.
- **may the Lord look on ye** may God take care of you.
- **my lord, ma Lord** a hunchbacked man.
- **the Lord bless me** *exclamation* an oath.

lorn

- **as lorn as a March graveyard**

lorry, larry *noun* **1** a lorry. **2** a dray, a cart.

losc *noun, only in the phrase losc on ye* a curse [Irish *loscadh ort* literally "burning upon you"].

- **loser**: **losers seekers, finders keepers**

loss *verb* lose.

- **don't loss yer time in runnin' aafter butterflies**
- **lost, loast 1** lost. **2** very hungry. **3** perished with cold or wet; soaked with rain.
- **make horses lose their feet** make horses travel very fast.
- **there's no loss but there's some profit**
- **you can't lose yourself on a straight road**

[Scots and Northern English form. Past participle: Scots form *loast*.]

lossenger *see* lozenger.

losset *noun* a wooden tray used for kneading dough. *Illustration see* bake.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *losaid* "a kneading trough". *See also* lusset.]

lossie *see* lozenger.

lost *see* loss.

losugh *noun* a sudden blaze of a turf fire.

lot:

lot *see* let¹.

- **lot knife** a knife made from a worn-out blacksmith's flatfile, with a wooden handle at right angles, used by basket weavers to pare fir ribs to size.

lough *see* lock².

lough, loch *noun* a lake.

- **d'you think I came up the lough in a bubble?**
- **lough lily** a wild flower: the white water-lily *Nymphaea alba*. [ILLUS: lough/ly]
- **lough shooting water-guns**, sounds resembling gun-shots heard in calm weather over Lough Neagh, caused by eruptions of methane from decaying plant material at the bottom of the lough.

[Irish *loch*, also Scots (spelled *loch*) from Scottish Gaelic *loch*. *See also* lochan.]

loughins *exclamation* a disguised oath: "Lord".

[Scots *lokins*, and *cf.* Isle of Man *lough*.]

loughryman, logheryman, lagheryman *noun* **1** a leprechaun; a little man with magical powers supposed to live in the woods and to steal money. **2** a stunted, supposedly bewitched man.

See leprechaun.

lough-shule *noun* a wild flower: the devil's-bit scabious *Succisa*

pratensis. Illustration see **bachelor**.

[Possibly Irish *lucht siúil* "travellers", confused with **lough**. See **shool**, and *cf.* **stray**.]

loun see **loon**, **lown**.

loundsing *pres particle* ? lingering.

loup, lowp, lope *verb, noun* leap.

- **loup-back** a game: leap-frog.
- **loupen** *of a tendon* luppen, torn, strained.
- **loupen sinew** a sprung or strained sinew.
- **loup the tether** go for a ramble.
- **loup your lane** jump, leap.

[Scots and Northern English *loup, lowp*; English dialectal also *lope*; from Old Norse *hlaupa* "to leap", *hlaup* "a leap", corresponding to Old English *hlēapan*, which gives **leap**.]

lout, loot *verb* stoop, bend over, bow [*lout* archaic in Standard English].

- **loot your broos** lower your brows, look sulky; see **broo**³.

[Scots and Northern English form *loot*.]

love, luve *noun, verb* love.

love see **lief**.

- **half-burnt wood is easily lit and an old love is easily kindled, old love and a late-kindled candle's easily lit** said when lovers quarrel or when a disagreement is overcome.
- **hot love is soon cold, hot love's soon cooled** enthusiasm is not lasting.
- **I love my love with** a game. These words (see following example) are written out with blanks for Christian name, noun and adjective beginning with A, B, *etc.*. The gamekeeper goes round the young people seated at a table and takes these words in succession, filling them in as he gets them; similarly for B, and so through the whole alphabet; when completed he reads the result. An example with S might read: I love my love with an S because she is Scorbutic, her name is Sophonisba, she lives at the sign of the Spout and sells Sago and Spatterdashes, *etc.*
- **lo'ed** loved.
- **love-bairn** a love-child, a child born outside of marriage; see **bairn**.
- **love-child** a milder term for an illegitimate child, used when the parents were social equals and had intended to marry.
- **love-dark** a piece of work done in a spirit of neighbourliness; see **dark**¹.
- **love-feast** a meeting of Primitive Methodists where each member relates his religious experiences.
- **love-knot** a charm made with knotted grass.
- **love me little, love me long, love me little an' love me long**

proverbial

- **lovesome, luvesome** **1** lovable. **2** affectionate.

- **lovins on ye!** *exclamation*

- **luvin** loving.

- **marry for love and work for riches**

- **there is no love so great that it does not cool**

[Scots forms *luve, lo*.]

low see **lowe**.

low *adjective* low.

- ◆ *verb, also lowen* lower *e.g.* *Low that a bit*.

- **low-backed car: Low Bar** a pub in Larne, entered from street level into a room below street level.

- **low come off** an offensive, vulgar remark, a low expression.

- **low-hunkered** crouching on the hams *e.g.* *Low-hunkered down beside his stick, on creepy stool*.

- **low key** a state of despondency or depression.

- **low-lifed** low-life, disreputable.

- **lowmost** lowest.

- **low room** a room away from the kitchen.
- **low-sized** *of a person* short, not tall.

See also laigh.

low¹: **low the brae** at the foot of the hill.

lowan *noun* a cabin.

[Origin unknown.]

lowder *see* looder.

lowe, low *noun* **1** a flame. **2** a blaze.

◆ *verb* burn, blaze, *also figuratively*

- **in a lowe** **1** aflame, blazing. **2** *figuratively* glowing, blushing *thus* *e.g.* *Her heid's a' in a lowe.*

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *loga* "to blaze".]

lowen *see* low.

lowin *see* lown.

lown, loun, lowin [rhymes with "town"] *adjective* **1** quiet, calm.

2 sheltered.

◆ *verb, of the wind, also loun doon* abate, grow calm; *also figuratively* *e.g.* *Lown yer crack* speak lower.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *logn* "calm weather".]

lowp *see* loup.

lowse, lowsen, lowsing-time *see* loose¹.

loy *noun* a long narrow-bladed spade with a wing on one side only.

[Hiberno-English; from Irish *láí*, earlier *láighe*.] [ILLUS: loy]

loyfull *adjective* lawful *e.g.* *it was wholly agreed ... that every parson ... should make cleane his ... doore ... or in default thereof to be loyfull for the Mayor or his officer to take ... a paun for 12 D. Sterg.*

lozenger, lossenger, lossie *noun* a type of sweetie: a lozenge.

[Scots, Northern English and Western English form *lozenger*, Scots and Northern English also *lossenger*.]

lubby, looby *noun* **1** a big, awkward fellow; a lazy, good-for-nothing fellow. **2** a tall, very thin person. **3** a fool, a simpleton.

[*Cf.* Standard English *lubber*.]

luboch *noun* a forked stick.

luchter, lughter, lochter, loghter *noun* **1** *originally* a handful of corn cut with a sickle; *now* a certain quantity (*e.g.* a forkful) of hay or corn. **2** *in general, also luchterfu'* a handful; *see* full.

[Scots, from Old Norse *lagð* "a tuft of wool". Borrowed into Donegal Irish as *luchtar*.]

luck *see* look.

luck: **bad luck to the** not a *e.g.* *They were that scared, bad luck to the whimper was out of one o their heads*; *also sometimes* **good luck to the**

- **good luck is before early rising, good luck's better nor early risin'** better born lucky than rich.

- **I wish ye luck of it** **1** a sincere good wish. **2** *sarcastic* said *e.g.* to someone who has obtained something unfairly.

- **luck-money, luck-penny, luck's penny** money returned to a buyer as a goodwill gesture.

- **luck's round!** good luck!

- **lucky** used to indicate an amount greater than that specified *e.g.* *How far is it to Lisburn? It's six miles lucky.*

- **lucky bird** the first boy or man to enter a house on Christmas Day, believed to bring good luck.

- **lucky-bone** the knucklebone of a leg of mutton.

- **lucky cap** a caul (a covering of amnion on the head of a new-born baby); *see also* lucky suit.

- **lucky half** the larger part *e.g.* *Is the harvest in with you? Well, the lucky half is.*

- **lucky measure** a measure over the minimum amount.

- **lucky mile** a mile and a bit.

- **lucky-poke** a lucky-bag; *see* **poke**¹.
- **lucky stone** a stone with a natural hole through it, worn on a cord round the neck as a good-luck charm.
- **lucky suit** a covering of amnion over the whole body of a new-born baby; *see also* **lucky cap**.
- **there's no luck in a dhry bargain** *proverbial* it is unlucky for a bargain not to be sealed by a drink shared by the buyer and seller.
- **when luck's on the road he's aye in the shough**

ludge *verb* lodge.

- **lodged** *of corn or grass* beaten down by wind and rain.
- **lodger** a small, uncut loaf of bread.
[Scots and Northern English form.]

ludher *see* **looder**.

lue *see* **lew**.

luff *exclamation* a call to a horse to get into its place *Co. Donegal*.
[Onomatopoeic.]

lug *see* **lig**².

lug *verb* **1** pull (by the hair or ear). **2** *of a baby* suck (the breast). **3** drag, haul.

◆ *noun* **1** the handle of a jug, cup, *etc.* **2** the loop on a griddle, bucket, *etc.* to which the **bool** (the handle) is attached. **3** the ear. **4** the foot-tread of a spade. **5** the part of a net that hangs when fishing; the part of a net that drags. **6** a haul, a pull. [ILLUS: lug]

- **get the wrong pig by the lug** accuse the wrong person.
- **hang the lugs** hang the head, be crestfallen, dejected.
- **have lugs on you like a jackass**
- **lug and laggin** the whole of anything; *see* **laggin**.
- **luggie, luggy** **1** a small wooden container with a handle formed by one of the staves projecting above the others; *cf.* illustration at **noggin**. **2** *also* **luggie-loo** a children's game, in which the players lead each other about by the ears.
- **lug-mark** a distinguishing mark cut in the ear of a sheep.
- **up to the lugs** completely immersed or involved.
- **wee jugs has big lugs** a warning not to talk in front of children.
- **ye cannae mak' a silk purse oot o' a soo's lug**
[Scots and Northern English, also Cornwall; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Swedish *lugg* "the forelock". From the idea of something hanging loose that can be pulled.]

lug¹, **lug** *also* **lugworm** *plural* **lug**, *noun* the sand-worm *Arenicola piscatorum*.

lugae *noun* a fool.

luggie *noun* **1** a sluggard. **2** anything heavy or lumpish.

luggish, luggitch *adjective* sticky, viscous, clammy; *cf.* **logg**.

luggit *noun* a smack, a blow, generally on the head.

luggy *see* **lug**.

lughter *see* **luchter**.

luk *see* **look**.

lum¹ *noun* **1** a chimney or vent to let out smoke. **2** *loosely* **(a)** the canopy of a chimney. *Illustration* *see* **chimney**; **(b)** the chimney-corner.

- **long may your lum reek** a good wish: long may you prosper; *see* **reek**.
[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

lum²: **brown lum** oatmeal, water and vegetables, eaten during Lent *Co. Monaghan*.
[Origin unknown.]

lumbersome *adjective* lumbering, heavy, awkward.

lummary *noun* raw oatmeal mixed with water.

lump¹ *noun* **1** **(a)** a medium-sized haycock; **(b)** *also* **handcock lump, wee lump** a small haycock; *see* **wee**. **2** a big, healthy, plump person or animal, *frequently* **a lump of a boy, girl, etc.** **3** a mass, a cluster, a crowd *e.g. a*

lump of mackerel, a lump of people. **4** a spate in a river. **5** a heavy fall of rain, a plump. **6** a large quantity, a good deal *e.g. She felt a lump better.*

□ **all in a lump like a dog's breakfast, all in a lump like dog's meat** a mixed heap of things.

□ **a lump o creation**

□ **buy by the lump** buy without weighing.

□ **come down in a lump** fall heavily.

□ **do work by the lump** do piece-work.

□ **lumper 1** a variety of potato, not of good quality in texture or flavour, but giving heavy crops. This was a variety widely grown by the poor before the Famine. **2** *loosely* a potato.

□ **lumps o' ones** half-grown children.

□ **wee lump** the beginning hay-heap.

lump² noun a tendency to harbour resentment.

□ **lump it** put up with existing circumstances.

□ **lumpy 1** having an irritable temperament. **2** sulky.

□ **take the lumps** sulk.

[Obsolete Standard English (still rare English dialectal) *lump* "to sulk", onomatopoeic.]

lumper *see* lump¹.

lunder, lundher, lunner, lunter, lunther noun 1 a heavy stroke or blow, a thump. **2 go doon a lunner** fall heavily.

◆ **verb 1** smack (a child). **2** lumber, blunder **about**.

[Scots *lunder, lunner*; possibly a form of *looder*.]

lundy noun, Protestant a treacherous coward.

[From the name of Colonel Robert Lundy, governor of Londonderry during the siege of 1689, traditionally burnt in effigy every year by the city's Protestants for his attempt to flee the city and surrender it to the besieging Jacobite army.]

lunge verb lounge, idle about.

[Scots form.]

lunk adjective 1 *of the weather* close, sultry. **2** queasy, having a sickly feeling.

[Scots; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *lunken* "mild, tepid".]

lunner, lunter, lunther *see* lunder.

luppen *see* leap.

lurch noun a game similar to backgammon, played in the 16th century.

lurcher noun 1 a cross between a gun-dog and a greyhound. **2** a mongrel dog. **3** a person who lurks about in a suspicious manner.

lured adjective, also lured stiff happy, excited, pleased.

lurg¹, lurgan, lurk noun a marine worm: the white ragworm.

[English dialectal *lurg*; origin unknown, *cf.* *lugworm*.]

lurg² noun a side pole in the frame of an eel net. *Illustration see slug².*

[Irish *lorg* "a staff".]

Lurgan: Lurgan French cambric:

□ **Lurgan lawn:**

□ **Lurgan white-head** linen sold too cheap is said to have "white-head" in it.

lurgan spade, Lurgan spade: a face as long as a Lurgan spade

1 referring to a long, narrow face. **2** *also his or her face was a lurgan spade, have a face on you like a lurgan spade* referring to a face with a melancholy expression.

[Not named after Lurgan, the town in Co. Armagh, but probably Irish *lorgain spáid* "the shaft of a spade".]

lurk *see* lirk, lurg¹.

lúsgan noun a child's swing.

lush noun liquor, whiskey.

lusmore noun 1 a wild flower: the great mullein *Verbascum thapsus*. **2** the

foxglove.

lusset *noun* a wooden box or basket for potatoes, *etc.*; *cf.* losset.

lusty *adjective* **1** healthy, flourishing, active. **2** *of a person* large, well-built. **3** fat, obese.

□ **as lusty as a trout** very healthy.

luter *noun* a passage between houses.

luvesome *see* love.

lyre snipe *noun* the miresnipe.

lythe *see* lithe.

lythe, lithe, laith, lait *noun* a fish: the pollack *Pollachius pollachius*.

◆ *verb* fish for lythe.

[Scots; apparently from Old Norse *lȳr* (which gives Caithness and Orkney *ly*), influenced by *saithe*, a similar fish, also known as the coalfish.]

'm *see* be.

Ma *noun* mother.

ma *see* pirr.

ma *see* my.

ma'am **1** young woman. **2 mem** ma'am.

machine *noun* a horse-drawn vehicle.

machree *intensifier* a term of endearment.

[Irish *mo chroí* literally "my heart"; *see also* a⁶.]

mack *see* make¹.

mackerel: a born mackerel someone who is mentally deficient.

□ **mackerel cock** a bird: the Manx shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*.

□ **mackerel scout** the garfish *Belone belone*, also known as the mackerel-guide [it leaves deep water in the spring to spawn inshore, preceding the mackerel moving inshore for the same reason]; *see also* sword. *Illustration see* sword.

macpic *noun* the magpie.

mad *adjective, of colours* glaring *e.g.* **mad red**

□ **as mad as a hare** very angry.

□ **as mad as a hatter** very angry.

□ **as mad as a March hare** very angry.

□ **as mad as bunty** in a great rage, very angry.

□ **be mad for** be eagerly desirous of.

□ **blazin mad** very angry.

□ **like mad** **1** energetically; quickly. **2** furiously, madly.

□ **mad angry** very angry; raging.

□ **mad hoose** an asylum.

□ **mad hot** **1** boiling hot. **2** angry.

madder, meather, mether *noun, historical* a four-sided vessel formed from a single block of wood, and having one, two or four handles.

□ **raining out of methers** describing heavy rain.

[Irish *meadar*; also found in South-Western Scots.]

maddhe-cran, mad-ye-cran the marten or pine-marten *Martes martes*.

maddyes *see* madya-bristey.

made *see* make¹.

madgie-aran, mudda-aran, mudyarn *noun* a support for an oatcake being hardened off in front of an open fire.

[Irish *maide aráin* literally "stick of bread". *See also* bread.] [ILLUS: madgie-a]

madhian *noun* (bad) temper.

madho, madda *noun* a dog.

madole *noun* a name traditionally given to anyone born on the night of a great storm supposed to accompany the birth or death of a member of the family of MacDowell (pronounced Madole) *e.g.* **Alec Madole**

madya-bristey, muddie-breesties, also maddyes, muddiaghs,

mudyees, muddies, mudyeens *noun* a pair of home-made or improvised

tongs.

[Irish *maide briste* literally "broken stick".]

madyerall *noun* the great wood-rush *Luzula sylvatica*, *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

mag *see* Maggie.

mag *verb* go about in an uncertain, indecisive manner.

[Hiberno-English form of *maug*.]

magac *noun* the pollack.

mageegle *see* misgiggle.

Maggie *noun* a playing card: (a) the queen of hearts; (b) the ace of hearts; (c) the five of whichever suit is trumps.

□ **maggie-mony-feet**, *also* **mag-mony-feet**, **meg-many-feet**,

meg-of-the-mony-feet, **meg-wi-the-mony-feet**; *plural*

meg-munny-feets; **1** a centipede. *Illustration see* da. **2** a millipede. *See* many.

□ **maggie muffie** a bird: the whitethroat *Sylvia communis*.

□ **megpie**, **mickby**, **mag**, **meg** a bird: the magpie *Pica pica*. *Illustration see* pyot.

maggot, **meggot** *noun* **1** a maggot. **2** a sheep-tick. **3** *figuratively* an annoying person.

◆ *verb* treat sheep for maggots.

□ **maggot fly** a bluebottle.

□ **maggoty** *of a person* irritable.

□ **maggoty-headed** foolish, difficult or obstinate.

maghair *noun* mother.

magic music a game.

Magies and McTurks givers and receivers.

magistrate *see* Glasgow.

maglamphus *noun, also* **maglundy** a clumsy, stupid person *Mid Ulster*; *cf.* glundie.

magnify *verb* signify, matter.

magowk *verb* make an April Fool of (someone).

[Scots, from *ma-* (*see* whigmaleerie) + *gowk*.]

maid *noun* a young woman [archaic in Standard English].

maiden *noun* one of the two uprights that support the heck of a spinning-wheel [influenced in sense by Irish *maighdean* "a maiden", also applied to this part of a spinning-wheel]. *Illustration see* bush².

□ **maidenhead** a shellfish: the cowry *Trivia spp.*

□ **maiden heifer** a heifer, a young cow that has not had a calf.

□ **two maidenheads make a fool**

maigelled *adjective* mangled, twisted.

[Scots *maggled*; origin unknown, possibly an onomatopoeic alteration of *mangle*.]

maik *see* make³.

mail *see* meal.

Maillie *noun* a pet name for a cow or ewe.

◆ *exclamation* **maillie maillie** a call to a pet sheep.

[Scots, altered form of *Mallie*, itself a form of the name *Molly*.]

mails *noun plural rarely used in sing* small perforated pieces of copper or other metal used in Jacquard weaving, attached to the heddle through which the end of the warp passes.

main *see* mean².

main *see* mean³.

main *adverb* great, unmistakable, thorough, very.

□ **main-oar** no. 3 in a four-oared boat; usually larger and heavier than others.

□ **main part** the greater part (of something).

main¹ *noun* a match at cockfighting.

mained *adjective, of a lawn* unevenly germinated.

maintain *verb* argue or contend.

mair *see* more.

Mairch *see* Merch.

mairteens, mairtins, marteens, martyeens, martins, marchins,

markins *noun plural* **1** socks without feet, formerly worn in harsh weather by children going barefoot. **2** coarse gloves (worn for pulling thistles, *etc.*).

[Irish *máirtíní* *noun plural*.]

maisle, maisled *see* measles.

maist *see* most¹.

maister *see* master.

maistly *see* most¹.

majori weakling of the litter.

make¹, *past tense and past participle* **med**, *verb, also* **mak, mack, meck**

1 make. **2** compose (a prayer). **3 make to** make for, go towards.

◆ *noun* sort, kind.

□ **all makes and shapes** all sorts and sizes; all kinds and modes.

□ **have neither make nor shape, have neither shape nor make** *of a person or thing* be shapeless.

□ **he cudn't make the two en's of the candle meet**

□ **it makes no matter** it is of no consequence.

□ **made** sharp-witted, clever.

□ **made away with** murdered.

□ **made ground** ground that has been disturbed by digging as distinct from virgin soil; land where the surface soil has been raised, or hollows filled up with rubbish, or any material differing from the surroundings.

□ **made on** *cooking* made with (*e.g.* milk).

□ **made soil** *in cities* bad sites.

□ **made up** pleased.

□ **maka sawil** very image or likeness.

□ **make a chimley o' yer mouth, meckin' a chimley o' yer mooth** smoke.

□ **make ado** cause uproar, disturbance, fuss, bother.

□ **make after** follow, pursue hastily [archaic in Standard English].

□ **make a mock of** put to shame.

□ **make an offer** attempt (to do something) [rare in Standard English].

□ **make a penny of** "make a penny" by (selling something).

□ **make at** attack, aim a blow at.

□ **make away with your soul** endanger your salvation, *e.g.* commit perjury.

□ **make a wife of** marry (a woman).

□ **make believe** *verb* attempt to deceive someone into believing (that something is the case).

◆ *adjective, derogatory* improvised.

◆ *noun, derogatory* a substitute.

□ **make believe** *adjective, derogatory* improvised.

◆ *noun, derogatory* a substitute.

□ **make by** go past.

□ **make ceremony** stand on ceremony, fuss, scruple.

□ **make down a bed** turn down the bed-clothes, so as to leave a bed ready.

□ **make fast** fasten.

□ **make for** **1** go in the direction of. **2** attack, aim a blow at.

□ **make forth** set out.

□ **make free with** be familiar with, speak freely to.

□ **make good** repay.

□ **make into, make intill** go or force your way into.

□ **make in with** ingratiate oneself with.

□ **make it up** be on good terms again.

□ **make little** disparage or belittle; contemn, treat with scorn.

- **make much of** make a lot to do about anyone.
 - **make no bones** raise no difficulties.
 - **make no doubt** have no doubt.
 - **make off** accomplish a journey.
 - **make one's own of** treat as one of the family.
 - **make out 1** pretend. **2** earn, prosper.
 - **make out a living** make a living.
 - **makes and takes** sums, addition and subtraction exercises in arithmetic.
 - **make sharp** "look sharp", make haste.
 - **make shift** *noun, contemptuous* a substitute.
 - ◆ *adjective, contemptuous* for the time being.
 - **make someone up** enrich someone.
 - **make sure** be confident.
 - **make up** *verb* thoroughly study (a book, *etc.*), especially in preparation for an examination.
 - ◆ *noun* **make-up** a lie, an invented story.
 - **make-up** a lie, an invented story.
 - **make up to 1** accost with a view of making acquaintance. **2** make matrimonial advances to, court, be attentive to.
 - **make weight** something added to turn the scale, or to make up the desired weight.
 - **make your soul** *Roman Catholic* go to confession.
 - **making, makins, makings 1** the material from which anything is made. **2** earnings.
 - **making up** final preparation of anything, *e.g.* cloth.
 - **shoe-miker** cobbler.
- [Scots and Northern English form *mak, mack*, Western English *meck*.
Past tense: Scots and Northern English *med*. Past participle: Northern English *med*.]

make² *noun* a companion.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), from Old English *ǰemaca*.]

make³, maik *noun* a halfpenny in old currency, *frequently not worth a make*

[General dialectal and Scots, also slang, origin unknown.]

malaira *see* valaira.

malavogue, malivogue *verb* beat up, thrash.

- **malavogin 1** a beating, a thrashing. **2** a scolding.

[Also found in Cumberland; a nonce-word containing *mal-* (*cf.* malfooster).]

malcum: boiled to malcum

malder *see* melder².

male *see* meal.

male *noun* a meal, food.

- ◆ *verb* take your meals, eat.

- **maeltim** meal-time.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

male¹: male wether a ram.

malfooster *verb* spoil, make a hash of (a piece of work).

[Scots *mal(a)fooster*; a nonce-word containing *mal-* "badly"; *cf.* fooster.]

malivogue *see* malavogue.

mall, mell *noun, also maller, meller* a mall, a wooden mallet; *specifically* a post-rammer for firming the earth round fence-posts, *etc.* *Illustration see* stake.

- ◆ *verb 1* strike with a mall. **2** *specifically* bruise (whins) for cattle feeding. **3** beat severely, pound. **4** hit (someone) a heavy blow.

- **There's the hammer,/There's the mell,/There's the fist/That'll sen'**

ye to hell *rhyme*

□ **whin-mell** a large wooden mallet for breaking up whins for cattle-feed.
[ILLUS: whin-mll]

[Scots and Northern English form *mell*. See also *mell*¹.]

mall¹, **maul** a post-rammer (for firming earth round fence-posts etc); a mallet.

mallan rua, murrán-roe, morrián-roe, merrin-roe, morran, morrián
noun a fish: (a) the ballan wrasse *Labrus bergylta*; (b) the red sea-bream *Pagellus bogaraveo*.

[East Ulster Irish *mallán rua* (Standard Irish *ballán*).]

maller *see* maluder.

mallie *noun* a bird: the grey heron *Ardea cinerea*; *cf.* Maillie.

malt *verb* **1** fructify, germinate. **2** rot.

malthing stockings without feet.

maltreat abuse.

maluder, maller, maloo *verb* thrash, beat.

□ **maludering** a beating.

[Hiberno-English *mulvather* "to confuse" (origin unknown), hence occasional Scots *malvader* "to stun with a blow".]

mammans *noun, childish* "mammy", mother.

[Extended form.]

man¹, **mon** *noun* a husband.

◆ **exclamation** **1** expressing delight, surprise, emphasis, *etc.* **2** used at the end of a sentence. **3** *hence* a term of address to a person of either sex and of any age.

□ **a man of one mind** a man who thinks and acts for himself.

□ **he was never the same man since, etc., he was never his own man since** said of a person after an illness, accident or calamity.

□ **man above** *noun* a euphemistic oath: "God".

□ **man alive** **1** expressing delight, surprise, emphasis *etc.* **2** expressing impatience.

□ **man a man, man oh** *exclamation s* expressing surprise.

□ **man an' boy** since childhood, indicating how long two men have known each other.

□ **man an' mather** said of a servant who rules his mistress.

□ **man-big** *adjective, of a boy* man-grown, grown up; *cf.* woman.

□ **man-body** a man; *cf.* woman.

□ **man dear, man-a-dear, dear man, the dear man, oh man!**
exclamation s; *cf.* boy, wee, woman.

□ **maneen** a boy aping the mannerisms of a grown man; a boy who is a man before his time [*man* + Irish diminutive ending *-ín*].

□ **man-grown** mature, grown-up, adult.

□ **mankeeper, mancreeper, man-eater** *noun* a newt [the only species found in Ireland is the common newt *Triturus vulgaris*].

□ **man mad** *of a woman* love-smitten, madly in love.

□ **mannie** **1** an affectionate term of address to a small boy. **2** a disparaging or contemptuous term of address to an adult.

□ **mannins** *childish* a mannikin (a small man or boy).

□ **man of sin** the Pope.

□ **man of the house** the husband.

□ **man or mortal** anyone.

□ **men-folk** *noun plural* **1** the male sex. **2** the men of a household or farm.

□ **the auld man, the bad man, the black man** the devil; *see* old.

□ **the good man** God.

□ **the man that pays the piper calls for the tune**

□ **you'll be a man before your mother** said to comfort a little boy in trouble.

□ **you're a big man, but a wee coat fits ye**

[Scots, Northern English and West Midland English form *mon*.]

man², maun, mun; *negative*; **maunna, maunnae;** *auxiliary verb* must.

[Scots and English dialectal *mun*; Scots and Northern English also *man, mon*; from Old Norse (*ek*)*mun*, (*ek*)*man* "(I) must". *Mun* also arises as an unstressed form. *See* no².]

manage *verb* succeed in reaching or attending.

mandatory [*man-date-ory*] [the stress is on the first syllable in Standard English].

mane *see* mean², mean³.

maneen *see* man¹.

'mang *see* among.

mang *verb* bewilder, befuddle (someone).

[Scots "to become confused or distressed"; probably the same word as English dialectal "to mix together"; from Old English *mengan, mængan* "to mix".]

mange *noun* a hayrack (in a byre, *etc.*).

mangel weezil *noun* a root crop: the mangold wurzel.

[Scots *mangie weesle*, altered form.]

mangy, meangy *adjective*, **mean pron** stingy, niggardly.

manifest *adjective* plain *e.g.* a manifest lie.

mank *see* Manx.

manly *adverb* manfully.

mannam on ye *exclamation*, also **mannamy** an endearment.

manner *see* manure.

manner: **bad manners to you** a euphemistic curse; *cf.* **scran²**.

- have no manners** *of a horse* be untrained.
 - he and manners might marry - they're not full cousins** said of an uncouth person.
 - make your manners** bow or curtsy [archaic in Standard English].
 - mannerly** polite, having good manners.
 - manner of means** *especially* **by all manner of means** by all means, assuredly. **not by no manner of means** by no means.
 - no manner of use** no use at all.
 - pass your manners** greet a person politely [archaic in Standard English].
 - where's your manners?** said by a mother to a child to remind it to acknowledge something.
- See also* **mismannered**.

mannie, mannins *see* man¹.

manoeuvre *noun*, *in plural* antics.

- manoeuvrerty: the age of manoeuvrerty** the age of fun and mischief before maturity.

See also **manure**.

manswear, minswear *verb* commit perjury, swear falsely [*manswear* archaic in Standard English].

- mansworn, minsworn, mansorn** *adjective* forsworn, perjured.

[Scots form *menswear*, rarely *minswear*; from Old English *mānswerian* (Old English *mān* "wickedness" + *swear*).]

mant *noun* a stammer, a stutter.

- have a mant in the speech** stammer or stutter.

[Scots and Northern English, from Scottish Gaelic *mannda* "lispings" (related to Irish *mantach* adjective "stammering").]

manteen *verb* maintain.

[Scots form.]

mantel, mantelboard, mantelshelf a mantelpiece.

mantumaker, mantymaker *noun* a dress-maker.

[Scots and mainly Northern English *mantymaker*, literally "a maker of mantuas (a type of loose flowing gown worn by women in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries)".]

manure, manner *verb* **1** till (land); dig (the garden). **2** prepare (land) for

crops *e.g.* *That snow'll manure the land.* **3** manure. **4** prepare (flax) for scutching by passing it through rollers.

[Older form with stress on the first syllable (still Scots and English dialectal) *manner*. The same word as *manoeuvre* (which is a later reborrowing, from the idea of "working" something).]

Manx: **mank, mink** *noun* a small, strong breed of horse [mistaken singular form as if *Manx* was plural].

□ **Manx Puffin** a bird: the Manx shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*.

many, mony, munny, minny *adjective, noun* many.

- **as many as ye cud shake a stick at** a great many.
- **be too many for someone** surpass someone in wit, strength or learning.
- **for many a long day** for a long time.
- **for many a year** for a long time.
- **many a bit** a long time.
- **many a one** many.
- **many a where** in many places.
- **many a while** a long time.
- **many's the long day ago, long an many a day ago** long ago.
- **many's the time, many's a time** many a time, often.

[Scots and Northern English form *mony*, Scots also *munny, minny*.]

map *noun* a mop.

[Scots and Northern English, also Hiberno-English, form.]

mar *verb* hinder, interfere with.

◆ *noun* **1** something that spoils a thing. **2** a hurt, an injury.

maracle *see* meracle.

marble: **marble marble** a child's marble that is actually made of marble.

□ **sheep's marbles** sheep's droppings.

march, merch, murch *noun* **1** frequently in *pl* the boundaries where farms or estates adjoin. **2** a landmark.

◆ *verb, usually* **march with** march upon, adjoin, border on.

- **march-burn** the fence marking the boundary or mering.
- **march ditch, march dyke** a boundary wall or bank; *see* ditch, dyke.
- **marching** land touching another man's land.

[Scots form *merch*.]

marchins *see* mairteens.

marcy *noun* mercy.

[Old form (not in Scots).]

mare *see* more.

mare, meer *noun* **1** a mare. **2** a type of bench on which a person sits astride to do work such as splitting timber.

- **a midge on a mare's arse in McGilligan, a fly on a mare's bum in Magilligan** said with reference to keen-sightedness. McGilligan (the place) is across the Foyle from Moville.
- **mare's tail** the last sheaf cut at harvest, plaited together and brought home as part of the harvest festivities. *Illustration see* churn².
- **money makes the mare go, money maks the meer gang** *proverbial*
- **Shanks' mare** one's own exertions *e.g.* *I came on Shanks' mare*.
- **they that would slight my mare would buy my mare** said of those who find fault with a thing they desire to possess.

[Scots form *meer*.]

margamore, margymore **1** a large market or cattle fair held before Christmas or Easter. **2** *figuratively* an exaggerated account.

[Irish *margadh mór*.]

marguilly *verb* tear to pieces.

[Scots, from Old French *margoillier* "to dirty".]

margymore *see* margamore.

marigoldus the corn marigold *Chrysanthemum segetum*.

marin *see* mear.

mark: **he's a good mark to blame** *or* **to sue** said of someone who is rich.

- **like's a bad mark among sheep** *proverbial* commonly said to someone who remarks that something is "like" something else.
- **mark a finger upon** "lay a finger on", harm in any way.
- **marksman** *noun, jocular* a man who cannot sign his name and has therefore to make his mark.
- **mark the ground** impress; put foot on the ground *thus, of a lame horse e.g. He could hardly mark the ground.*
- **she's passed the mark of mouth** said of someone older than the marks by which a horse is judged.

markery *noun* mercury.

[Scots and Northern English form; from Latin *mercurius*, influenced by Old French *marcure*.]

market: be in the market now have recovered from some serious illness.

- **make one's market** get engaged or married. *e.g. you made your market late* said to one who marries (or otherwise prospers) late in life.
- I've made my market, what does it matter?** an excuse for untidiness in a woman.
- **market-ripe** in prime condition and ready for sale; *figuratively, of a girl* ready for marriage.
- **spoil someone's market, put someone past her market** court a woman for so long as to spoil her chances with anyone else.

markins *see* mairteens.

marl mud.

márlachan *noun* a term of contempt.

marled *adjective, also marly* speckled, variegated.

- **marly hen** the Plymouth Rock hen. *Illustration see* Primmer-Rock.
- [Scots, also sometimes English dialectal, *marled, marly*; from Old French *merellé* (*see* mirl).]

marlie, marley *noun* **1** a child's marble. **2** *in plural* marbles (the game).

- **his or her head's a marlie** he or she is not thinking straight.
- [West Midland, also, rarely, Scots; either formed on Standard English *marl* "a type of soil composed of clay and limestone", or on English dialectal *marl* form of *marvel*.]

marly *see* marled.

marra *noun* marrow, *also* marra bone

- **marrow-bones, marra bones** *noun plural, jocular* the knees
- e.g. Down! on yer marra bones.*
- [Scots and English dialectal form.]

marrow, morrow, morra *noun* **1** a husband or wife, a spouse. **2** a match, an equal. **3** one of a matching pair (of shoes, *etc.*). **4** *in plural* a pair.

- ◆ **verb** **1** match. **2** *of a farmer* lend men or horses to a neighbour, receiving a similar loan in return when needed; borrow men or horses on the same understanding.
- **half-a-morrow** a widow.
- **morrowing, morrowin** **1** an exchange agreement between two or more farmers for mutual assistance, for instance at ploughing, the harvest, peat-cutting, *etc.* **2** co-operative farmwork. **3** the borrowing or lending of men or horses on the understanding that the favour will be returned.
- **morrowingdale** a system of annual redistribution of land, a type of rundale.

[Obsolete Standard English (still Scots and Northern English) *marrow* "a companion; a partner"; Orkney, Shetland and Caithness form *morrow, morra*; from Northern Middle English *marwe*. *See also* mismorrow.]

marry, merry *verb* **1** marry. **2** **marry on, marry upon** marry, be married to *e.g. married on a woman whose father was a Scot.*

- **don't marry for money, but mind ye, a girl's no' the worse (or all the better) if she can boil her own side of the pot** *proverbial*
- **if ye marry the wind ye'll calm it** *proverbial* marriage has a calming effect on people.

- **marriage** the ceremony at church or chapel, while the WEDDING is the wedding-feast.
- **married itself** married.
- **marry the bun** an old woman who sells cakes.
- **the marryin' man's aye the winnin' wan** *proverbial*
- **ye can't marry an' do well in wan year** *proverbial*
[Scots form *merry*.]
- marsh**: **marsh-fog** bog-moss, moss of the genus *Sphagnum spp.*; *see fog*.
- marteens, martins, martyeens** *see mairteens*.
- marvel, mervel** *noun* **1** a child's marble. **2** *in plural* marbles (the game).
 - **he has neither money, marvels, nor chalk to make a ring** *proverbial* said of someone who is stony broke.
 - **them 'at has marvels can play, and them that has none can look on** *proverbial*
[Hiberno-English and English dialectal form *marvel*; also found in Western Scots. *See also marlie*.]
- marvels** the tawse.
- Mary**: **Mary Anne** a jessie.
 - **Mary of the trousers** a bird: **(a)** the hen of the reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*; **(b)** the hen of the stonechat *Saxicola torquata*.
- marygoes** *noun plural* marigolds, *thus sailing round like marygoes in broth* very happy [marigold petals were formerly used to garnish food].
[Kent form *merrigo*.]
- masel** *see my*.
- mash** *noun* the mesh of a net.
[Old form. *See also mast*².]
- mash**¹
 - **him and me was brought up on the same mash**
- mash-corns, masy-corns** *noun* the edible roots of a wild flower: silverweed *Potentilla anserina*.
[Scots *mascorn*, altered form of *marsh* + *corm*.]
- masheroom, masheroon** *see mushroom*.
- masy-corns** *see mash-corns*.
- mashyroom** *see mushroom*.
- mask** *verb* **1** brew (tea). **2** *of tea* infuse, "draw".
[Scots and Northern English form of *mash* (as in brewing ale).]
- maskin** *see meskin*.
- masle** *see measles*.
- mason**: **oul' masons make good barrow-men** *proverbial*
 - **what are they doing? making masons** *proverbial, of people who seem to be acting suspiciously*
- mass**: **a man's not gospel-greedy, that neither goes to mass, nor to church, nor to meetin'** *proverbial* said of someone who has no religion.
 - **if ye missed mass, ye hut the gatherin'** *proverbial* said of someone who nearly does something.
 - **mass house** a Roman Catholic church.
 - **mass man** a Roman Catholic man; *cf. meet*.
 - **mass rock** *historical* a large rock used as an altar for secret, open-air masses during the time of the penal laws.
- massacree, massacre** *verb* massacre.
[English dialectal, altered forms.]
- massy-cock an' one over** leap-frog.
- mast**¹ *verb* tilt (a cart) by leaning on it behind.
- mast**² *verb* net (herring).
[Northern Scots form of Scots and Northern English *mask*; from Old Norse *mǫskve* "a mesh", influenced by Old English **masc*, which gives *mesh* (*see mash*).]
- master, mester, maister** *noun* **1** a master. **2** a woman's husband.
 - **he's as far as the master can put him, he's as far as the mester can**

pit him *proverbial* expressing someone's proficiency.

- **master cleg** a large cleg.
- **master-drain** a main drain.
- **master eel** an enormous eel that is supposed to inhabit the larger loughs and devour bathers, cattle, *etc.*
- **masterful** determined.
- **mastering** masterful, overbearing.
- **masterman** a ruler, a governor.
- **master otter** a large otter.

[Scots and Northern English forms *mester*, *maister*.]

masthead: **to the masthead 1** to the full. **2** in abundance.

match *noun 1* a bout of some activity, *e.g.* **a shoutin match 2** communal work, *thus* **ploughing match**, **spinning match 3** a number of farmers gathered to do the ploughing of a needy neighbour.

match¹ *verb 1* join one person with another in marriage. **2** **matched of a person** almost overtaken.

◆ *noun* a person of equal capacity.

- **as God makes them, He matches them** *proverbial* said of an ill-assorted marriage.

mate *see* meat.

material *noun, in plural, also matts* the ingredients for making a hot whiskey.

◆ *adjective* good, excellent *e.g.* *a material cow*.

matted *adjective, of hair* tangled.

matter: **make no matter** be of no consequence.

- **no great matter(s)** nothing to boast of.
- **what matter?** what does it matter?

maug *verb* walk away, *frequently* **maug off with you**

[English dialectal, also rarely in Scots, *mog* "to depart; to jog along slowly"; origin unknown. *See* *mogey*.]

maugh *verb* mash (turnips) with a beetle.

- **maughing** the material from which mud-turf is made.

[*Cf.* Scots *moch* of foodstuff "to become putrescent", the same word as *mogh*.]

maughy *see* *mogh*.

maukin, mawkin *noun 1* *also* **mulkin (a)** a fat, lazy, slow-witted person; **(b)** a simpleton; **(c)** a cowardly person. *Cf.* *bawken*. **2** a hare.

[Obsolete Standard English *malkin, mawkin* "a slattern"; Scots "a hare; a cat"; Yorkshire "a cat"; a diminutive of Middle English *Malde* "Matilda, Maud".]

maun *see* *man*².

maunder *verb* grumble.

maunna, maunnae *see* *man*².

maush *verb* trample (mud-turf) with the feet.

mavis, mavish *noun* a bird: the song thrush *Turdus philomelos*.

- **sing like a mavis** *proverbial, generally used satirically*

[*Mavis* now only poetic in Standard English (still general dialectal and Scots), English dialectal also *mavish*; from Old French *mauvis*.]

maw *see* *mow*¹.

maw *see* *pirr*.

maw *verb, of a cow, etc.* moo.

maw¹ appetite.

mawel *noun: e.g. baulking a mawel*.

maw-go-braw *adverb* straight ahead, without looking or heeding where you are going.

[Irish *amach go breá* "out finely", or *amach go brách* "out forever".]

mawk *noun* a maggot.

- **mawkish** *figuratively* whimsical.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and Northern English), from

Old Norse *maðkr.*]

mawkin *see* maukin.

mawly *see* moiley.

mawms *noun* a handful (of meal or flour).

maxed:

May, Mey *noun* May (the month).

□ **between the two Mays** between the 1st and 12th of May, *i.e.* May day and Old May Day.

□ **May bee** a beetle: the common cockchafer *Melolontha melolontha*, also known as the May-bug [the adults hatch out in May]; *see also* may¹.

[ILLUS: May/bee]

□ **May bees don't fly in winter** *pun* a reply to someone who uses the word maybe (*see* may¹).

□ **May bird, May curlew** the whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*.

□ **May blossom** the blossom of the hawthorn; *hence, proverbial never cast a clout till May is oot* *i.e.* don't put aside your winter clothes until the hawthorn is in bloom; *see* clout³.

□ **May dew:**

□ **May Eve** 30th April, when a horseshoe or bunch of primroses was put over the door to keep away witches.

□ **mayflower** a wild flower: **(a)** the marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*; **(b)** the primrose *Primula vulgaris*.

[Both of these flowers are in bloom in May.]

□ **mayfly** a dragonfly [in Standard English, now applied only to a different insect, of the order *Ephemeroptera spp.*]. *Illustration see* grand.

□ **May jack** a bird: the whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*.

□ **May shell** the internal shell of a cuttle-fish *Sepia officundus*, washed ashore.

□ **mayweed** a seaweed: tangle *Laminaria digitata*, driven ashore by May storms.

□ **May whaup** a bird: the whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*; *see* whaup.

□ **wash your face in May dew** a custom on May Eve *e.g.* *It is not many years since the girls here used to gather May-dew on May-eve to wash their faces; it made them beautiful.*

[Scots form *Mey*.]

may¹ *auxiliary verb* had better: used in making a suggestion *e.g.* *You may see to that stain before it dries in.*

□ **maybe, mebby, mibby** *adverb, noun* maybe.

◆ *verb* say maybe *e.g.* *There's no maybein about it.* *See also* May.

□ **maybe that!** maybe so!

□ **may I never, may I never stir** a strong affirmation, protestation or appeal to give force to a statement.

□ **may your stores increase** an expression of thanks; may you prosper.

□ **mebby jist** indeed (not) *e.g.* *A think no mebby jist I should think not indeed; see* just.

□ **mebby so!** oh! indeed! Well now! Well now to be sure!

□ **so you may say** more emphatic.

may² *verb, of a lamb, etc.* bleat.

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

maybe *see* may¹.

maygrums *noun plural* megrims, whims, fancies; *in livestock* a disease: the staggers.

[Scots, also Cheshire, form.]

maze *noun* **1** a state of amazement. **2** the state of a spinning top when it is going so fast that it appears to stand still.

maze *see* mease.

□ **mazed** bewildered, astounded.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), from Old English **mase*.]

McKingston, McKeen'stoon *noun* Ballymena.

me *see* my.

me *reflexive pronoun* myself *e.g.* *I sat me down* [archaic in Standard English, except colloquial in U.S.A.].

meahter *verb, of a horse* neigh.

[Onomatopoeic.]

meal, male, mail *noun* meal (finely ground grain).

□ **male ark, barrel, bin or kist** a meal bin, a wooden bin or chest with a canted top, for holding meal; *see* ark, kist. [ILLUS: male/ark]

□ **male bag, male baag** bag (for potatoes).

□ **male barrel, male barl** a meal bin.

□ **male bin, mail bin, male bing, meal bing** a meal bin.

□ **meal-and-bree** oatmeal porridge.

□ **meal-and-kail** a dish consisting of oatmeal and kale.

□ **meal kist** a meal bin.

□ **meal-poke** a meal-bag.

□ **mealy: mealy-creashy, mealacreshy, mealy-crushy** fried oatmeal; *see* creash¹, crush.

□ **mealy-mouthed, mealy-moothed 1** smooth-tongued, plausible, fawning, hypocritical. **2** over-modest, reserved, reticent, shy, backward in asking, afraid to speak out; soft-spoken; *mim an' meek*. **3** not speaking out plainly when something disagreeable has to be said. *also* **mealy**

mouth someone who behaves in this way.

[Older form in Scots and English *male, mail*.]

mean¹ *verb* complain; moan in pain.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *mānan* "to lament".]

mean², main, mane *adjective 1* of grazing land held in common. **2** mean, stingy. **3** of an animal in poor condition, thin.

◆ **adverb working mean** exchanging co-operative labour.

□ **as mean as get out very mean. that mane that if he was a ghost he waddent gi' ye a scaar**

□ **in means 1** of grazing in common. **2 in meanings of farmers** in partnership *e.g.* *ploughing in means*.

[Older form in Scots and English *main, mane*.]

mean³, main, mane; past tense and past participle meaned; verb mean, intend.

[Older form in Scots and English *main, mane*.]

meany, menye *noun* a household.

◆ **adjective** belonging to a particular household.

□ **menye, menyie, menny mo, I ax ye whare mun this man go** *rhyme*

[Obsolete Standard English (still Northern English) *meinie*, Scots form *menye*; from Old French *meyné*.]

mear *noun 1* a mearing, a land boundary [archaic in Standard English]. **2** a portion of land; a district.

◆ **verb** adjoin, border.

□ **marin 1** a mearing, a land boundary; a boundary. **2** the wall, bank or sheugh forming the mearing.

□ **mearing drain** a dividing or march drain.

□ **mearing fence** a ditch.

□ **mearing stones** dividing or march stones.

[Obsolete Standard English (still Hiberno-English and English dialectal), from Old English *zēmre* *noun* "a boundary".]

meas: have no meas on 1 esteem, regard. **2** recollection *e.g.* *I had no meas on where I left the coat*.

[Irish *níl meas ag duine ar*. *See also* begvess.]

mease, maze *noun* a measure of herrings, varying from 500 to 615 if the long hundred (a hundred plus an extra quantity for luck) was used, as was customary.

[Hiberno-English, Scots and South-Western English *mease*; Scots, Isle

of Man and South-Western English *maze*; from Old French *meise* or Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *mese* "a herring barrel"; all from Old Norse *meiss* "a basket for carrying a load".]

measle, maisle, masle *verb* cause the legs to become blotched by sitting too close to a fire.

◆ *noun, in plural* **1** usually the **maisles** a disease: measles. **2** blotches on the legs from sitting too close to a fire.

□ **measled, maisled** **1** affected by measles. **2** of the legs blotched from sitting too close to a fire.

[Older form in Scots and English *maisle, masle*.]

measure, mizure *noun* a measure; a measurement.

◆ *verb* put a string round (the patient's body) in the process of measuring.

□ **measure one's length** fall.

□ **measuring** a traditional cure for heart fever: the person who has the cure puts a string around the patient's body as if taking measurements.

□ **measuring the walls** describing a drunk.

[Scots form *mizure*.]

meat, mate *noun* **1** meat (the flesh of animals). **2** beef (as distinct from pork or lamb). **3** food in general [archaic in Standard English]. **4** a meal. **5** the useful fibre of flax.

□ **as full as an egg is o' mate**

□ **be like your mate** be fat.

□ **buttermilk mate** a mixture of meal and buttermilk as food for birds.

□ **good at your mate** a good eater.

□ **good mate-house** a house where workmen receive good and plentiful food.

□ **if you lost me and your meat, you'd want two good friends**

proverbial

□ **look for your meat** beg.

□ **mate-tay** a substantial meal in a restaurant or eating-house; *see* tea.

□ **meal's meat** a meal; enough for a meal; the food eaten at one meal.

□ **the mate she won't take in the morning she'll take at night**

proverbial said of a woman refusing a suitor at first.

[Older form in Scots and English *mate*.]

meather *see* madder.

mebby *see* may¹.

meck *see* make¹.

meckle *see* mickle.

med *see* make¹.

medda, middy, meeda, meedy; *plural also meadowses*; *noun* a meadow.

□ **meadow-crake** the corncrake *Crex pratensis*.

□ **meadow-grass** fiorin *Agrostis alba* or *stolonifera*. This crop, chopped like hay, is planted (or rather strewn over with clay) in May. It roots at the nodes when the moisture gets at it and is mown as meadow in October, and so feeds cows and smt. horses

□ **meadow hay** hay cut from bogs; natural bog-grass mixed with rushes and wild flowers (meadow-sweet) and soft spongy moss at bottom; lowland hay.

□ **meadow-sweet** a garden form of drop-wort *Spiraea filipendula*.

□ **them that wud slight the medda wud buy the hay** *proverbial*

[Scots forms *meddie, meeda, meedy*; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire *midda*.]

meddle *verb* hurt, annoy, interfere with *e.g.* *The dog won't meddle you.*

□ **not to meddle nor make with** not to interfere with (something or somebody).

meea *see* come¹.

mee-aw *noun, usually in plural* troubles, misfortunes.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *mí-ádh* "ill-luck".]

meeda, meedy *see* medda.

meehers, meehals *noun plural* an edible seaweed: dabberlocks *Alaria*

esculenta, Co. Donegal.

[Origin unknown.]

meelamurder *see* millia murder.

meelcartin, **meelcartan**, **mulharten**, **milkartherin** *noun* **1** a parasitic worm in the foot. **2** a red, itchy sore on the sole of the foot. **3** a chilblain.

[Hiberno-English *meelcartan*, *mulharten*; from Irish *míol ceartáin* "a crab-louse", itself from *míol* "small creature" + *ceartán* "a tick".]

meeley *see* millia murder.

meen *noun* a narrow valley *e.g. between the mountains, or embosomed among them, are glens, cloons (valleys), meens (narrow valleys)... and narrow passes.*

meenister *noun* a Protestant clergyman.

[Scots form.]

meenit *noun* a minute.

[Scots form.]

meer *see* mare.

meeserable *see* miserable.

meet: **going to meetin'** *Presbyterian* going to church.

□ **go-to-meeting** Sunday best (clothes).

□ **meeting**, **meetin** *noun* **1** *Presbyterian* a church service. **2** a

Presbyterian church, *usually* **meeting-house**

◆ *adjective* *Presbyterian*, *thus* **meeting minister**, **meeting man**; *cf.* *mass.*

□ **people meet one another, hills and mountains do not** *proverbial*

meetchen *noun* a left-handed person.

meg *see* Maggie.

meg *noun* a worn-out spinning top.

[Oxfordshire; origin unknown, *cf.* *maggie*.]

meg¹ *verb* *e.g. I'm only meggin*; I'm only joking.

meggot *see* maggot.

meghil *see* mehell.

□ **she had better mate on her plate to stick a fork in than a magpie** *proverbial* said of a girl who rejects a suitor, *cf.* "have better fish to fry".

mehell, **mehal**, *also incorrectly* **meghil** **1 (a)** a gathering of people for co-operative farmwork such as planting potatoes, harvesting crops or cutting peat; **(b)** a gathering of people to do farmwork for a needy neighbour. **2** the team of people doing co-operative farmwork.

3 *generally* any team of people.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *meitheal*.]

melatty *noun*, *literally* a mulatto: applied to anyone with a sallow complexion.

[Obsolete English dialectal form.]

melder¹ *noun* **1** a sticky, messy dish of food. **2** a dirty mess; a stinking heap.

Cf. *mell²*.

melder², **meldher**, **malder** **1** the amount of grain ground at one time at a mill. **2** *specifically* **(a)** the amount of corn sent to the mill; **(b)** the amount of meal returned from the mill.

□ **eat a melder** eat too much.

[Scots and Northern English *melder*, Yorkshire form also *maleder*; from Old Norse *meldr*.]

melia *see* millia murder.

mell *see* mall.

mell¹ *noun* the last sheaf of corn cut in the harvest. *Illustration* *see* *churn²*.

[Northern English; origin unknown, *cf.* Scots and Northern English *to win or get the mell* "to come last in a race" (*see* *mall*).]

mell²: **melling** **1** a mixture. **2** *specifically* a mixture of light wool and dark wool.

[Archaic Standard English *mell* "to mix", from Old French *meller*. *See also* *melder¹*.]

meller *see* mall.

mellet *noun* a mallet (a wooden hammer).

- **mallet office** the office of the mass.
[Northern English form.]

mellow *adjective* ripe, as apples.

melt *noun* **1** milt (the spawn of a male fish). **2** the spleen. **3** *slang* the tongue *e.g.* *Keep in your melt* [from the tongue's similarity in shape to the spleen].

◆ *verb, literally* strike a person in the spleen: strike a person so hard as to knock him or her out.

- **I'll knock the melt out of you** a threat (to beat someone up) *e.g.* *I'll knock yer melt in so I will.*

□ **melts and rowns** *literally* milt and roe: one thing and another; *see* rown.

[Scots and English dialectal form.]

melt¹: **fit till melt** bothered, worried.

- **it wud melt ye** *of the weather* it's very warm.
- **melted butter** white sauce, served with corned beef.
- **meltin' day** a hot day.
- **we're not suggar nor salt that will melt** said when someone is averse to go a journey, owing to fear of rain.

melt²: **a right aul' melt** a destructive, useless, drunken person not to be trusted.

memorandum stick *noun* a tally made by herring curers from a piece of barrel hoop: a short notch is cut for each basket *or* cran of 250 fish delivered, and a long one for each set of four baskets.

men *see* man¹.

men' *see* mend.

menablins *see* gump, mump.

menagerie *noun* a collection of odds and ends.

mend, men'; *past tense and past participle* **ment**; *verb* heal, recover *e.g.* *Is your leg mendin'?*

- **mended** *also* **well mended** **1** improved after an illness. **2** grown stouter.
- **on the mendin' side** *or* **turn** recovering health.
- **the deil mend you, hell mend you, fire mend you** *literally* may the devil or hell cure you (of your wickedness) **(a)** a curse; **(b)** "serves you right". *See* devil.

[Scots form *men'*. Past tense and past participle: West Midland, also rarely Scots, *ment*.]

menetian *noun* Venetian, a sort of paint.

mengle mangle.

mense¹ *noun* **1** good manners, politeness. **2** modest behaviour, discretion.

- **for mense's sake** for decency's sake: referring to the practice of leaving food on the plate to show that there was plenty.
- **have your meat and your mense, have your mense and your meal** *literally* have your food and your reputation for good manners: **(a)** said when a guest is offered food but declines; *see* **meat**; **(b)** said when a favour is refused.
- **menseful, mensfu'** **1** polite, well-behaved, courteous. **2** modest, discreet. *See* full.

[Scots and Northern English; shortened form of earlier *mensk*, from Old Norse *mennska* "humanity, kindness".]

mense² *noun* a great amount, a large quantity.

[Shortened form of *immense*.]

ment *see* mend.

mention *noun* a very small quantity, a trace.

- **mentioned** *adjective* well known and highly regarded.
- **mentioned house** **1** the original dwelling-house on a farm. **2** the principal house in a district.

menye *see* meany.

meowt *see* mewt.

mera *see* come¹.

meracle, maracle *noun* a miracle.

[Scots forms.]

merch *see* march.

Merch, Mairch *noun* March (the month).

- **March dust** dust seen in March, a sign of dry weather; *proverbial*. **a peck o' March dust is better nor a score of (May) gold**

[Scots forms.]

merch, mairch *verb* march, walk in a military fashion.

[Scots forms.]

mercy: mercy on me, mercy oh, mercy me, what in mercy?, Father of mercy expressing surprise, sorrow *etc.*

mere *see* come¹.

merle, merl *noun* the blackbird *Turdus merula*.

[Scots, from French *merle*; also adopted as a poetic word in Standard English.]

mermaid: mermaid's purse the egg-case of a ray, *especially* the skate.

mern: a wee mern very near.

merril *see* moor¹.

merrils *see* mirl.

merrin-roe *see* mallan rua.

merry *see* marry.

merry: as merry as if you'd meal to sell very merry.

- **as merry as the wind** very merry.
- **merry dancers** the northern lights, the *aurora borealis*.
- **merry-man** a clown, buffoon, merry-andrew.
- **merry-ma-tanzie** a child's game.
- **merrythought** a wishbone.
- **the merrier we part, the sooner we'll meet** *proverbial*

mervel *see* marvel.

mescawn *noun* a small quantity of tea.

mesel, meself *see* my.

meskin, mescaun, meshkin, mesgan, maskin, miskin, miscaun *noun*

- 1** a lump of butter weighing several pounds, *especially* one offered for sale at a market; a large lump of butter. **2** a large, round pat of butter.

[Hiberno-English *mescan, mescaun, miscan, miscaun*; from Irish *meascán*.]

mess 1 a scrape, dilemma, predicament. **2** a tangle of knitting wool.

message *noun, in plural, frequently the messages* groceries, shopping.

messan *noun 1* a small dog. **2** a mongrel dog. **3** *figuratively, abusive* a small, insignificant person.

[Irish *measán* "a lap dog"; also Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *measan*.]

mester *see* master.

- **take a person's measure** have all their good and bad qualities mited.
- **ye needn't measure my corn in your bushel** *proverbial* don't judge another man's experience or disposition by your own.

metal one and a half inch stone for roadmaking.

methor *see* madder.

Methody *adjective, noun* Methodist.

[Scots and English dialectal.]

meuter dust, *e.g.* in the street or on furniture.

mewt, myout, meowt *noun* a slight sound; the least noise.

[Obsolete Scots *mewt*, onomatopoeic.]

mewter *see* moolter.

mex pitch, bituminous material mixed with tar to prevent "bleeding" of the road surface in hot weather.

Mey *see* May.

mibby *see* may¹.

micawie dawk *noun* the pochard.

micht *see* might¹.

mickby *see* Maggie.

Mickey, Mickie *noun, also Mick, derogatory* a Roman Catholic man.

mickle, muckle, meckle *adjective* **1** of size large. **2** of quantity much.

◆ *adverb* much, greatly.

◆ *noun* a large amount.

□ **many mickles or littles make a mickle** *proverbial*

[Scots and English dialectal *mickle*, Scots and Northern English also *muckle*, Scots rarely *meckle*; from Old Norse *mikill*, corresponding to Old English *micel*, which gives *much*.]

mid: **mid-finger** the middle finger.

□ **mid kipple, mid-kiplin, mid-kippen** a strip of hide or leather connecting the handstaff and swipple of a flail; *see* couple. *Illustration see* soople².

□ **mid-ridge, mid-rig** the open furrow between two ridges of a ploughed field; *see* rig⁴. [ILLUS: mid-rdge]

midden *noun* **1** a dunghill; a manure pit. **2** a heap of rubbish. **3** any place or receptacle for rubbish. **4** a privy, an outside toilet.

□ **glower at the mune and fa in the midden** be so lost in one's dreams and aspirations that one fails to notice practical pitfalls and comes to failure.

□ **midden bottom** the site on which a midden stands.

□ **midden cock** a dunghill cock, a farmyard cockerel.

□ **midden fork** a dung-fork.

□ **midden head** a dunghill.

□ **midden man** a refuse disposal worker.

□ **midden stead** the site on which a midden stands.

middhup, midthyp *noun* a thingummy, an unnameable implement *Co. Donegal*.

[Nonsense word.]

middiock *noun* a dagger.

middle: **half-middling** of a person's health not well.

□ **knock someone into the middle of next week, land someone into the middle of next week** give someone a severe beating.

□ **middle heid rig** the strip of land left unploughed between two patches of ploughed field; *see* head.

□ **middlin, middlin', middling, midlin, middleeng, mäddelein** *adjective* **1** fair, tolerable, moderate; indifferent. **2** of health. (a) fairly well *e.g.*

purty middlin'. (b) not too well, poorly, indifferent *e.g.* **only middlin'**; mediocre or worse.

◆ *adverb* **1** fairly, moderately, tolerably. **2** *also* **middlin' an'** extremely, very *e.g.* **middlin' an' hungry**.

□ **more than middling** very superior.

middlin, midgelin a strip of hide or leather connecting the handstaff and swipple of a flail. *Illustration see* soople².

[Possibly *middling* or middle + one.]

middy *see* medda.

midge *see* mitch.

midge: **a midge's knee-buckle** anything extremely small [knee buckles were worn with knee breeches as part of men's costume in the eighteenth century].

□ **in the winking of a midge's eye** in a very short time; quickly.

□ **midget** a midge.

□ **there's more red nebs nor midges that weather** said of cold weather.

□ **be able to see a midge at Maghery**

midgelin *see* middlin.

midget *see* midge.

midthyp *see* middhup.

miggie *noun*, *Co. Donegal* **1** a cap resembling a beret. **2** a woollen night-cap.

might¹, **micht**; *negative*; *also mighten*; *auxiliary verb* **1** might. **2** *in replies* might have done *e.g.* *Did you hear any news? I might.* **3** *in combination* with other auxiliary verbs, *thus might can, might could, might should* [Scots form *micht*.]

might²: **might and main**

- mightily** *adverb* greatly.
- mighty**
- mighty me!** expressing surprise.
- on your might** with all your might.

See also all.

milds, miles *noun plural* a wild flower: a species of goosefoot, *especially* fat hen *Chenopodium album*.

[Scots, from Old English *melde*.]

mile: *plural mile*

- a mile and a bit** a very rough estimate of distance.
- he was niver a mile from the cow's tail**
- milesmen** *railways* track maintenance workers.
[Plural: *mile* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal).]

miles *see* milds.

milk: **a good milker** *of a clergyman* a good beggar.

- he would milk ye dry or to the dregs** *proverbial*
- mälkin-tim** milking time.
- milk-and-bread** bread and milk.
- milk and water** weak.
- milk-beal, milk-bealin** a whitlow, a sore at the side of the fingernail, *frequently* caused by friction when milking; *see* **beal**.
- milk beast** *or* **cow** a milch cow.
- milk can** a milk pail.
- milk crock** an earthenware vessel for holding milk.
- milker** a milking-stool.
- milk gowan** a wild flower: the dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*; *see* **gowan**.
- milk heifer, milking heifer** a cow after her first calf.
- milk-lue** milk-warm, of the temperature of milk leaving the cow; *see* **lew**.
- milk maid(s)** a wild flower: the cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis*.
- milkmaid's way** the Milky Way.
- milk the tether** go through the motion of milking a rope, in order to steal milk from a neighbour's cow by witchcraft.
- milk thistle, milk thrissel** the sow thistle *Sonchus oleraceus* and *Sonchus arvensis*.
- milk-woman** a wet nurse.
- milky**:
- milky suckers** little plants white in colour... we used to suck them and imagined they tasted milky.
- scatter the milk** disperse the milk (after weaning).
- sure she'd have you believe she could milk ducks**
- with shame I tell it / They boil their milk without pan or skillet** red hot stone.

milkartherin *see* meelcartin.

mill, mull *noun* **1** a mill. **2** *historical* a pinch of snuff [from the act of milling tobacco into snuff in a portable snuff-mill].

- hot from the mill eye** said of something freshly made.
- mill bannock** a small quantity of meal from a **melder** given as charity.
- miller's lift** an upward thrust with a crowbar to move a heavy object

forwards.

□ **miller's thumb** a fish: **(a)** the sea scorpion *Taurulus bubalis*; **(b)** the short-spined sea scorpion *Myoxocephalus scorpius*.

[In Standard English, applied to a freshwater fish *Cottus gobio*.]

□ **mill eye** the opening through which the ground meal falls.

□ **mill-head** the pond or reservoir from which the water-wheel is driven.

□ **mill kill** a kiln in which oats are dried before being ground into meal.

□ **millstone**:

□ **put on the mill the straw of the kiln** "rob Peter to pay Paul".

□ **the tears will be rolling down his cheeks like millstones up a mountain** *sarcastic*.

[Scots, also East Anglia, form *mull*.]

milled *adjective* "pinked".

miller: **drown the miller** put too much water in the whiskey or tea.

□ **oatmeal miller** one accustomed to grind corn with stones and able to pick the stones.

millia, melia, meeley:

millia murder, millia murther(s), melia murder, meelamurder, a meeley murder *exclamation* a cry of alarm.

◆ *noun* **1** a row, an outcry. **2** (yell) "blue murder".

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *míle murdar* "one thousand murders". *See* murder.]

mim *adjective* **1** *also* **mim-mouthed, mimsey** **(a)** demure, prim [*mim* also adopted in Standard English]; **(b)** prudish. **2** *of a woman* pert, saucy.

□ **as mim as a mouse**

□ **as mim as if butter would not melt in her mouth**

□ **miminy-piminy**:

[Scots and English dialectal; onomatopoeic, imitating the sound of someone speaking through pursed lips. *See also* mimp.]

mimp *verb* behave in an affected, over-refined way.

□ **mimping and pimping** the putting on of affectations; *see* pimp.

□ **mimpsey-pimpsey** miminy-piminy, fastidious, affected.

[Scots and English dialectal; also rare Standard English "a pursing of the lips"; onomatopoeic, *see* mim.]

mimsey *see* mim.

min *see* moon.

min' *see* mind.

mince: **make mince of** make a complete fool of.

□ **mincer, minsher** *noun* an old cow.

[Scots, also Nottinghamshire, form *minch*.]

minch *verb* trespass.

[South-Western English, *cf.* mitch.]

mind, min', mine *noun* **1** mind. **2** memory, recollection, *frequently* **have mind** *e.g.* *I had no mind of it*.

◆ *verb* **1** *also* **mind of, mind on** remember, recollect. **2** bear in mind.

3 recall *e.g.* *I mind the time*. **4** remind (someone). **5** observe, notice; pay attention to.

□ **a mind, amind** **1** in mind *e.g.* *It puts me amind of such another story*.

2 **be a mind to** be minded (to do something).

□ **a piece o' my mind** a scolding, a lecturing.

□ **be aminded** be minded, intend (to do something).

□ **change your mind often and you'll never go mad** *proverbial* said to one who changes his mind too often.

□ **have mind** **1** remember, call to mind. **2** *also* **have it in your head** intend to.

□ **have no mind of something** forget something.

□ **I mind me** I remember, *frequently* an opening to a story.

□ **mind I tell ye, mind I'm tellin' ye, D'ye min' what I'm goin' to tell yez** said for emphasis.

- **mine ye** don't forget *e.g. Mine ye, Jeanie, Aa geen ye thon wee caat.*
[Scots form *min'*, *mine.*]
- mines** *possessive pronoun* mine.
[Scots; modelled on *his*, *hers*, *etc.*]
- mingin** *adjective* dirty and smelly.
[Scots; possibly the same word as *ming* "to mix; a mixture used for treating fleeces; human excrement"; from Old English *mingan* "to mix".]
- mingy, minge, mingie, minchy, minjie** niggardly, stingy, miserly; mean, uncharitable, ungenerous.
- minikin, minniken, minnegin** *noun* a small pin.
□ **Jack in the Pulpit, out an' in/Sold his wife for a minikin pin** *rhyme*
- minikin-finikin** *noun* an affected person.
[Obsolete in Standard English (still Yorkshire); extended form of *minnikin*, now only as an adjective in Standard English "affected".]
- mink** *see* Manx.
- minnie-cat** *noun* a female cat.
[From Scots and Northern English *minnie* "a mother" (origin unknown) + *cat*¹.]
- minny** *see* many.
- minnyfole** *noun*, *literally* manifold: the third stomach of a ruminant, the psalterium [from its numerous parallel folds].
- minsher** *see* mince.
- minswear, minsworn** *see* manswear.
- mint**¹ *verb* **1** intend (to do something). **2** endeavour, venture (to do something). **3** aim a blow at. **4** hit with a stone, *etc.* **5** hint, insinuate, communicate by innuendo.
[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and Northern English), from Old English *myntan*.]
- mint**² *verb* give change of *e.g. Can ye mint that fiver?*
- minute, minit**: **a wee minute, a little minute** a moment, a short period of time.
□ **in a minute** readily, without hesitation.
□ **this minute** **1** at the present moment. **2** just a moment ago.
- mire**: **mire drum** a bird: the bittern *Botaurus stellaris*. [ILLUS: mire/drm]
□ **miresnipe** a bird: the common snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.
- mirl** *noun*, *in plural* **merrils** measles.
□ **mirled** speckled.
□ **mirly** **1** speckled. **2** spotty.
[Scots *mirl, merril* "to speckle", noun in plural "measles"; from Old French *merellé* "chequered, mottled". *See also* marled.]
- miroclous** *adjective* miraculous.
[Scots and Northern English shortened form *miraculous*.]
- mirokey** *see* molrooken.
- misanswer** *verb* give a rude answer.
[Scots, *mis-* + *answer*.]
- misard, misart, miserd, misert** *noun* a miser.
◆ *adjective, also miserdly, misertly* miserly, stingy.
□ **a miserly woman never spilled much** because she would never go near filling one's glass.
□ **miserly** wretched, mean, shabby.
[Old form *misard*, Scots and Northern English also *miserd*, Scots also *misert*; altered form with suffix as in *drunkard, braggart, etc.*]
- misbelieve** *verb* disbelieve.
[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), *mis-* + *believe*.]
- misbetuk** *verb, only in past tense* mistook, misunderstood.
[Altered as if containing *be-* (as in *beset*). *See take*.]
- miscall, misca'** *verb* **1** call (someone) names. **2** scold (someone), *frequently* **miscall someone for everything** **3** malign, misrepresent,

slander.

[*Miscall* obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal), Scots form *misca'*; see *call*.]

miscaun *see* *meskin*.

mischancy *adjective* unlucky; *see* *chancy*.

mischief *noun* misfortune, trouble.

□ **mischief and all** a great mischief.

mischievious *adjective* mischievous.

[Scots form, with altered suffix as in *parsimonious*, etc.]

misdeny:

misdigest *verb* not digest (food).

[*Mis-* + *digest*.]

misdoubt, misdoot *verb* **1** doubt. **2** disbelieve, distrust, have no confidence in [archaic in Standard English]. **3** suspect, fear (that something will happen or will turn out to be the case). **4** be mistaken.

◆ *noun* a doubt, a suspicion [archaic in Standard English].

See *doubt*.

miserable, meeserable *adjective* **1** miserable. **2** miserly, stingy.

◆ *noun, historical* an inferior type of cocoa *e.g.* a pound of miserable.

[Scots form *meeserable*.]

miserd, miserdly, misert, misertly *see* *misard*.

misfit *of boots etc.* a poor fit.

misfortunate *adjective* unfortunate.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots, also Southern English), *mis-* + *fortunate*.]

misfortune *noun* the giving birth to an illegitimate child *e.g.* she happened on (or with) a misfortune.

misgiggle, mageegle, misgeegle *verb* **1** disfigure, spoil. **2** upset; put into disorder. **3** bewilder, confuse (someone).

[Scots *misguggle*, from *mis-* + Scots *guggle* (from Old Norse *gogli* "ooze (mud)").]

misguide *verb* **1** ill-treat, bring up (a child) badly. **2** treat in a wrong way, mishandle.

□ **misguided** misled, deceived, erring, badly-trained.

mishandle *verb* mangle, main, knock about.

mishanter *noun* mischance, ill-luck.

[Scots, from Old French *mesaventure* "a misadventure".]

misken: misken yourself *literally* not know yourself: assume airs of superiority.

[Scots and Northern English, *mis-* + *ken*.]

miskin *see* *meskin*.

misknown misunderstood or not known.

misleared *adjective, literally* mistaught, badly brought up: behaving in an underhand or otherwise despicable way.

[Scots, from Old English *misl^{an}ran* "to misteach".]

mislike *verb* dislike [archaic in Standard English].

mislippen *verb* **1** neglect (e.g. a child). **2** mismanage. **3** distrust, doubt (a person). **4** misunderstand, take up wrongly.

□ **mislippened** having turned out badly because of neglect.

See *lippen*.

mislist *verb* molest.

[English dialectal *mislest*, Northern English also *mislist*; altered form of *molest*, as if containing *mis-*.]

mismannered *adjective* ill-mannered.

□ **mismanners** bad manners.

[Northern English and obsolete Scots *mismannered*; Scots *mismainners*; from *mis-* + *manner*.]

mismay *verb, usually* **mismay yourself** worry, upset yourself.

□ **mismayed** upset, perturbed.

[Scots; form of *dismay* with prefix altered to *mis-*.]

misorrow *verb* **1** mismatch (two things, e.g. two socks that don't make a pair). **2** mistakenly take (some article) thinking it is your own. **3** mix up. **4** mislay.

◆ *noun* a misfit, one of two items that do not match as a pair.

□ **misorrowed** *of a married couple* ill-matched.

[Scots, *mis-* + *marrow*.]

misremoved *adjective* upset, worried.

[Scots and Northern English, *mis-* + *move*.]

misremember *verb* forget.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Hiberno-English and Scots), *mis-* + *remember*.]

miss, *past tense and past participle* **mist**, *verb* **1** also **miss someone's eye** escape someone's notice e.g. *there's not much misses you*; i.e. you don't miss much. **2** *of crops* fail. **3 cannot miss but** cannot fail to.

◆ *noun* **1** a patch in a crop where a gap has been left in sowing or the seed has failed to grow. **2** a loss.

□ **a missed yan, a mässed yan** a lost opportunity.

□ **a miss is as good as a mile**

□ **if he mist it in the Lord's Prayer, he foun' it in the Apostles' Creed** said if a person fails in one direction, indicating that he may succeed in another; *proverbial*.

□ **if he mist Mass, he hit the cock-fight** if too late for one event, in time for what follows; *proverbial*.

□ **missly, mistly** *adjective, also missile, missal* **1** *of circumstances* lonely e.g. *It's very mistly wanting the dog*. **2** miserable. **3** neglectful, careless.

4 *of an opportunity* lost.

□ **miss one's foot, miss yer fut, mäss yer fuit** slip or stumble; make a false step; tumble.

□ **miss yourself** fail to take up an opportunity.

□ **you missed that as you missed your Mammy's blessing** **1** said in derision, usually when an intended injury fails to take effect; *proverbial*.

2 said to someone who is disappointed at having missed something.

[Past tense and past participle: pronounced *mist* in Standard English, but not so spelled.]

missie *noun* the oldest unmarried daughter of a farmer.

missioner, missionar *noun* **1** a Roman Catholic priest from outside the parish, engaged in a preaching campaign [*missioner* in England is now chiefly the person in charge of a parochial mission]. **2** a member of an Independent church; a lay preacher in a city mission; an itinerant evangelical preacher.

[Scots form *missionar*.]

missle, missly, mist *see* miss.

mistake: *past tense* **misteuk, mistuk**; *see* take.

□ **and no mistake** without doubt.

□ **make a mistake** have an illegitimate child.

□ **no mistake but** doubtless e.g. *No mistake but it's good*.

mister a rather disrespectful way of addressing a man.

mistime: **mistimed** *of meals* irregular.

□ **mistimous, mistimeous** unreliable, not to be trusted to do anything at the proper time.

□ **mistimous birth** a miscarriage.

mistletoe: **mistletoe thrush** the mistle thrush.

mistly *see* miss.

mistress *noun, usually* **the mistress** **1** a title of respect given to the wife of a clergyman, farmer, tradesman, etc. **2** a man's wife.

mistrust *verb* distrust.

mistuk *see* mistake.

misuptuk *verb, only in past tense* mistook, misunderstood.

[*Mis-* + *uptake* (*see up*).]

mit, mitt *noun* a hand; a mitten, a woollen glove.

mitch, midge *verb* play truant from school; stay away from work without permission.

◆ *noun* a day away without leave.

□ **mitcher** a truant.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal), probably from Old French *muchier* "to hide; to skulk". *See also* *minch, mooch*.]

mite a small child *e.g. a toty wee mite*.

mither *see* mother.

mitten *noun* **1** an unusually large hand. **2** a deformed hand [influenced in sense by Donegal Irish *miotán*].

□ **mitteny** a person with a deformed hand.

mittimus *noun* dismissal from service.

mix *verb, of hair* become grey.

□ **mixed** *of a person* having greying hair.

mixen *noun* a midden, *only in the proverb better wed ower the mixen than ower the moor* better marry a neighbour than a stranger.

[Archaic in Standard English, still English dialectal; from Old English *mixen*.]

mixture: *mixturem-gatherum, mixtrim-gidderim, also*

mixerum-gatherum a hotchpotch; a jumbled crowd; *see* *gather*.

mizure *see* measure.

mizzle *verb* drizzle, rain in very fine drops.

◆ *noun* drizzle, light rain; a drizzle.

□ **dry mizzle** a very slight drizzle.

□ **mizzling, also mizzly** *adjective* drizzling, rainy.

[Hiberno-English and English dialectal; of Low German origin, *cf.* Low German *miseln*, West Flemish *mizzelen*, Dutch dialectal *miezelen*.]

mizzle¹ *verb* run away, disappear; slink off *e.g. How monarchs die is easily explained, / And thus it might upon their tomb be chizzel'd - / As long as George the Fourth could reign, he reigned, / And then he mizzled.*

'm not *see* *be*.

moak, moke a donkey.

moan *verb* **1** pity (someone) *e.g. I don't moan you a hair*. **2** *moan*

someone to do something pity someone for having to do something *e.g. I wouldn't moan him to do the whole farmwork himself*.

□ **make moan for someone** pity someone.

[The same word as the Standard English "to make lamentation", from the obsolete sense "to condole with (a person)".]

moanagus *noun* the bear-berry *Arctostaphyllum uva-ursi*.

moarn *see* morn.

moarnin *see* morning.

moat *noun* an earthen mound, originally the site of an Anglo-Norman fortification.

[The same word as Standard English "a ditch surrounding a castle, *etc.*".

In Anglo-Norman fortifications, the ditch and the mound form part of the same earthwork. In archaeological usage, the Modern French form *motte* is now frequently used for the mound.]

mob a close cap worn by women coming over the ears and meeting and tying under the chin.

mobbin' good-humoured banter.

mock

□ **mockin's catchin', mockin's catchin's and gauntin's smittle**

proverbial a warning not to mock or laugh at or mimic a person because of some physical defect lest the mocker be the same some day.

□ **mock valentine**:

moderate *verb, Presbyterian, frequently moderate in a call* supervise in the appointment of a new minister to a vacant charge.

□ **moderator** the president of a Presbyterian church body.

See also motherat.

mogey *Co. Antrim, verb* stumble around foolishly.

◆ *noun* a fool; a clumsy person.

Cf. maug.

moggins, muggins *noun plural* socks without feet.

[Scots; origin unknown, also found in Scottish Gaelic as *mogan* (singular), and *cf.* Hampshire dialectal *mokins* "gaiters made of coarse sacking" and Cheshire *moggin* "a clog". *See also morgans.*]

mogh *noun* a sultry, moist atmosphere.

◆ *adjective* muggy, close, moist and warm.

□ **moughted** *of meal* mouldy.

□ **moughy, maughy 1** *of the weather* mogh, muggy. **2** damp, mouldy.

[Scots; origin unknown, probably of Scandinavian origin and related to *muggy*. *See also maugh.*]

mohemps *noun plural* the mumps.

moider, moidher, moither *verb* confuse, bewilder; worry, bother; fatigue, harass.

□ **moidered 1** bemused, harassed, dazed. **2** perplexed, puzzled.

3 confused in mind, *e.g.* as a result of illness or drunkenness.

[Hiberno-English, English dialectal and Western and Southern Scots *moider*; English dialectal also *moither*; origin unknown.]

moiety *noun* a share that is so small as to be merely nominal.

moil *noun, only in the phrase toil andmoil* hard work or drudgery.

moiley, moily, moilya, moolie, mawly, mweel *noun 1 also mouleagh,*

mulliagh a hornless cow, bullock or bull; *specifically* a specimen of a

naturally hornless breed with red-brown markings on white. **2 also**

applied to hornless goats. **3** a mild-mannered person. **4 derogatory** a

slightly effeminate man, *frequently* a **moily of a man 5** as the nickname of a bald man *e.g. Moiley Thompson*.

◆ *adjective, also moiled, mulled 1 of cattle, etc.* polled; hornless. **2 of a building** bare-looking; roofless; *of a church* lacking a spire. [ILLUS: moiley]

□ **a moily cow won't dunch**

□ **moiley ditch, mool ditch** an earthen dyke without trees or bushes; *see ditch*.

□ **moyle** a polly ("a black cow").

□ **the wind is that coul' it wud take the horns off a moily** an impossibility.

[Irish *maol(ai)*, formed on *maol* "bald, hornless". *See also moilin, mullan.*]

moilin, moolyin, mouleen, muilleen, mullion *noun* a moiley, a hornless cow. *Illustration see moiley*.

[Irish *maoilin*, from *maol* (*see moiley*) + diminutive ending *-in*.]

moily, moilya *see moiley*.

moither *see moider*.

molagoon *see mollygowan*.

mollycoddle *noun* an effeminate boy or man.

□ **molly** a man who fusses and busies himself about the house or with women's work.

mollyficashein *noun* mollification. *e.g. Oh gohans to the honestest woman in the kingdom, replied her tormentor. I was manin' only what we call the "mollyficashein", just a wee dhrap [of water] in the keg [of poteen] to keep the evil spirit out av it ... ye put only the innocent water in it to purvent it doing any harm.*

mollygowan, molagoon *noun* the angler fish *Lophius piscatorius*; *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*.

[Origin unknown.]

mollygrubs *see mulligrubs*.

molrooken, mirokey *noun* a bird: the great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*. *Illustration see tossel*.

[Origin unknown.]

moment: moment hand the minute hand (of a clock).

mon *see* man¹.

money: dry money ready money.

- **good money** a fair price or offer. *hence it is not right to refuse good money*
- **money and fair words** reply to someone who asks what something cost.
- **money plant** a wild flower: honesty *Lunaria annua* [from the resemblance of the dry seed-heads to coins].
- **money's roun', an' it goes roun', money's roun' an' it goes roun', if only it wud go roun' quick enough** *proverbial*
- **monied** rich.

monkey: get one's monkey up become angry.

- **monkey flower** a garden name for various sorts of *Mimulus*.
- **monkey tree** the monkey puzzle *Araucaria imbricata*.
- **raise someone's monkey** anger someone.

monog, monock, moonog 1 the crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*. **2** *in plural, also munnox (a)* the berries of the crowberry; **(b)** bilberries, the berries of *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

[Irish *mónóg* "the cranberry", from *móin* "bog" + *-óg*.]

monross *adjective 1* clumsy, bulky, unwieldy. **2** rude, surly.

[Possibly a strengthened form of *morross*.]

month: a month of Sundays, a month of Ayster Sundays *literally* a month of Easter Sundays; an impossible state of affairs.

- **a month o' munes** an impossibly long time.
- **blue month, dead month, hungry month** *historical* the period from mid-July to mid-August, from the time the old potatoes became scarce until the time the new ones were harvested.
- **month's mind** *Roman Catholic* a mass in memory of a deceased person a month after the funeral.

Montiaghs [Munshies]: **the arse-hole of the Montiaghs** the back end of nowhere.

- **the man from the Montiaghs** a country bumpkin.

[The Montiaghs is a boggy area on the shores of Lough Neagh.]

Monty Yorns: from Monty Yorns to Ingley Coutts from the Causeway to Cape Clear.

mony *see* many.

mooch, mootch *verb 1* play truant. **2** *frequently mooch about (a)* lounge about, loaf; **(b)** cadge, scrounge; **(c)** slink about secretly, *generally* with intent to steal. **3 mooch along** shuffle along.

- **moocher 1** someone who *mooches*. **2** a sly, mean individual; a person always on the lookout for his or her personal advantage.
- **on the mooch** looking for something for nothing.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal); probably of Old French origin and related to *mitch*.]

mooched *adjective* musty.

mooley cow, moo-moo *adjective, childish* a cow *e.g. His mooley cow was expected to calve within ten days*.

mool *see* moiley.

mool *see* mould.

mool *noun 1* a chilblain on the heel. **2** a cold sore on the lip.

- **mooly of the heels** affected by chilblains.
- **mooly heels** heels affected by chilblains.

[The same word as *mule* "a kind of slipper", old form *mool*.]

moolick, mullick *verb* beat up, thrash.

- **moolicking** a beating, a thrashing.

[Argyllshire *moolkin* "a thrashing", *cf.* Scottish Gaelic *mulc* "to push, to

butt".]

moolie *see* moiley.

moolin *see* dry.

moolter, moolther, mooter, moother, mewter, muther *noun* **1** multure, the proportion of meal or grain kept by the miller as payment for grinding the corn. **2** a handful of meal or flour. **3** a disease of corn [said to be caused by the fairies taking a proportion of the plant].

[Scots and Northern English forms *moolter, mooter*; Scots also *mutter*; Northern Scots also *mewter*; Yorkshire also *moother* (the *-th-* forms here may, however, represent the Ulster pronunciation of *t* before *er*).]

moolyin *see* moilin.

moon, min *noun* **1** the moon. **2** a hard centre in a cooked potato [in times of scarcity, this made the food appear to go further, because it was harder to digest]; *see also* half.

- a grey moon light**
- a moonlite night** a night with the moon lighting; a moonlit night.
- at the back o the mune** at a very great distance.
- be up in the moon about** be very much in love with.
- go to the moon** fly into a rage.
- moon-bow** a halo round the moon, believed to be a sign of an approaching storm.
- moon daisy** the ox-eye daisy *Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum*.
- moonlight:**
- moonlight ripens the corn**
- moonshine** **1** nonsense; a mere pretence. **2** poteen.
- moony** moonlight.
- the dark o' the moon** the absence of moonlight.
- the full of the moon, the moon at the full** the full moon.
- the moon is on her back** taken as a sign of rain, because the crescent moon on her back is supposed to collect water within her horns.
- the moon seeps the drop** said when the crescent moon is upright, taken as a sign of good weather.

[Scots form *min* (traditionally spelled *mune, muin*).]

Mooney: Mooney's apron *playing cards* the ten of clubs.

moonog *see* monog.

moor¹: it's a bare moor that won't burn itself it is a good pedigree that has no *bar sinistre*.

- moor-bird** the grouse *Tetrao lagopus*.
- moorcock** the red grouse *Lagopus Scoticus*; the grouse.
- moor-duck** a bird: the mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*.
- moor-fowl** a bird: the grey partridge *Perdix perdix*.
- moorhen**
- moorhen's foot** an unidentified species of club moss, probably Alpine clubmoss *Lycopodium alpinum*.
- moor-ill, mooral, muir-ill, merril** a type of dysentery in cattle.

[Scots form *muir*.]

moor² *noun* a bank of cloud.

[*Cf.* Orkney and Shetland "a dense fall of fine snow", from Shetland *moorkavie* "a blinding snowfall" (itself from Norn, *cf.* Faroese *murrukavi*).]

mooragh *noun* broken bait thrown on the water to attract fish *Co. Donegal*.

[*Cf.* Irish *mírach* "broken seaweed".]

mooral *see* moor¹.

moorinyach, moolinyach *noun* the bent-grass *Psamma arenaria*.

mooroch *noun* a bull calf.

moose *see* mouse.

moot *see* mout.

mootch *see* mooch.

mooter *see* moolter.

mooter *noun* a large marble *L'derry city*.

[Origin unknown.]

mooth *see* mouth.

moother *see* moolter.

mope, moup *verb* **1** wander; go about in a vacant, aimless way. **2** fail in health, have a wasted or pining look; *cf.* mout.

□ **mopin an mowin** *of a child* cross, crying; *of an adult* in bad humour.

□ **mopy** a listless, vacant person.

[Scots form *moup*.]

moral *noun* a model, a good example.

□ **as lang as the Moral Law** expressing how tall someone is.

□ **Moral Law: the moral spit of someone** the "spitting image", the exact likeness of someone.

morbs *noun plural* a state of depression, *frequently* a dose of the morbs

[From *morbid*.]

more, mair, mare *adverb* more.

□ **and what's more** adding emphasis to a remark.

□ **have more need to** ought to.

□ **more betoken, more by the same token, more by token** *literally* more by (this) token, *also* **mair for token** moreover, besides; more especially.

□ **moreover:**

□ **moreover nor that** notwithstanding; *see* nor².

□ **more red nebs than midges, there's more red or blue nebs than midges** comment on very cold weather.

□ **more's the pity** to our regret.

□ **more than** about, at least *e.g.* *How far is it to Gweedore? More than twelve or fifteen miles.*

□ **more than a bit** a good deal; very much.

□ **more than middling** *of a person or thing* very good, superior.

□ **moretimes** other times *e.g.* *Sometimes she works at spriggin an moretimes at knittin.*

□ **no more about it** without more ado.

□ **not more than (the price) too dear** *e.g.* *not more than tenpence too dear*; the remark is often heard of, say, eggs at 10d. a dozen.

□ **the more** although *e.g.* *I don't approve of the local dialect, the more it is spoken very widely in the community.*

□ **the more ye hev got new breeches, don't forget yer oul' throwers**

[Scots and Northern English form *mair, mare*.]

morgan-rattler *noun* **1** a weapon: a stick with a knob of lead at one or both ends, short enough to be carried up the sleeve. **2** a good boxer.

3 anything very good or striking.

morgans *noun plural* booties put on the feet of fowl to prevent them from scratching.

[Altered form of *moggins*.]

morials *noun plural* a seaweed: bladderwrack *Fucus vesiculosus*, *Co. Antrim*.

[Apparently formed on Irish *muir* "the sea".]

Mormelite *noun, adjective* Mormon.

[Older form *Mormonite*.]

morn, moarn *noun* **1** the morning of the day [*morn* poetic in Standard English]. **2** *also* **morn's morn** tomorrow morning.

□ **morn-at-e'en** a party game. The Master of Ceremonies places the children sitting on the floor in a semi-circle in front of him. Beginning at the nearest foot on his left, he touches it gently with a wand saying a word to each as follows: Onery-Twoery-Dickory-Davey:

Harribo-Crackery-Tenery-Knavery: Discum-Dandy Merry-cum-Twine

Humbledy-Bumbledy-Ninety-nine: O-U-T-OUT/ For a Baby Dish Clout.

The foot on which this word comes is immediately withdrawn and the rime begins again on the next foot. Whoever is left the last is sent behind the door. Then the M.C. whispers to each child in turn giving it the choice of a coloured horse (unless previously chosen). Then he calls to the child behind the door: When will you be home? Answer: the morn-at-e'en (i.e. tomorrow evening). What will you bring with you? Horse and sheen (shoes). What horse will you ride? The Bay (Grey, etc.). The chosen steed then goes and mounting the child on its back gallops round the room two or three times, the others joining in the race. If the choice fall on too small a child the M.C. would help him.

□ **morn's morrow, morn's morra** the day after tomorrow.

[Scots form *moarn*.]

morning, moarnin *noun* morning.

□ **morning comes early** an excuse for departure from a social gathering.

□ **morning star** a wild flower: the common star of Bethlehem

Ornithogalum umbellatum.

□ **morning to you** a greeting; good morning.

[Scots form *moarnin*.]

morode *verb* **1** maraud. **2** trample on, destroy.

□ **moroding** *adjective* marauding.

[Hiberno-English, *cf.* old form *marode*.]

morr *see* mother.

morra *see* marrow, morrow.

morran *see* mallan rua.

morrarity *noun* locality.

morrian *see* mallan rua.

morross *adjective* morose, surly.

[Old form. *See also* monross.]

morrow *see* marrow.

morrow, morra *noun* **1** *in greetings* morning *e.g.* *morra to ye*; (good)

morning to you. **2** *usually* **the morra** tomorrow.

□ **shure the morra's long** it is long until tomorrow comes; an answer to a person who in convivial company says he must get home as it is late.

□ **the morrow come never, the morrow come niver, the morra come niver** the Greek Kalends, never.

[Scots and English dialectal form *morra*.]

morrowin, morrowing, morrowingdale *see* marrow.

morryan *see* murren.

mort¹, morth: mort-cloth a funeral pall.

□ **morth o cowl** a heavy cold; *see* cold; *cf.* **mort²**.

□ **the mort and maimed** the dead and injured.

[Scots and Northern English form *morth*.]

mort² *noun* a large number or quantity.

[English dialectal; either short for **mortal** (*amount*) or a form of Northern English *merth, morth* "a great deal" (apparently from Old Norse *mergð* "many"). *Cf.* **mort¹**.]

mortal, mortal, mortyal, mortkal *noun* **1** a human being. **2** anybody *e.g.* *I won't do it for mortal*.

◆ *adjective* **1** mortal. **2** "mortal", great, extreme; wonderful.

◆ *adverb* "mortally", extremely.

□ **mortially** **1** mortally. **2** "mortally", exceedingly.

[South-Western English, also Scots, form *mortal, mortyal*.]

morth *see* **mort¹**.

mortify humiliate. *usually* **mortified**:

mortyal *see* mortal.

moryah *exclamation* indeed!

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *mar dhea*.]

mosey *see* moss.

mosey *noun, also moze* a fool; a "soft" person.

[Midland English adjective *mosey* "confused, bewildered", Scots verb *mose* "to become benumbed"; origin unknown, possibly the same word as *mossy* (see **MOSS**).]

moss *noun* **1** also **peat-moss** a peat-bog. **2** peat.

◆ *verb* work in a peat-bog.

□ **moss ban** the boundary of a peat-bog [Cumberland *band* form of *bound(s)*].

□ **moss berry** the bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

□ **moss bottom** land from which the peat has been cut.

□ **moss cheeper 1** also **moss cheepuck** a bird: the meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis*; see **cheep**. **2** *figuratively* someone who comes from a boggy district.

□ **moss coach**, **moss flower** a sedge: cotton-grass *Eriophorum spp.* [with *coach*, cf. Southern English *cot* "matted wool", from Anglo-French *cot*].

□ **mossie** a bird: (a) the moss cheeper; (b) the mossy grey.

□ **moss land** boggy land; land reclaimed from bog.

□ **moss oak** oak preserved in a bog.

□ **moss stack** two or three clamps of peat put into one.

□ **moss wood** wood preserved in a bog. [ILLUS: moss/wd]

□ **mossy grey**, **mosey grey** a bird: the twite *Carduelis flavirostris*.

□ **mossy toddler** a bumble bee.

[The spelling *mosey* reflects the Scots pronunciation. See also *mosey*.]

most¹, **maist** *adverb, noun* most.

□ **maistly** mostly; almost, nearly.

□ **most in general** generally.

□ **most like** very like.

□ **most on end** almost on end i.e. almost perpetually.

□ **most partly** mostly, for the most part.

□ **most times** usually, generally.

[Scots and Northern English form *maist*.]

most² *adverb, also mostly* almost.

[*Most* obsolete in Standard English (still Southern English), shortened form.]

mot *noun* a girl, a sweetheart.

mote *noun* **1** a minute particle, an atom. **2** *specifically* a minute splinter of wood or particle of straw.

□ **long sthroes is no motes, long sthroes is no motes, as the owl' woman said when she pulled the back suggaun out of the stirabout** *proverbial* meaning that something is no drawback.

□ **them 'at loves the dunghill sees no motes** *proverbial*

□ **them that seeks motes gets motes** *proverbial* those who pay too much attention to trifles will never achieve a fortune.

moth: **moth hawk** a bird: the nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*.

mother, morr, mither *noun* a mother.

□ **I suppose his mother and your mother had four elbows** dismissive saying.

□ **mither nakit, mother-naked** stark naked; hence destitute.

□ **Mother Carey's chickens** the storm petrel.

□ **mother-in-law** a step-mother.

□ **motherly: motherly comfortable** comfortable.

□ **mother-of-dulse** a seaweed: carrageen; see *dulse*.

[Scots form *mither*.]

mother¹ *noun* blue mould.

motherat, motherit *adjective* moderate; see also moderate.

mou see *mow²*.

moudie, moudy see *mowdy*.

mough *noun* a maggot.

[Scots form of Scots and Northern English *mawk*, from Old Norse

maðkr.]

moughted, moughy *see* mogh.

moul' *noun* a mould, *thus, historical moul' cannle* a mould candle (one made in a mould as distinct from a home-made dip); *see* candle.

See also mowls.

mould, moul', mowl', mowl, mool *noun, also in plural* mould (friable, organically-rich soil).

◆ *verb* bury (a human body).

□ **go an claw or scrape moul' on yersell, awa an clat moul' on yersel, away an throw moul' on yersel!** a dismissive remark, meaning that the person should go and have a dust-bath, like a hen; *see* claut, coom.

□ **moul'-board, mowl-boord, also mouldy boord, mowldie-boord, moulden-boord** the mould-board (of a plough); *see* board. *Illustration see* plough.

□ **moul'-plough:**

□ **mouly:** *e.g. mouly lan'.* **mowl the pratis** place the mould close to the potato-plants; the last process in their cultivation.

[Scots forms *mool, moud.* *See also* mowdy.]

mouleagh *see* moiley.

mountain, muntain *noun* a mountain.

□ **mountain bar** a barrier of mountains, a range of mountains or high hills.

□ **mountain blackbird 1** the dipper. **2** the ring ouzel.

□ **mountain dew** poteen, illegally-distilled whiskey.

□ **mountain grey, also mountain linnet** a bird: the twite *Carduelis flavirostris*.

□ **mountain man or woman 1 in plural mountain men** *Presbyterian* the Scottish Covenanters, persecuted in the seventeenth century. **2** a person living in a mountainous area such as the Sperrins or Mourne. **3** *hence* a Roman Catholic.

□ **mountain star** a bird: the golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* [sometimes seen in large flocks, like the stare].

□ **mountain thrush** a bird: the mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*.

Illustration see shriek.

□ **mountainy, muntainy 1** mountainous. **2** belonging to the mountains *e.g. mountainy turf* peat from an upland bog. **3** belonging to the south of Ireland.

□ **mountainy boy:**

□ **mountainy folks** mountain men *or* women.

□ **mountainy-looking** unkempt; *cf.* Catholic.

[Scots form *mountain.*]

moup *see* mope.

mourn: mourning house the house where a body lies awaiting burial.

mouse, moose *noun* a mouse.

□ **mouse-pea** applied to a number of wild flowers of the peaflower family, whose seed-pods resemble miniature pea-pods, *specifically* (**a**) the meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*; (**b**) the hairy tare *Vicia hirsuta*; (**c**) the tufted vetch *Vicia cracca*. [ILLUS: mouse-p]

□ **mousey** *innicknames* mild-faced *e.g. Mousey Thompson*.

□ **nivver power wather on a dhrowned mouse** *proverbial*

□ **the colour of a mouse's waistcoat** an indefinite colour.

□ **we looked like two mice, you'd think we were in the last load o hay** describing the effect on the recipients of a surprise party.

[Scots and Northern English form *moose.*]

mousey-pousey *see* mouth.

mout, moot *noun 1 in birds* the moult, the process or period of moulting.

2 a dying fire.

◆ *verb* waste away by slow degrees.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

mouth, mooth *noun 1* the mouth, a mouth. **2** a "mouth", a loudmouth; a

well-meaning but blundering fool.

- **a fool mouth** a silly talker.
- **a foul mouth**
- **all mouth and eyes** much excited; full of wonder.
- **be all mouth and ears** be all excited, amazed.
- **don't open your mouth so wide** don't ask such an exorbitant price.
- **doon o' mouth** in low spirits, "down in the mouth".
- **glib in the mouth** glib.
- **have a mouth on one like an up-the-country salt-box**
- **have a mouth on one like a torn pocket** be loose-lipped, hanging; a comparison *e.g. she has a mouth on her like a torn pocket.*
- **have a mouth on you, also have a mouth** be in need of food or drink, *usually he or she never asked me had I a mouth on me*
[translation of Irish *níor fhiafraigh sé or sí díom an raibh béal orm*]; *cf.*
on.
- **have one's heart in one's mouth** be very much startled.
- **he has a quare mouth for coolin' broth** probably referring to someone who talks a lot.
- **mousey-pousey** *childish* the mouth.
- **mouthful** a snack; an informal bite, cup of tea, *etc.*, *e.g. I'm not stayin. I'll just have a mouthful in my haun.*
- **mouth-poke** a horse's nose-bag; *see poke*¹.
- **mouth to mouth** *of an agreement* verbal.
- **spade-mouth** the blade, as opposed to the shaft, of a spade.
- **to your mouth** to your taste.
- **wet the mouth** drink.

[Scots and Northern English form *mooth*.]

move: **movin** crawling (with vermin, *etc.*).

See also **mismoved**.

mow¹, **maw** *verb* mow (grass) with a scythe.

- **mawing** mowing grass.
- **mowster** a mower, a person who uses a scythe.

[Scots and English dialectal form *maw*.]

mow², **mou** *noun* a large heap of grain, hay, straw or similar dry materials, *especially* a pile of unthreshed grain stored in a barn.

[Southern English *mow*, Scots and Northern English *mou*; from Old English *mūza* "a swathe".]

mowdy, **moudy**, **mouddie** *noun* **1** the mole [this animal is not found in Ireland]. **2** *figuratively* a foolish person.

[Scots and Northern English; short for *mowdiewarp*, *moodiewarp*, from Middle English *molde* (Old English *molde*, which gives **mould**, + *weorpen* "to throw").]

mowl' *see* **mould**.

mowl *see* **mould**.

mowl *noun* the mole [this animal is not found in Ireland].

[East Anglian form.]

mowldie *see* **mould**.

mowlofa murneen a woman who is the bearer of an "old" child.

mowls *noun* a game: pitch-and-toss played with buttons *Co. Donegal*.

- **playing mowls** playing pitch-and-toss, using buttons.
[Possibly the same word as **mowl'**, from the button moulds used to make cloth-covered buttons.]

mowster *see* **mow**¹.

moyjiggled *adjective* confused *Co. Antrim*.

[Blend of *moidered* (*see* **moider**) and *jiggled*.]

moze *see* **mosey**.

mozzy *noun* a large stone for throwing.

much: **it's not much at the most**

- **much good may't do yeas** *exclamation* an ejaculation offered up

(often offensively) by a bystander in behalf of those that sit at a meal.

□ **muchness**:

□ **much of a muchness** *rather contemptuous* very similar, very nearly the same.

muck¹ *noun* mud, mire, dirt, filth of any kind.

◆ *verb* clean (a byre).

□ **muck-cart** solid-wheeled, square-shaped, low cart; used in Mourne.

□ **muck hoe** an implement for shifting dung.

muck² *noun* a pig.

mucka *noun* a thin moustache.

mucked *pron.* as if moughted **muckled** *adjective, of meal* old and fusted.

muckle *see* mickle.

mud: **as deep in the mud as someone else is in the mire, as deep in the mire as someone else is in the mud** *proverbial*

□ **mud-fat** *adjective, of a farm animal* very fat.

□ **mudlark 1** a navvy working on muddy embankments or excavations.

2 a bird: the dunlin *Calidris alpina* [found in river estuaries and in marshes].

□ **mud runner** a crab, *Goneplax rhomboides*.

□ **mud-turf 1** peat moulded into a cake by hand. **2** a single peat moulded in this way.

mudda: **Mudda-Murphy Bridge** *place-name e.g. a large piece of timber was placed over the ford of Sugar Island in Newry for the accommodation of foot-passengers by a person called Murphy. In consequence of this, the stone bridge afterwards built over the river Clanrye at this place for some time bore the name of Mudda-Murphy Bridge, or the bridge of Murphy's stick.*

mudda-aran *see* madgie-aran.

muddiaghs, muddie-breesties, muddies *see* madya-bristey.

muddle *verb* steal (potatoes) by digging them out of the ground with the hands, surreptitiously [this was frequently done during the Famine].

□ **muddle about** do a little work.

□ **muddling 1** the act of a person digging up potatoes with the hands.

2 the act of a pig rooting up potatoes, *etc.*

mudler *noun* a small metal stamper, used in public houses *etc.* to crush the lumps of sugar in punch or toddy.

mudyarn *see* madgie-aran.

mudyeens, mudyees *see* madya-bristey.

muffy hen:

mug¹ *noun* a sulky person.

[The same word as English slang "the face".]

mug² *noun, also muggy hole, mughole* a hole used in playing marbles.

□ **mugs, also muggies 1** a game played with marbles. **2** a game played with large round stones.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

muggart, muggert *noun, also muggers, muggins* a wild flower:

mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris*.

[Scots forms. *See also* mugweed.]

mugged *adjective* muddled with drink.

muggies *see* mug².

muggins *see* moggins.

muggy *see* mug².

muggy¹ *adjective 1* dull, gloomy, dark. **2** half drunk.

[The same word as Standard English, of the weather "stifling".]

muggy² *noun* a hand basket made of twisted straw rope *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*.

[Origin unknown.]

mugs *see* mug².

mugweed *noun* a wild flower: mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris*.

- [Cheshire, altered form of *mugwort* (see *muggart*), with *-weed* replacing *-wort*.]
- muilleen** *see* *moilin*.
- muirealach, murluigh** a species of marine grass.
- muir-ill** *see* *moor*¹.
- mulch** *noun* mire.
- mulder** *verb* moulder.
- ◆ *noun* crumbled fragments of oatcake.
 - **muldery** crumbly.
[Lincolnshire form.]
- mulderoy** *noun* **1** a dull, stupid person. **2** a heavy, awkward person.
Cf. *muldy, hobbledehoy*.
- muldy** *noun* a fat boy or girl *Co. Donegal*; *see also* *mulderoy*.
- mule** *noun* **1** a cross-breed between animals or birds of different but allied species. **2** a donkey. **3** a spinning-frame.
- mulharten** *see* *meelcartin*.
- mull** *see* *mill*.
- mull** *noun* **1** a person who makes a "mull" (a mess or muddle) of something. **2** a dull-witted person.
- mull**¹ *noun* the nave of the wheel of a barrow.
- mullan, mullin** *noun* an elevated piece of ground.
[Irish *maolán, maoilleann*; formed on *maol* "bald, flat-topped". *See also* *moiley*.]
- mullberries** *noun plural* bilberries.
- mulled, mulliagh** *see* *moiley*.
- mulligrubs, mollygrubs** *noun plural* **1** the mulligrubs: (a) the sulks, a fit of bad temper; (b) stomach pains. **2** an imaginary illness.
[Scots and English dialectal form *mollygrubs*.]
- mullin** *see* *mullan*.
- mullin** *noun* a pole driven into the river bed to support each corner of an eel net *Lower River Bann*. *Illustration see* *slug*².
[Origin unknown.]
- Mullingar: she has haughs on her like a Mullingar heifer, she was beef to the heels like a Mullingar heifer** *of a middle-aged woman*.
- mullion** *see* *moilin*.
- mulvather** *verb* play the fool.
[Hiberno-English "to bamboozle (someone)"; probably an altered form of obsolete and rare Standard English *malverse* "to act corruptly in a position of trust", from Old French *malverser*.]
- mumble** *verb* gnaw or chew without teeth; munch.
- mumble, mummle** *verb* mumble.
- **mumble-the-peg** a boys' game: each player in turn throws a fork from a series of positions, continuing until he fails to make it stick in the ground. The unsuccessful player is compelled to draw out of the ground with his teeth a peg which the others have driven in, using the fork, with the same number of blows as he had moves still to complete.
[Scots and Northern English form *mummle*, from Middle English *momele*. The *b* in Standard English *mumble* is an insertion.]
- numchance** *noun* a dummy, an idiot.
- ◆ *adjective* stupid; staring vacantly.
[Obsolete colloquial English "someone who acts in a dumb show", from Middle Low German *mummenschanze* "a masked serenade".]
- mummely** *noun* crumbs.
[Probably a strengthened form of Standard English *mummy* "a pulpy substance", the same word as an Egyptian *mummy*.]
- mummers** *noun plural* Christmas Rhymers.
- mummle** *see* *mumble*.
- mummy** *noun* pulp. *frequently* **boiled tae mummy**
- **knocked etc. all of a mummy, boiled tæ mummy** reduced to a soft,

shapeless mass.

mump *verb* **1** mumble, speak indistinctly. **2** speak indirectly, hint.

3 grimace. **4** sulk, mope [archaic in Standard English]. **5** eat silently with little bites and the mouth closed.

□ **mumpins**: **mumpins an menablins** a hotpotch, a messy dish of food [*menablins* is possibly an extended form of *nibblings*].

mun *see* man².

munch: **munchin' an' atin'** the habit of eating at any hour of the day instead of having fixed meals.

munge *verb* **1** munch, chew. **2** chew slowly, with the mouth closed.

[Scots and English dialectal form.]

munnox *see* monog.

munny *see* many.

muns the "chops", face.

muntain, muntainy *see* mountain.

mur *noun* a light, misty drizzle, a smur.

murch *see* march.

murder, murther *noun* **1** murder. **2** punishment *e.g.* *He saved Tom by taking all the murder himself.*

◆ *verb* **1** murder. **2** harass, distress (someone).

□ **like blue murder** **1** in deadly earnest. **2** like mad, vigorously.

3 absolutely.

□ **murderous**, *also* **murdering** *adverb* extremely *e.g.* *a murdering hard worker.*

□ **murder sheery!**, **murder sherry!** *exclamation*, literally eternal murder! [Irish *murdar síoraí* "eternal murder" (*see* eternal)]; *see also* millia murder.

[*Murther*, older form, archaic in Standard English (still Scots), from Old English *morðor*.]

murlin *noun* **1** *in plural* an edible seaweed: dabberlocks *Alaria esculenta*.

2 a wild flower: sea rocket *Cakile maritima*.

[*Cf.* Scottish Gaelic *muirlinn*.]

murn *verb* **1** mourn. **2** moan, complain.

[Older form (still Scots and Northern English).]

murneen gums toothless.

murniagh a tender lament; sorrow for a loved one lost.

murnien: **murnien creels** side creels carried by a donkey.

murphy *noun, slang* a potato.

[From the surname Murphy, common in Ireland.]

murrán-roe *see* mallan rua.

murren, murryan, morryan *noun* a bird: (a) the razorbill *Alca torda*.

Illustration see **bridle**; (b) *also* **whurren** the guillemot *Uria aalge*, Co. Donegal.

[Possibly Irish **muiréan*, from *muir* "sea" + *éan* "bird", but *cf.* *murúchann* "the cormorant".]

murrough *noun* a wet plain by the sea.

murther *see* murder.

Murtie's month *noun* the month of October.

murvagh *noun* the common saltmarsh grass *Puccinellia maritima*.

musha, myshie *exclamation* well!, indeed!

□ **musha good-bye to ye!** an expression of disbelief: "get away!".

[Irish *muise, maise*.]

mushroom, masheroon, masheroom, mashyroom, musharoon, musharoom, musheroom, mushroom *noun* **1** a mushroom. **2** *also* **poisonous mushroom** a toadstool.

□ **musherooms niver grow after they are seen** *proverbial* because they are usually plucked.

□ **mushroom gent** an upstart.

[Old form *mushroon* (still Kent), Kent also *mashroon*, Hiberno-English

and Southern English *musharoon*, Norfolk *musharoom*. The forms with *n* and three syllables are closer to the origin French *mousseron*.]

music: **there are many kinds of music, said the man with the wooden Jew's harp or trump** *proverbial*

musicianer *noun* a musician [rare in Standard English].

muskin *noun* a half-pint (of whiskey).

[Scots *mutchkin*, *muskin*; from early Modern Dutch *mudseken* "a measure of capacity".]

mussel: **mussel-pecker, mussel-picker** *noun* a bird: the oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. *Illustration see pyot*.

must: **must do is a good master** *proverbial*

mustole *literally* must hole: the parlour [so called because it became musty when shut up all week].

mutch *noun, historical* a head-dress, *especially* a close-fitting cap of white linen or muslin with a border, *specifically* the type of cap that used to be worn by married women.

[Scots, also Isle of Man; from Middle Dutch *mutsche*.] [ILLUS: mutch/P]

muther *see* moolter.

mutton: **as dead as mutton** *of persons or things* very dull, inanimate.

mutton dummies *noun plural* plimsolls, gym shoes.

[Possibly from *mutton cloth* "a type of loosely-knit cotton cloth used to wrap meat" (from its resemblance to the canvas from which they are made) + *dummy* (because they make no noise).]

mutts *noun plural* mitts, mittens.

muzzle *noun* part of a plough to which swingle-trees are attached.

mweel *see* moiley.

my, me, ma *possessive pronoun* *my*.

□ **my day, me day, ma day** all my life *e.g. in all me day I never seed the like*.

□ **my horrid!** exclamation.

□ **my oh!, my oh me!** exclamation *s*

□ **myself', masel** myself; *see sel*.

□ **myself, mysel, meself, mesel, masel** reflexive pronoun myself.

◆ **pronoun I; I myself** *e.g. Meself could lift a song. See sel*.

□ **my word!** exclamation.

[Hiberno-English and English dialectal, also Orkney and Shetland, form *me*; Scots and Northern English, also Devon, form *ma*.]

myam *verb, of a cat* miaow.

[Onomatopoeic.]

myewla *noun* a wild flower: marsh St. John's-wort *Hypericum elodes*, *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

myout *see* mewt.

myow *verb, of a cat* mew.

myshie *see* masha.

N *see* wind³.

na *see* just.

-na *see* no².

na, naw *adverb* in answer to a question, *etc*: no.

[Scots and Northern English forms, *naw* also U.S.A. colloquial.]

nab *see* knab.

nab *see* knob.

nab *Co. Londonderry, noun* **1** a cunning, under-sized fellow. **2** the smallest of a litter.

[Origin unknown, *cf.* knab.]

nabber *see* napper¹.

nabby *see* knab.

nabocklish, naboklish exclamation, *lit* leave it alone; do not trouble

about that, never mind!

nacket *noun* a precocious child.

[Scots, from French *naquet* "a boy who serves or stops the ball at tennis". *See also* *knack*².]

nacksy *see* *knack*².

nadger, naidger *noun* **1** a lad, a young boy. **2** a small, pert young person.

3 a bad-tempered person.

[Origin unknown.]

nadiums, nadyins *noun plural* **1** nonsensical notions or actions.

2 unconvincing excuses. **3** back-chat.

[Origin unknown.]

nae *see* *no*¹.

-nae *see* *no*².

naebuddy, naethin *see* *no*¹.

nag¹, **nyag** *noun* a wooden ball; *specifically* the ball used in playing the game of hurling.

[Scots; probably from Middle Low German *knagge* "a rough projection", hence Scots *knag* "a knot, a spur of a tree branch".]

nag², **neg** *verb* nag, continually find fault with (someone).

◆ *noun* a person who nags continually at another.

[Scots form *neg*.]

nag³ *noun, frequently* **ould nag** a good-for-nothing; a fellow with no fun in him.

naggin *see* *noggin*.

naidger *see* *nadger*.

naig *noun, also* **naigie** a nag, a little horse.

[Scots forms.]

naiger *see* *nigger*¹.

nail: as busy as a nailer very busy.

□ **go or be off at the nail** **1** be off your head. **2** be flustered and confused.

□ **hold to the nail that drives** in trying to get a concession from people, hold to the one that is yielding.

□ **like nails** describing a person or thing which is naturally hard.

□ **nailer**

□ **nail-rag** a ragnail, a hangnail.

□ **nail someone to the bargain** fix him.

□ **not be able to say black's his nail** be unable to accuse someone of any fault.

□ **not have nails to scratch yourself with, not have the nails ti' scratch yourself** be poverty-stricken.

nain *adjective* own *e.g.* *my nain house*.

□ **nain-folk** your own people.

[Scots, redivision of *mine* (older form of *my*) + *ain* (*see* *OWN*).]

nairrow *see* *narrow*.

naitral *see* *nature*.

nakit, neckit *adjective* naked.

□ **as naked as the hour he was born**

□ **bone-naked** totally naked.

[Scots form *nakit*; rarely, also Yorkshire, *neckit*.]

nakural, nakure *see* *nature*.

nallion *noun* **1** a lump, a bump; *specifically* one on the head as the result of a blow. **2** a heavy blow.

[Origin unknown.]

name: a nice name to go to bed with an ugly name.

□ **get the name of** earn the reputation of (doing or being something).

□ **in the name of all that's lovely** an expletive.

□ **in the name of goodness** expressing impatience.

□ **in the name of heaven** expressing impatience.

□ **name one person to another** mention the name of a person in such a

way as to imply that he or she is going out with another person.

- **(that) is no name for (it)** meaning that one would have put it more strongly *e.g.* *That's a bad day. Bad is no name for it.*
- **them 'at gets the name o' risin' may lie all day**
- **what was she to her own name?** an enquiry about a woman's maiden name.

namlach *see* aumlach¹.

nammel *adjective* enamel.

namminy, nyaminy *noun* a wild flower: tormentil *Potentilla spp.*

[Irish *neamhain*, **neamain(e)* (Standard Irish *niamhnaid*).]

nanch *verb* chew noisily *L'derry city*.

[Onomatopoeic.]

nane *see* none.

nap *see* knap¹.

nap, naperty *see* knap².

napery *noun* household linen [now rare in Standard English, except in Scottish use].

napkin *noun* a pocket handkerchief.

napper¹ *noun*, also **nabber** anything large or good of its kind.

[*Cf.* Yorkshire *nap* "expert, clever".]

napper² *noun* the head.

[English dialectal or slang, origin unknown.]

narely *see* near.

nargie, nergie, nyergie *noun* **1** a grumbler. **2** an under-sized, stingy person; *cf.* knur.

[*Cf.* Scots *narg*, strengthened form of *nag*². *See also* nirrugging.]

narlie *see* gnarl².

narlie *noun* "nookie".

narls *see* gnarl².

narration *see* norration.

narrow, narra, nairrow *adjective* **1** narrow. **2** also **narrow-fisted** tight-fisted, grasping.

- **narrow-nebbed** sharp-nosed; *see* neb.

[Scots and Northern English form *narra*, Scots also *nairrow*. *See also* nyarragh.]

narve *noun* a nerve.

- **nervish, narvish, naviss** nervous.
- **nervishness** nervousness.

[Probably an old form, *cf.* *sarten* (*see* certaint), *clargy* (*see* clergy), *etc.*]

nary a *see* never.

nask *noun* a loop, a band; *specifically* a loop of rope around the neck of an animal.

[Irish *nasc*.]

natarnal *see* eternal.

nate *see* neat.

naternal *see* eternal.

nathin *see* no¹.

native *noun* the native poteen.

- **native air** the air of your birthplace, thought to have curative properties.

nattercap *see* attercop.

natty *adjective* neat, tidy.

nature, nakure *noun* **1** nature. **2** natural feeling, kindness.

- **in all my natural** in all my life.
- **naturable** kindly.

□ **natural, nathural, nateral, naitral, nakural** *noun* a natural, an idiot; also **half-natural**.

◆ *adjective* **1** natural. **2** also **natural-hearted** kind, affectionate [rare in Standard English].

◆ *adverb* naturally.

[English dialectal form *nateral*, Scots form *naitral*.]

- **natural bairn** an illegitimate child.
- **natural draft** "the spitting image" (of another person).
- **natural pox** a disease: cowpox.

naviss *see* narve.

navvy *noun* a muck-hoe.

naw *see* no², not.

nawkie *see* knack².

nawm *see* nyam.

nayther, nether *adverb, conjunction* neither.

[Scots and Northern English form *nayther*; Scots, also Devon, form *nether*.]

neap: neaped-in *of a vessel* unable to leave harbour because of shallow water.

near; comparative; nearer, neardher, nearther; superlative; nearest, neardhest; adjective near.

◆ *adverb* nearly, almost.

□ **naely** nearly.

□ **near about** just about, almost.

□ **nearaways** nearly, almost; *cf.* a⁴.

□ **nearby** *adverb* nearly, almost.

◆ *preposition* close to.

□ **near cut** a short cut.

□ **near escape** a near thing, a narrow escape.

□ **near-fisted** near, stingy.

□ **near-going, near-begoin, near-begone** near, stingy, miserly.

□ **near-hand** *adverb* **1** near, nearby. **2** nearly, almost.

◆ *adjective* near, nearby.

◆ *preposition* near, close to *e.g.* *They live near-hand us.*

□ **near hearted** niggardly.

□ **near-legged** bandy-legged.

□ **near-miss** a hit almost scored, or a success almost secured.

□ **nearest** most nearly.

□ **near-side** *on a road* the left.

□ **near the bone** near, stingy.

□ **near til** "near to", close by; *see* til.

□ **near way** a short cut.

□ **near yourself** **1** *also* **near of yourself** near, stingy. **2** within an inch of being killed, *etc.*

□ **take the near cut of someone** cheat someone.

□ **the nearest way t' the heart's down the throat**

□ **very near niver kilt** killed a man.

[Older form in Scots and English *nare*. Comparative: Northern English, Western Scots and Somerset *nearder*, Yorkshire also *nearther*.

Superlative: Yorkshire and Somerset form *nearest*.]

neat, nate *adjective* neat.

□ **a nate body becomes anything**

[Older form in Scots and English *nate*.]

neb *noun* **1** a bird's beak. **2** *jocular* (**a**) the human nose, *usually* a large nose; (**b**) *sometimes* the mouth; (**c**) *rarely* the whole face. **3** the tip or point of anything, *e.g.* the peak of a cap, toe of a shoe, point of a pencil, nib of a pen.

◆ *verb* sharpen, put a point on (a pencil).

□ **have a neb on you** "have your nose in the air": (**a**) be in a huff; (**b**) be self-opinionated.

□ **he could hoke a path with his neb from here till Ballyclare an nivver get a mote in his eye**

□ **nebbet: nebbly** *adjective* **1** cheeky, impertinent; bold, forward. **2** nosy, gossiping; interfering. **3** sharp; ill-natured.

◆ *noun* a cheeky, forward person.

□ **put your neb into** "stick your nose into", interfere in.

[Noun obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and Northern English), replaced in some senses by *nib*, which may be the same word. From Old English *nebb* "a bird's beak".]

necessary *noun* a toilet, *especially* an outside toilet [short for *necessary house*].

necher *see* nicker.

neck *verb* **1** strike on the back of the neck. **2** catch and shake (a person) by the neck.

□ **neck and crop** altogether.

neckit *see* nakit.

nedcullion *noun* a wild flower: the wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*.

[Irish *nead choille* literally "nest of the wood", possibly influenced by colloquial English *cullions* "orchids".]

neebor, neeborly *see* neighbour.

need: **as need be** as possible.

□ **in needcessity** in need.

□ **needcessity** **1** necessity, a necessity. **2 in needcessity** in need. **3 work of needcessity** an essential task, *e.g.* in farming, that cannot be put off until another day and is therefore exempt from the rules of Sabbatarian observance.

[Scots and English dialectal, altered form.]

□ **needcessity knows no law**

□ **needful** *euphemism* **the needful** money.

□ **work of needcessity** an essential task, *e.g.* in farming, that cannot be put off until another day and is therefore exempt from the rules of Sabbatarian observance.

□ **would need** would needs be *e.g.* *Are you a good driver? I would need.*

needle *noun* **1** *also* **hayneedle** an iron bar used to carry ropes under a haycock so that it can be moved. **2 in plural** a name for the hedgehog.

Illustration see urchin. [ILLUS: needle]

neef, neefu' *see* nieve.

neep *noun* a turnip.

[Scots and English dialectal, from Old English *nēap*. The *tur-* part of *turnip* is of unknown origin.]

neerbegotte unearthly *e.g.* *You neerbegotte devil you.*

neesach *noun* a bird: the snipe.

neese *see* neeze.

neet *noun* a nit, the egg of a louse.

□ **neety** **1** nitty, infested with nits. **2** miserly, stingy. **3** *also* **nettie** small-minded, covetous.

[Scots form.]

neeve *see* nieve.

neeze, neese *verb* sneeze.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and mainly Northern English), from Old Norse *hnjósa*.]

neft *noun* a newt.

[By wrong division of *an eft* (archaic in Standard English) from Old English *efeta*, itself the source of *newt* by wrong division. *See also* **evet**.]

neg *see* nag².

neggin *see* noggin.

neighbour, neebor, nybour *noun* **1** a neighbour. **2** one of a matching pair (*e.g.* of shoes).

◆ *verb* co-operate in farmwork by lending men and horses.

□ **neeborly** neighbourly.

□ **neighbourhood** appropriate conduct towards your neighbours, neighbourliness.

□ **neighbouring** **1** the act of co-operating in farmwork. **2** an exchange

agreement between two farmers for co-operative farmwork.

- **neighbour-like** like your neighbours, doing the same as they do.
- **neighbour man, woman, etc.** used in preference to the less specific term *neighbour*.

[Scots and Northern English form *neebor*, Northern English also *nybour*.]

neigher *see* nicker.

nein *noun* an inferior animal.

neive *see* nieve.

Nelson: Nelson's mourning *applied to fabric* red and black.

nephew *noun* a grandson.

[Obsolete in Standard English. *Cf.* niece.]

nergie *see* nargie.

nerl-pox, nerls *see* knur.

nervish, nervishness *see* narve.

nest: build a nest *figuratively* befool. **a bird might be lang afore it could fine time to build a nest in her ear**

- **nestling** the smallest and weakest bird in a brood.
- **nest of drawers** a number of drawers made to fit into a space.

neternal *see* eternal.

nether *see* nayther.

nettie *see* neet.

nettle *noun* a species of sea anemone.

- **nettle-butterfly** a small butterfly, *Vanessa urtica*.
- **nettle-earnest** deadly earnest.
- **nettle-grey, nettle-singer** a bird: the whitethroat *Sylvia communis*.
- **nettlesome 1** quarrelsome. **2** short-tempered, irritable.
- **nettle-spring** nettle-rash.
- **on nettles** restless, irritable.

neuk¹, nyeuk, nyook, nuck, nyuck *noun 1* a nook. **2** a small piece cut off something [*nook* now rare in Standard English].

- **neuks and knowes** valleys and hills; *see* knowe.

[Scots and Northern English form *neuk, nyeuk, nyook*; Scots also *nuck, nyuck*.]

neuk², nyuck, nuck, knuck *verb 1* "nick", steal. **2** "nick", catch, arrest (a person).

- **he would nyuck the hole out of a flute**
- **nucked and truffed** pocketed what's not your own.

[Origin unknown.]

never, niver, nivver *adverb* never.

- **have never seen water** be very dirty.
- **may I (or A) niver** *emphatic* an asseveration.
- **never a, nary a, norra 1** never a, not a. **2 the norra** "the devil": **(a) it's the norra** referring to something troublesome or difficult; **(b) in exclamation s**, e.g. *how the norra, what the norra*; **(c) emphaticnegative**, e.g. *The norra put her finger on it could she do*.
- **never a bit, never a deal** not a bit e.g. *never a bit well*.
- **never a one** not one.
- **never to heed** pay no attention to e.g. *He said never to heed him*.
- **niver-dae-weel** a ne'er-do-well, a useless person; *see* do¹, well².
- **niver mind ye** an expression of reproach.
- **niver's a long day** *saying*
- **tomorrow come never** never.
- **to-morrow come never** never.

[Scots and English dialectal form *niver, nivver*. *See also* one.]

new: for newins for once, for a change.

- **I'll bring you a pretty new-nothing to stick in your sleeve**
- **new-fangled 1** strange, new-fashioned. **2 also newly-fangled** pleased with something new.

- **new gull** the fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* [first appearance in Ireland recorded in 1832].
- **newings, newins, newance** **1** news. **2** a novelty, anything unusual.
- 3 for newins** for once, for a change. **4 spend your newins with** lose the taste for (when the novelty wears off).
- **new light through tired windies, new light in the wunda** a novelty.
- **newniss** not often.
- **new-nothing** a plaything, a nick-nack for a child.
- **newsy** full of gossip.
- **new-up** an upstart.
- **new water** the spring tide.
- **spend your newins with** lose the taste for (when the novelty wears off).

next, nixt *adverb* next.

◆ *preposition* near *frequently emphatic*. **next nor near** *e.g. I wudn't go next nor near it.*

◆ *noun* **the next o it** the continuation or sequel of a piece of news.

- **next day** the day after tomorrow.
- **next door by** next door to, very near to the thing mentioned *e.g. He's not a teetotaller, but he's next door by. What is that? Ye couldn't fill him.*
- **next thought** mature consideration *e.g. After next thought I said no.*
- **next to** like, in the same way as *e.g. Next to yourself I had me apron on me.*

[Scots and Northern English form *nixt*.]

nibble *verb* **nibble at the rock** work at the spinning wheel.

nice: **a nice few** a good few, a fairly large number.

- **done to a nicety** cooked just right.
- **nice by name and nice by nature**
- **nicely** *of the progress of a person's health* very well.
- **nicety**:

nich' *see* night.

nicher *see* nicker.

nicht *see* night.

Nick *noun, usually* **Old Nick** the devil.

nick: **have a good many nicks in your horn, have too many nicks in your horn** be (too) old.

- **in the nick** in the nick of time, at the critical moment.
- **in the nick of need** at the moment when help was most needed.
- **lose her nick-stick** *especially of a pregnant woman, literally* lose her tally: be out of her reckoning in time.
- **nick and go, nick my near, nick and nothing** "touch and go", referring to a narrow escape.
- **nicker** *peat-cutting* the person who nicks the surface of a peat bank while someone else cuts into the bank horizontally.
- **nickler** a person employed to cut out the open-work in white embroidery; *see also* niggle.
- **nick-stick**
- **ye etc. may knock a nick in the post, ye etc. may nick the rafter** meaning that something notable has happened that deserves to be commemorated.

nicker, nicher, neigher, necher, nyeeher *verb* **1** *of a horse* neigh; whinny. **2** *of a person* snigger, laugh in a suppressed way.

◆ *noun* **1** a neigh, neighing. **2** a snigger, a suppressed laugh. **3** a loud horse-laugh.

- **neighering** neighing.

[General dialectal and Scots *nicker*; Scots also *nicher, neigher*; onomatopoeic.]

nickie cake *L'derry city, noun* a type of large plain biscuit with indentations on top.

◆ *exclamation* **nickie cakes!** easy!; *cf.* wee.

[*Cf.* Scots *nickit bake* or *bap* "a thick, soft biscuit with a notch on top".]

nickopanty *noun* a cantankerous old man *Co. Antrim*.

[*Cf.* Yorkshire *nicobore* "a mythical half-witted old man", origin unknown.]

niddle *verb* **1** work quickly with the fingers. **2** work carefully and painstakingly with the fingers. **3** trifle, potter about. **4** cheat (a person).

[Scots "to work quickly or intricately with the fingers", Galloway also "to overcome and rob". The latter may be a different word.]

niddyin, nyiddin *noun*:

niece *noun* a grand-daughter.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Kent). *See also* nephew.]

nieve, neive, neeve, neef *noun, also nievie* the fist.

□ **nievefu', neefu'** a fistful, a handful; *see full*.

□ **nievie-nick-nack, nievie-navy-nick-nack** a method of casting lots; a guessing game. The object is to choose the hand in which something is hidden.

[*Nieve, nief* archaic in Standard English (still Scots and mainly Northern English); from Old Norse *hnefi*. *See also* niffer.]

niffer *verb* exchange.

[Scots, possibly an extended form of *nieve* in the sense "to open and shut (the hand)".]

niff-naff, nyiff-nyaff *noun* **1** an insignificant thing or matter. **2** a small person. **3** a knick-knack; a small object. **4** *in plural niffs and nyaffs* odds and ends. **5** *in plural* odd jobs around the house.

◆ *verb* **1** trifle, potter about. **2** act foolishly or aimlessly.

[Scots and Northern English *niff-naff*, Orkney also *nyiff-nyaff*; *cf.* *nyaff*.]

nigger¹, naiger *noun* **1** a niggard, a miser. **2** an unprincipled, worthless person. **3** a lout, a coarse, insensitive person. **4** a reckless fellow. **5** a fire-brick, a false side or bottom to a grate, used to economise on fuel.

◆ *adjective* niggardly, stingy.

□ **niggerliness** niggardliness, miserliness.

□ **niggerly** niggardly, stingy.

□ **there's some people would give you the clothes off their back an there's others wouldn't give ye the skin of their skitther, if he had nine gold watches, he wouldn't tell the time till his blind sither**

[General dialectal and Scots form *nigger*, Hiberno-English and Yorkshire *naiger*.]

nigger² *noun* **1** *nickname* a white person with a particularly dark complexion *e.g.* *Nigger Lunn*. **2** a hard worker.

□ **as black as a nager**

niggle *verb* notch, make a notch in [possibly influenced in sense by *nick*.]

niggle¹ *verb* waste time on unimportant details.

□ **niggler** *noun* a person who haggles over a bargain.

□ **nigging** trifling, petty, small.

nigh *adjective* near [archaic in Standard English].

□ **come nigh someone** approach in skill, "come near someone"

e.g. *There wasn't one who could match him at caman or come nigh him at handball.*

□ **nighabouts** nearly, in the region of *e.g.* *Nigh-abouts £20 it'll cost them.*

□ **nigh at hand** close to, nearby.

□ **nigh hand** *preposition* near *e.g.* *They live nigh hand us.*

◆ *adverb* nearly.

□ **nigh on, nigh on for** nearly *e.g.* *It's nigh on eleven o'clock.*

night, nicht, nich' *noun* night, the night.

□ **after night** after the fall of darkness.

□ **night comes to the snail as soon as to the swallow**

□ **night hawk** a bird: the nightjar.

□ **nightingale, also wee nightingale, Irish nightingale** a bird: the sedge warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* [the bird known elsewhere as the

nightingale, *Luscinia megarhynchos*, is not found in Ireland].

- **Night of the Dead** Hallowe'en.
- **nighty-nighty 1** *childish* good-night. **2** a child's night-wrap.
[Scots form *nicht*.]

nig-me-nag *noun* a knick-knack.

[Scots; extended form, *cf.* the element *-ma-* in *whigmaleerie*. *See also* *nignay*.]

nignay, nignoy *noun* **1** a knick-knack; a plaything. **2** a useless activity.

- ◆ *verb* **1** trifle, potter about. **2** fuss about without achieving much.

[Scots form *nignay*. *See also* *nig-me-nag*.]

nim *see* *nyimp*.

nim¹:

nimble: a **nimble nine the brother of a sack** very coarse linen; coarse shirting; the fineness or coarseness of linen being estimated by the number of threads which can be counted by examination of the cloth through a standard magnifying glass.

nimetic *noun* an emetic.

nimlins *see* *nyimp*.

nincumpoop *noun* a fool.

nine: **as nice as ninepence** very nice.

- **as right as ninepence** unharmed.
- **done up to the ninety-nines, dressed to the ninety-nines** dressed up.
- **ninepence**:
- **ninety-nines**:
- **not worth ninepence** good for nothing.
- **the ninety-eight** the 1798 rebellion of the United Irishmen.

ninety-nine:

nip, nyip *noun* a nip, a very small piece of something, a small amount of whiskey, *etc.*

- ◆ *verb* "nip", pilfer.
- **give someone a nip** play a trick on someone; deceive, disappoint, hoax someone.
- **nip and trick** by the skin of your teeth.
- **nippit** tight-fitting.

Cf. *nyimp*.

nirlin¹ *noun* a beating, a thrashing.

nirlin² *noun* a cold, dry day.

nirls, nirr *see* *knur*.

nirrugging *noun* a peevish whining, crying or complaining *Co. Donegal*; *cf.* *nargie*.

nit *see* *nut*.

nit *noun* a bundle of straw.

[*Knitch* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), from Old English *Ʒecnycce* "a bond".]

nithin *see* *no*¹.

nit nurse *noun* peerie and whip.

nitter, nyitter *verb* grumble and complain incessantly; nag.

- ◆ *noun* a complaining person.

[*Nitter* English dialectal and Scots form of *natter*, Scots also *nyatter*.]

Nivember *noun* the month, November.

niver, niver-dae-weel, nivver *see* *never*.

nixt *see* *next*.

nize *noun* noise.

- **"great nize an' little wull", as the Deil said when he pluckt the pig**
[Cheshire and Dorset form.]

no¹, **nae** *adjective* **1** no, not any. **2** following another negative: any
e.g. never no more.

- **all to nothing** (beat someone) thoroughly.
- **an empty nothing** a vain, conceited person.

- **naebuddy** nobody.
- **no-count 1** of no account. **2** a person of no account.
- **no fears** never fear, certainly.
- **no great things, no great much** "no great shakes"; nothing to boast of.
- **nohow** in negative contexts: at all *e.g. I couldn't do it nohow.*
- **no matters** no matter, of no importance.
- **nothing, naethin, nathin, nithin 1** nothing. **2** following another negative: anything *e.g. I don't suggest nothing.*
- **no when** never, at no time *e.g. When were you there? No when.*
[Scots and Northern English form *nae*.]
- no², naw** *negative particle 1* not *e.g. I'll no wait.* **2 -na, -nae** run on to a (usually auxiliary) verb: -n't *e.g. canna, dinna; but see ken.*
- **it 'ill no be telling you** you will catch it; there's no saying what will be done to you *e.g. It 'ill no be telling you if you do it.*
- **no a' there** foolish.
- **nobbut, nobut** only [*no + but*].
- **no canny** uncanny, inauspicious; dangerous, unlucky.
- **not but** despite anything implied to the contrary *e.g. Not but I'll go the morra and ask him. See also nobut.*
- **not but that** an affirmative; a sort of explanatory or apologetic phrase *e.g. not but that he knew; he did know.*
- **no thorough kaleried** foolish person.
- **no weel** unwell; *see well².*
[Scots and Northern English form *no, -na*; Scots also *-nae*.]
- noan** *see none.*
- nob, nobbin** *see knob.*
- nobbut** *see no².*
- nobby, knobby** *adjective* well-dressed.
- nobby** *adjective* handy, clever.
[Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, origin unknown.]
- nobelty** *noun* a novelty.
- noble** *verb* steal; get hold of by stealth.
- nobut** *see no².*
- nod: a wink's as good as a nod (a hint) to a blind horse**
- **John Nod's comin' down the chimley** said of a sleepy child.
- noddle** *noun* the head.
- nodge** *verb* walk or ride at a slow pace.
- noggin, naggin, neggin** *noun 1* a noggin, a small wooden vessel made of hoops and staves. **2** a small horn drinking vessel, *especially* for whiskey. **3** a measure of liquid, *especially* whiskey. [ILLUS: noggin]
- **he cud thrash banes under a noggin** he is small and degenerate.
- **knocked about like a borrowed noggin among a wheen of tinkers**
- **noggin weaver** a maker of noggins.
- **Peter Nipple the noggin weaver** an imaginary person.
- **share of a naggin** a treat; drunk by the two parties to a bargain.
- **take a stave out of someone's noggin 1** give someone less to eat.
- 2** curb someone's behaviour.
- **what was the number of your noggin when you left the workhouse?** *abusive*
[Scots, also Hiberno-English, form *naggin*; origin unknown, *cf.* knog.
Also borrowed into Irish as *naigín*.]
- nohow** *see how, no¹.*
- noit** *see knoit.*
- Nominey: by the Nominey King** an oath.
[Probably from Latin *nomine* in the formula *In nomine patris, etc.*]
- nonce: for the nonce** on purpose.
- noncrook** *noun* the rove beetle *Ocypus olens*.
- none, nane, noan** *pronoun 1* none. **2** following another negative: any *e.g. I want nothin from none o yez.*

- ◆ *adverb* none, not at all *e.g.* *Yez can sing nane.*
- **noan is far betther nor bad**
[Scots and Northern English form *nane*, Southern English form *noan*.]
- non-plus, amplush, amplish** *noun* a non-plus, a dilemma.
- ◆ *verb* non-plus, put in a difficulty, put at a disadvantage, *usually*
- non-plusbed** non-plused.
- **amplushed** nonplussed, taken aback.
[Old form *non-plus* (still English dialectal and Scots);
Hiberno-English, also Pembroke, also *amplush*, Cornwall *amplish*.]
- noo** *adverb* now.
- **now and again** seldom, infrequently *e.g.* *I could tell when he was in the house no matter how now and again he came.*
[Scots and Northern English form. *See also* just, the.]
- noodle** *noun* a simpleton; an awkward person.
- nool-kneed** *see* knule-kneed.
- nooneen** *noun* the daisy.
- nor¹** *conjunction, emphatic* with repetition of a noun *e.g.* *Not a daler nor daler'll come near ye* [influenced by the use of Irish *ná* "nor"]; *cf.* or².
- nor²** *conjunction* **1** than *e.g.* *stronger nor the sea.* **2** *in exclamation* *s e.g.* *Oh, nor A had a drink o cowl' water!*
- **better late nor never**
[General dialectal and Scots, origin unknown.]
- norate** *verb* speak long and angrily; complain loudly and at length.
[Southern English "to chatter, to gossip", possibly the same word as *narrate*. *See also* norration, *cf.* orate.]
- Norman: Norman cock** a bird: the red-throated diver.
- norra** *see* never.
- norration, narration** *noun, jocular* a disturbance, a fuss; a clamour, an uproar.
[General dialectal and Scots, possibly the same word as *narration*. *See also* norate, *cf.* oration.]
- norrid** *see* north.
- norrit** *noun* a small, cunning old-fashioned person.
- north: give or show someone the north side of your countenance** be unfriendly towards someone, give someone "the cold shoulder".
- **norrid** northward.
- Norway: Norway duck** a bird: the scaup *Aythya marila*.
- **Norwegian**, *also in full Norwegian bird* the woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*.
- **Norwegian whaup** a bird: the bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica*; *see* whaup.
[These birds winter in Ireland, and summer in northern latitudes.]
- nose: follow your nose, and you won't go wrong** reply to an inquisitive but knowing person.
- **have your nose in everything** be inquisitive.
- **his nose wud lance a bile** *of a sharp nose.*
- **like the man with the big nose, he thought everything touched himself**
- **niver trust a man that has no nose**
- **nose-bag** a net placed over a horse's nose to protect it from flies.
- **nose clout** a handkerchief; *see* clout³.
- **nosees** a pair of pince-nez, a type of spectacles.
- **nosey** **1** a fool. **2** *nickname (a)* a fellow with a long nose. **(b)** *historical* a man who had lost his nose as a result of syphilis.
- notable**
- **What is the difference between a cripple and a good housekeeper? One is not-able, the other is notable**
- note: be at her note, be near note, come forward to her note** *of a cow or sow* be near the time for calving or farrowing.

notice, notish *noun* a wee **notice** a fraction, a small amount *e.g. It was a wee notice higher up.*

◆ *verb* notice.

□ **take notice to someone** take notice of, pay attention to someone [*cf. Irish aire a thabhairt do dhuine*].

[Scots form *notish*.]

notion: **have no notion of anything** be unable to do or make anything.

□ **have or take a notion of or at** take a fancy to (a person of the opposite sex).

□ **have the notions** *of old people* wander in mind and speech.

□ **in notions** undecided.

□ **in the one notion 1** *of two people* agreed, of the same mind. **2 not long in the one notion** apt to change your mind frequently.

□ **notionate 1** *also notionable, notionsome* full of whims. **2** obstinate, self-opinionated.

□ **take the notion** take a fancy to a person of the opposite sex.

□ **the least of me notion** the last thing on my mind.

notish *see* notice.

□ **O and carry I** nought and carry one; lameness.

nourish: **gyly nourished** drunk, intoxicated.

□ **nourished** having drunk fully of alcohol.

□ **nourishment** *euphemism* a small drink of spirits.

nous *noun* tact; common sense, good judgement.

nout *noun* a foolish person.

nout *see* nowt.

nowd *noun* a fish: the gurnard; *see* gornet.

[Scots, earlier *knowd*; origin unknown, also in Scottish Gaelic as *cnòdan*.]

nowt, nout *noun* **1** nought, nothing. **2** following another negative: anything *e.g. Nothing you know nowt about.*

□ **nought and carry one** *nickname* a lame person.

[Old form (not Scots).]

nuck *see* neuk¹, neuk².

nudyán *see* knoit.

nuggins *noun plural* socks without feet.

numbrell *noun* an umbrella.

[Lancashire form, by wrong division of *umbrell*.]

nurg *adjective* miserly, stingy.

nurl *noun* a knob, a protuberance; *cf.* knur, gnarl².

nurr, nurred *see* knur.

nurse: **nurse-tend** *verb*, *of a hired nurse* tend (a patient).

□ **nurse-tender** a hired nurse.

nut, nit *noun* **1** a nut. **2** the "nut", the head.

□ **Nut-crack Night** All Hallows' Eve.

□ **the day of the blending of the nuts** St Swithin's Day, July 15th.

[Scots, also South-Western English, form *nit*.]

nutyeen, nutyin *see* knoit.

nuvi *noun* a dousy or ill-thriving animal.

nyachan *see* achan.

nyachlit *adjective* mean, sneaky.

[Western Scots *nauchle* "a dwarf", origin unknown.]

nyaff *noun* **1** an under-sized, usually cheeky, person. **2** a fault-finder, a person who habitually grumbles. **3** a worthless fellow. **4** an unpopular, untrustworthy person. **5** a fool.

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

nyaffle *verb* eat noisily with your mouth open.

[Bedfordshire, onomatopoeic.]

nyaffs *see* niff-naff.

nyag *see* nag¹.

nyam, nawm *noun* a miaow, the cry of a cat.

◆ *verb* **1** miaow. **2** cry. **3** complain peevishly.

[Onomatopoeic.]

nyaminy *see* namminy.

nyamlach *see* aumlach¹.

nyamloch *noun*:

nyammer *verb* yammer, complain, grumble; *see also* yammer.

□ **nyammering** yammering, peevish, ill-natured.

nyarr *verb, of a dog, etc.* snarl, growl.

[Scots; onomatopoeic, *cf.* gnarl¹.]

nyarragh *adjective* nagging, sharp-tongued, spiteful *Co. Donegal*.

[Probably the same word as narrow, but *cf.* nyarr.]

nybour *see* neighbour.

nyeeher *see* nicker.

nyergie *see* nargie.

nyerp *see* nyirp.

nyeuk *see* neuk¹.

nyiff-nyaff *see* niff-naff.

nyimp, nyimf, nyim, nim *noun* a nip, a very small piece or quantity of something.

□ **nimlins** broken pieces of china that children play with.

[Scots *nimp, nimmie, nimmle*; probably onomatopoeic.]

nyinger *noun* spittle.

nyip *see* nip.

nyirb *see* nyirp.

nyirm *see* yirm.

nyirp, nyerp *noun* **1** *also* **nyirb** an unpleasant, complaining person. **2** *in plural* an unspecified illness, *usually* **(something) would give you the nyerps** *i.e.* "make you sick".

[Scots *nyirb* "a peevish complaint; a cantankerous person", origin unknown.]

nyirr *see* knur.

nyitter *see* nitter.

nyuck *see* neuk¹, neuk².

O:

o *see* oe, of.

oaf *see* off.

oak, ake *noun* oak.

□ **oak-berry** an acorn.

[Scots and Northern English form *ake*.]

oanch *verb* stammer.

oart *see* ort.

oasheen, oashin *see* oshin.

oats, aits *noun plural* oats.

□ **oatbread**, *also* **oatie bread** oaten bread, oatcake.

□ **oat dough**, *also* **oaten dough** oatmeal mixed with water as food for fowl.

□ **oaten**, *also* **hard oaten, oaten scone** oatcake.

□ **oaten grumf** potato oaten *Co. Antrim*.

□ **oat-grass** couch grass *Arrhenatherum avenaceum*.

□ **oatmeal water** oatmeal mixed with water.

[Scots and Northern English form *aits*.]

obedience: make your obedience drop a curtsey.

obledgement *see* oblige.

obledjment: be under an obledjment be indebted to someone for a favour.

obleedge, obleege, obleegement *see* oblige.

obligate *verb* oblige, do a favour to.

□ **be obligated** be indebted (for a favour received).

□ **obligating** obliging, helpful.

[Obsolete in Standard English, except U.S.A. colloquial (also Scots and English dialectal); from Latin *obligāre*, *obligātus* "bind with a moral or legal tie", *cf.* *oblige*.]

oblige, **obleedge**, **obleeege** *verb* oblige.

□ **obligement**, **obledgement**, **obleegement** *noun* a kindness, a favour; a service.

□ **under an obligation** indebted (for a favour received).

[Older pronunciation *obleeege* (still Scots); from French *obliger*, itself from Latin *obligāre*; *cf.* *obligate*.]

O'Bralliaghan: **bad or Kate is the best of the four O'Bralliaghans**

obstropolus, **obstropulous** *adjective* obstreperous; unmanageable, unruly; refractory, obstinate.

och, **auch**, **uch** *exclamation* **1** expressing sorrow, regret, weariness, impatience, *etc.*; *also* **och an heigh-ho**. **2** introducing a statement.

◆ *verb* **och-och** utter this exclamation *e.g.* *What are ye och-ochin about?*

[Irish *och*, also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *och*. *See also* *ach*, *ochanee*, *ochon*.]

ochanee, **uchanee**, **och anee anee**, **och-an-anee**, **och-anee-o**, **och och an anee o** *exclamation* expressing great sorrow, grief or weariness.

[Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *ochan-i*, extended form of *och* (see *och*).]

ochon, **ochone** *exclamation* expressing sorrow.

◆ *verb* **1** lament. **2** utter this exclamation.

[Irish *óchón*, also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *ochan*; extended forms of *och* (see *och*).]

ochra *exclamation*:

ocht *see* *aucht*.

ocht *auxiliary verb* ought, should.

□ **otta**, **oughta** ought to, should, must.

[Scots form.]

odd: **and odds** odd, and something over *e.g.* *Three pounds and odds*.

□ **by odds** by far *e.g.* *He's better by odds than the other*.

□ **make odd of** treat (a person) differently from others.

□ **odd as two lefts** very eccentric.

□ **odd or even** a guessing game: marbles or nuts are hidden in one hand, and someone else has to guess whether the number of them is odd or even, receiving one if the guess is correct, handing over one of his or her own if it is wrong.

□ **odds** *noun plural*

□ **the odds is the differs** one is as good as the other.

□ **the odds of** at least *e.g.* *There was the odds of forty head of cattle on the land*.

□ **What odds?** what does it matter?

odious, **odjous**, **ogeous**, **ojious**, **ogious** *adjective* **1** very large; extreme of its kind. **2** very good, "great".

◆ *adverb* very, extremely, terribly *e.g.* *An odious fine day*; *see also* *comogeous*, *hiogeous*.

O'Donnell: **O'Donnell's gallon** a large quantity, *especially* of drink

[translation of Irish *galún Uí Dhónaill*. The reference is to the O'Donnells of Donegal.].

oe, **o** *noun* **1** a grandson. **2** a grandchild.

[Irish *ó* "a grandchild, *usually* a grandson", also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *ogha*.]

of, **uv**, **av**, **iv**, **o**, **i**, **a** *preposition* **1** of. **2** of you, *etc.* your, *etc.* *e.g.* *the head of you* [used more freely than in Standard English]. **3** there's of them

that there are some of them who. **4** of time on *e.g.* *What did she die of?*

She died of a Thursday. **5** to (the hour) *e.g.* *a quarter of six*. **6** of

yourself, *etc.* (a) in yourself, in body *e.g.* *They're very stiff o theirsels this*

weather; (b) in character *e.g.* *wee of yourself* miserly, stingy; *see* *wee*.

7 of the face, hands, etc. in the face, hands, etc., e.g. *yellow o the face*.

8 in respect of e.g. *He's a bad fellow of his whiskey; i.e. he is not generous with his whiskey.*

- let go of** let go, release.
- light of itself** not heavy.
- light of yourself** light-footed.
- of all** at all; *see also* **ava**.
- of a rule** as a rule, usually.
- of boot** to boot, into the bargain; *see also* **about**².
- quate of yourself** quiet in disposition.
- well of himself** well in general health, despite a slight illness.

[Colloquial forms *uv, av, iv, o, i, a*. *O'* is sometimes written in Standard English in phrases such as *six o'clock, etc.*]

of¹ *adverb*: e.g. *He got a sup in, on his way home, in two or three houses, and he's now well on. A little more and he'll be of.*

off, oaf, aff *adverb* **1** off. **2** off-hand, straight away e.g. *She did it off.*

◆ *preposition* **1** off. **2** from e.g. *I bought it off him.*

◆ *adjective* asleep.

◆ *verb off with (an item of clothing)* take (an item of clothing) off e.g. *She offs with her coat.*

◆ *exclamation (a) ploughing* a command to a horse to return to a straight course; **(b)** a command to a horse to turn left; **(c)** a command to a horse to turn right.

- aff-go** the start, the act of setting out.
- aff-hand** **1** off-hand. **2** *specifically* right away.
- aff-leef** off-hand; *see* loof.
- off and on, off an' on** occasionally.
- off-handed** left-handed.
- off health** out of health, unwell.
- off of preposition** off e.g. *They jumped off of the wall* [obsolete in literary English, now colloquial].
- off of your tongue** from memory.
- off your meat** having no appetite; not eating.
- put off you** **1** undress. **2** scold, "let off steam" e.g. *She put off her all sorts.*

[Scots forms *oaf, aff*.]

offal *noun* **1** the refuse of grain after winnowing; the sweepings of a granary. **2** *also* **offal corn wheat** bran, the husk of grain after grinding.

- offal corn wheat** the refuse of ground wheat.

offence: **no offence** a reply to an apology.

offer, affer, *verb* offer.

◆ *noun* **1** an offer. **2** promise e.g. *There's no offer in him.*

an offer's as good as a blow

[Hiberno-English form *affer*.]

office: **office-hand** an office worker.

- office house** one of the offices (out-buildings) of a farm.

officer: **officer-toed** having out-turned feet.

- as often as fingers and toes** up to ten times.

oganach, augenagh *noun* a tricky young fellow; a person to be avoided, a dare-devil; *derogatory* a fellow.

ogenach *noun* a simpleton.

ogeous, ogious *see* odious.

ogre, oger *noun* an auger.

oh: **oh, ay** yes; oh, yes.

oil, ile *noun* oil.

◆ *verb* **1** oil. **2** beat up, thrash; *cf.* **creash**¹.

- oile lamp** an oil lamp.
- oilin** a beating, a thrashing.
- oil pig** the oil gland in the rump of a fowl; *see* **pig**².

- **oil-plant** a wild flower: the sundew *Drosera spp.* [ILLUS: oil-plnt]
- **oil someone's hide for him or her** "tan someone's hide", thrash someone.

□ **oily**:

- **oily boy** a flatterer.

[Scots and English dialectal form *ile*.]

oil¹, ile *noun*, also **oily** the hole used as a goal in playing marbles.

oiney *noun* a foolish person.

oiser, oisher *noun* **1** an osier, a willow wand. **2** a cane used for punishment.

[Old form *oisier*, obsolete Nottinghamshire form *awshyor*.]

ojious *see* odious.

old, auld, ald, aul', ould, oul', owl' *adjective* **1** old. **2** derogatory, usually **ould, oul'** implying intransigence or intractability. **3** *days of the year* according to the Julian calendar (which was used in Ireland until the late eighteenth century), *thus* (a) **Old Candlemas Day** February 12th; (b) **Old Christmas Day** January 6th; (c) **Old Hallow Day** November 12th; (d) **Old Holly Eve** November 11th; (e) **Old May Day** May 12th; *see also* May.

- **an old man's mile** a short distance.

□ **as old as a field** very old.

□ **as old-fashioned as if you'd suckled a cat**

□ **be off with the oul' before you're on with the new love**

□ **I'm as oul as me wee finger, but I'm ouler nor me teeth, I'm as old as my little finger and a little older than my teeth** a reply to someone who asks what age you are.

□ **make old bones** live to a ripe old age.

□ **my old woman** a man's way of referring to his wife.

□ **my oul man** a woman's way of referring to her husband.

□ **old-farrand, old-farrant, auld-farran** **1** old-fashioned. **2** *of a child* precocious, wise beyond its years. **3** knowing, cunning. **4** wise, prudent.

5 *of a contraption, etc.* ingenious, clever.

[Scots and Northern English *farrand, farrant*; Scots also *farran*; from the Scots and Northern English present participle *farrand* of *fare* "to go".]

□ **old-farrantness** diplomacy.

□ **old-fashioned** **1** knowledgeable, experienced; prudent, wise. **2** *of a child* wise beyond its years. **3** knowing, cunning.

□ **old fog** coarse, old grass left uneaten by cattle.

□ **old-headed** shrewd.

□ **Old May Day** 12th May.

□ **old stock** **1** an old, respected family. **2** a term of address to a friend or long-established resident of a place.

□ **old take** a long lease taken out when the lands were cheap.

□ **Old Tom** gin.

□ **old warrior** applied to anything that has seen a lot of service.

□ **old wedding day**: *e.g. After the "wedding day" came the "old wedding day" and the following Sunday was "out-going Sunday" and the following day was "out-going Monday" when the whole company again assembled in order to proceed together to the market of Carn.*

□ **old wife** **1** a talkative, gossiping person. **2** a fish: the ballan wrasse.

□ **old wives' tow** various species of *Sphagnum spp.* moss; *see* **tow**.

□ **old word** an old saying, a proverb.

□ **Old Year's Night** New Year's Eve.

□ **oulfellow** an unpopular, bad tempered person.

□ **oul Granny Grunt** a name for a child too advanced for its years.

□ **oul hunderdth** the one hundredth psalm.

□ **Oul' Kennilmiss Day, / Throw a kennil' away**

□ **oul' times** formerly.

□ **the old chap** the devil.

□ **the Old Fellow in the Lower Country, the Ould Fella in the Lower**

Counthry the devil.

□ **the owl' two-and-six** *e.g. He's just the owl' two-and-six.*

□ **you'll no catch an oul' bird with chaff as ye wud a young yin** meaning that an experienced person is not so easily taken in by glib promises as a younger one would be.

[Scots and North-Western English forms *auld, ald*; mainly Southern English form *ould*.]

ollaghd *adjective* over-agreeable, suspiciously friendly.

ollminick *noun* an almanac.

omadán *see* amadan.

Omey *proper noun* Omagh.

□ **he or she could keep Omagh**

on *preposition* **1** before a verbal noun *e.g. on dying*; "a-dying", dying; *cf.*

a³. **2 on you** applied to (a) *parts of the body e.g. He has a nose on him like a turkey-cock*; (b) *illnesses, etc. e.g. She has a bad cold on her.*

3 used with *tomorrow* and *yesterday* (a) *e.g. They'll come on tomorrow*; (b) *e.g. Tomorrow's on a Sunday.* **4** in (a newspaper, etc.). **5** to your disadvantage *e.g. Don't break it on me* [based on usage of Irish *ar*, recently adopted widely in colloquial English].

on- *prefix* un-. *thus onnatural, onpleasant etc.*

□ **be on with (a person)** court (a person), go out with (a person).

□ **be on you of an obligation** fall to you *e.g. It's on you now to return the visit.*

□ **blame on** lay the blame on.

□ **have it on you** be visibly the worse for drink.

□ **have on you** be dressed *e.g. She has partly on her.*

□ **on for** ready for, in favour of.

□ **on it** with regard to your health, circumstances, etc. *e.g. You're lookin a bit pale on it, the day.*

□ **on the minute** **1** on the instant, immediately. **2** precisely.

□ **on your keeping, on your keeking** "on the run"; in hiding from the officers of the realm.

□ **on yourself** on your own authority.

□ **see it on someone** notice that someone is the worse for drink.

*See also a*³.

onaisy *see* unaise.

onbeknownst, unbenonst *adjective* unbeknownst to, unbeknown to, unknown to; *see also* beknownst, unknownst.

once, oncet, wunst, wonst, wans, wanst, aince, yince, yinst *adverb* once.

□ **once in a day** formerly, at one time.

□ **once in a while, wanst in a while** now and again; once in a way; at intervals.

□ **once that** when, as soon as.

□ **Once upon a time when boards shit lime an monkeys chawed tobacco, then little dogs took out their tails an wagged them in the snow** put-off to a child wanting a story.

[Hiberno-English and English dialectal form *oncet, wunst, wonst*; Hiberno-English and Devon form *wans*; Hiberno-English and Isle of Man form *wanst*; Scots and Northern English form *aince*; Scots also *yince*.]

oncommon *adverb* uncommonly. used as an intensifier uncommonly well.

◆ *adjective* short for "uncommonly well" (in health).

onconvenient *see* inconvenient.

ondacent, ondaicent *see* undecent.

onder *see* under.

onderstan' *verb* understand.

[Scots form *understan'*, Galloway also *onderstan'*.]

ondher *see* under.

one, un, won, wan, ane, yane, yin, een *numeral* one.

◆ **pronoun** **1** one. **2** *in plural* (**a**) after a possessive: the members of a family *e.g. our ones, Tomson's ones*. (**b**) after a place-name: the people from that district *e.g. the Lemgare ones*. **3** *in plural* some *e.g. Are there any nails about? You'll find ones in the shed*.

◆ **adjective, also ae** one.

□ **all to one side, like the handle of a jug, all to one side like the hannel of a jug, a tae the yin side like the handle of a jug, all to one side like Clogher** **1** awry; *especially of a badly built corn-stack, load of hay etc.* on one side. **2** describing Clogher.

□ **at one** agreed, reconciled.

□ **be one with** get even with, take revenge on.

□ **hizens:**

□ **one bit** at all *e.g. not one bit wet*.

□ **one gear** in good health again *e.g. She's one gear now*.

□ **one-handed** left-handed.

□ **one how or other** somehow or other.

□ **one-pointed grass** (**a**) common saltmarsh grass *Puccinellia maritima*; (**b**) blue moor-grass *Sesleria albicans*.

□ **one purpose** one errand, on purpose; *see* errand.

□ **one's end** once errand, on purpose; *see* errand.

□ **one thing** the same thing, identical things.

□ **one time and another** from time to time.

□ **one year's bairns** people of the same age.

□ **sorrow one of me, the sorra one of me, the norra wan of meself** *emphatic negative* *I e.g. Sorrow one of me knows; see* never, sorrow.

□ **the one of them** each one; every one *e.g. The sorra resaive the one of them*.

□ **wan-handed** single-handed.

□ **Yen, twa, tipples / March, mapplin / Mapplin, how / How, harry / Bow barry / biddery gan / gan gilly / gilly nowd / Dis cum towd / Ten you marry**

[Colloquial form *un* in England, English dialectal *won*; Hiberno-English and South-Western English form *wan*; Scots and Northern English *ane*; Scots also *yane, yin*; North-Eastern Scots, Orkney and Shetland *een*. Scots and Northern English adjective form *ae*. *See also* tane.]

onhandy *adjective* unhandy; awkward, unskilful.

onion *noun* the head *e.g. He's aff his onion*.

onion: onion and orange

only, ony *adverb, conjunction* only.

□ **amoany** I'm only.

[English dialectal form *ony*.]

onny, onnybuddy, onnyplace, onnythin, onnywhaur *see* any.

onpossible *see* impossible.

onraysonable *adjective* unreasonable.

onrulf *see* unruleful.

onry, onrie *adjective* sickly-looking; drooping, dejected; tired-looking; *cf.* ordinary.

onset *noun* **1** an addition to a building. **2** an out-house. **3** a farm-house with its out-buildings. **4** a small cluster of houses, a *clachan*.

onsignified *see* unsignified.

onsonsy *see* unsonsy.

'ont *see* will.

ontil *preposition* onto.

[Scots and Northern English, *cf.* *til*.]

ontorious *adjective* notorious.

onwholesome *adjective* unwholesome.

ony *see* any, only.

ooaghter *noun* the lip of the churn.

ool *noun* a bird: an owl.

- **as drunk as an owl**
- **ooled** cowed, humbled; dejected.
[Scots and Northern English form. *See also* oorie.]
- oole** *noun* the beginning hay heap.
- oor** *adjective* hoary, aged.
- oor** *see* our.
- oor, hoor** *noun* an hour.
[Scots and Northern English form.]
- oorie, owrie** *adjective* **1** dismal, depressing. **2** sad-looking, dejected.
3 shivering, drooping. **4** hung-over. **5** *of a cow or horse* having dry hair as a result of sickness.
[Scots; formed on Scots *oor* "to huddle", itself apparently an alteration of ool.]
- oorsels** *see* our.
- oose**¹ [rhymes with "loose"] *noun* fluff (*e.g.* under a bed or in the seams of clothes).
[Scots; originally the plural of *oo*, itself the Scots form of wool. *See also* outhur.]
- oose**² *noun, dyeing* the process of preparing cloth to take the dye, by boiling it with a mordant such as heather or yellow iris.
[*Cf.* technical English sense of *ooze* "the liquid in which hides are steeped to tan them".]
- oot** *see* out.
- open: opening, apenin** **1** an opening. **2** *also* **opening of the heavens, opening in the sky** lightning without thunder.
- **open out on (a person)** scold, reprimand (a person).
- **open side** the left side of a carcase of mutton [so called because the kidney adheres less closely at that side]; *cf.* close.
- **open the baby** undo a baby's nappy.
[Scots form *apen*.]
- operation, aperation** *noun* an operation.
- **make an operation of** perform an operation on.
- or**¹ *preposition* ere, before.
[Obsolete in Standard English, latterly Scots and English dialectal; from Old Norse *ár* "early", related to Old English *•r*, which gives *ere*.]
- or**² *conjunction, emphatic* with repetition of a noun after a negative *e.g.* *Ne'er a coin or coin was to be heard; Co. Donegal; see also* nor².
- oran, oarn, orn** *noun* a wild flower: the cow-parsnip *Heracleum sphandylium*.
- Orange** *adjective* belonging to or relating to the Orange Order.
- **as orange as a lily**
- **Orangeism** the aims and practices of the Orange Order.
- **Orange lodge** **1** *historical* a Belfast branch of the Freemasons. **2** a branch or club of the Orange Order. **3** *incorrectly* the Orange Order.
- **Orangeman, Orangewoman** a member of the Orange Order (men) or the Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland (women).
- **Orange Order** a militant Protestant society, formed in 1795.
- orate** *verb* norate, speak angrily and at length; *see also* oration.
- oration** *noun* a noise, an uproar; *see also* orate.
- orchit** *noun* an orchard.
[English dialectal form.]
- order** *noun* an array or company.
- **all your orders** **1** all your comforts and conveniences *e.g.* *Since she moved into that new house, she has all her orders.* **2** all your belongings *e.g.* *Are ye away? Have ye all yer orders?*
- ordinary, ornary, ornery, ordinar, ordnar, orner** *adjective* **1** ordinary.
2 *of a person* plain-looking.
- ◆ *noun* **ordinar** your "ordinary", your usual state of health *e.g.* *How are ye? About me ordinar.*

- **for ordinar** ordinarily, usually.
- **something no' ordinar** a clever person.
[English dialectal form *ornary*, *ornery* (also U.S.A. colloquial *ornery*); Scots forms *ordinar*, *ordnar*, *orner*. See also *onry*.]

ore, oar:

ore *see* sea.

orphant *noun* an orphan.

[Old form in Scots and English.]

orr *see* other.

orra *adjective* extraordinary *e.g.* *He has an orra lot done.*

orragh *noun* a charm, enchantment.

orsen, orson *noun* a very large person; an oversized child.

ort, oart *noun, in plural* orts, scraps, leftovers, *especially* of food; *also figuratively.*

◆ **verb** **1** play with, waste (food). **2** pick out the best (*especially* of food) and leave the rest.

□ **ortin** **1** *in plural* orts, leftovers. **2** the weakest in a litter. **3** an undersized child.

□ **the mornin's oartins is the evenin's fodther** *saying* originating with cowhouse experience.

[Scots form *oart*.]

oshin, oashin, oasheen *noun* a weakly person; someone who cannot do his or her fair share of work.

[*Cj.* Irish *oisín* "a fawn".]

ospill *noun* a hospital.

other, orr, ither *pronoun* **1** other. **2** each other, one another *e.g.* *On a foggy day, ships would run into other.*

□ **ithergates** elsewhere; *see* gate.

□ **other morrow** the day after tomorrow.

□ **otherwhere** elsewhere.

□ **otherwhiles** at other times.

□ **the other end of yourself** your counterpart.

□ **the other fella** the cleaner in a flax mill.

□ **think no other** feel sure.

[Scots form *ither*. See also *tother*.]

otomy *noun* anatomy; a skeleton *e.g.* *It's like the backbone an' ribs of an otomy in a picther.*

otter *noun* an illegal fishing implement: a board used to float a line.

oudacious *adjective* audacious.

[Southern English form.]

ought: as ought as death as sure as, as certain as.

oul', ould *see* old.

ounce: not have an ounce not have an ounce of sense.

ouncels *noun plural* a set of weighing scales.

[Northern English and South-Western Scots *ouncels*, Hiberno-English *ounsel*; from English *ounce*.]

ounds, ouns *noun plural* wounds, *only in exclamations, thus*

blood-an-ounds!, tearin-ouns, tare-an-ounty!

[*'Ounds* obsolete in Standard English (never a Scots form).]

our *see* back.

our *see* out.

our *see* over.

our, oor, weer, wer, wir, wur *possessive pronoun* our.

□ **oorsels, wurselves, wersels** ourselves; *see* sel.

[Scots and Northern English forms *oor*, *wur*; general dialectal and Scots *wer*, *wir*; Southern English *weer*.]

oura *see* out.

oussie *adjective* too curious.

[Origin unknown.]

- out, oot** *adverb* **1** out. **2** *of time* forward, on *e.g. from that day out, from this out*; *see this*²; [based on usage of Irish *amach*]. **3** no longer friendly, having fallen out.
- oothouse** an outhouse; *see house*.
 - out and out** extremely, excessively; completely, altogether *e.g. It's a big fire, out and out*; absolutely *e.g. Did John lave the lan' to the wife out an' out, or only for her life?*
 - out away** out and away, by far.
 - outblow** a friendly, outgoing manner.
 - out-by, out-bye, oot-by** *adverb* **1** outside, out of doors. **2** out in the fields.
 - ◆ *preposition* in the direction of, near to.
 - ◆ *adjective* distant, out of the way.
 - outcome** something to draw on *e.g. There's no outcome in him*.
 - out-crush** a press of people in a doorway.
 - out-crying** the time of a pregnant woman's confinement; *see also cry*.
 - out-door lamp** a lantern (as used on a farm).
 - outed** ejected, thrown out; ousted.
 - outfall** a falling-out, a quarrel.
 - out-farm** an outlying farm, not lived in by the farmer.
 - out field** an outlying field.
 - out-friend, far-out friend** a distant relative [translation of Irish *gaol fada amach*]; *see friend*.
 - out-go** a pasture where cattle are allowed to wander at large.
 - out-going**:
 - out-going Sunday, out-going Monday** the Sunday and Monday following a wedding, when the wedding party went to church and to market together.
 - outing, outin** **1** a pleasure-trip. **2** *see outins* go out and enjoy yourself.
 - outlander** someone who lives outside the district.
 - outlandish** foreign.
 - out-lay** pasture at a distance from the farm to which it belongs.
 - outlet** the drain opening under the grating of a street gutter.
 - out-mouthed** having buckteeth.
 - out of, oura, our, ara** **1** out of. **2** from (a person's place of origin) *e.g. Maybe she was out of the County Antrim?*
 - out of that** at once, instantly *e.g. Go along out of that, you imperent fella*.
 - out of the Fall** from the beginning *e.g. I'll begin the story out o the Fall*.
 - out of your name** by a wrong name, not your own *e.g. He called me out of my name*.
 - out over** outside, away from the house.
 - outrageous** raging, angry.
 - outrated** outclassed *e.g. A man, tired after chasing hens (fowls) said, "I'm outrated proughlin' (or "sproughlin'" - running) about"*.
 - out-relation** a distant relative.
 - outs and after** the game of hide-and-seek.
 - outshot** *adjective* projecting.
 - ◆ *noun, also* **outshut** a projection; *specifically, also* **bed outshot** a bed recess in the back wall of a traditional kitchen; *hence* **outshot bed** [Northern English form *outshut*.] [ILLUS: outshot]
 - outshut** an additional space or room roofed by continuation of the slope of the main roof, usually to the rear of a house. distinguished from *outshot* by the fact that it extends along part or all of the length of the house
 - outside**
 - outside of** except, with the exception of.
 - outsider** a stranger, someone who is not a relative.
 - outsleep** oversleep [in Standard English "to sleep beyond (a specified

time)"].

- **out-speaky** out-spoken, unreserved.
- **out-sport** a piece of poor land on the edge of a pasture, where cattle are permitted to wander.
- **out-wale, oot-waal** *usually in plural* **1** also **out-walins** leftovers.

2 rejected potatoes. *See wale.*

[Scots and Northern English form *oot*. For reduced forms in phrases, see away, back, go.]

outhier, owther *noun* **1** fluff (*e.g.* under a bed or in the seams of clothes).

2 crumbs of food.

[Scots *outhier*, from *oo* (Scots form of **wool**) influenced by *pouther* (see powder). See also *oose*¹.]

ouzel *noun* a bird: the mountain blackbird.

oven ["o" as in "pot"] *verb* bake in an oven.

- **oven-pot** a cast-iron pot used as an oven for baking at an open fire.

*Illustration see bool*¹.

over, ower, our *preposition* **1** over. **2** on account of, because of. **3** beyond, past *e.g.* *We're over the heavy part of the work now.*

◆ *adverb* **1** over. **2** asleep *e.g.* *The child's just over.* **3** too *e.g.* *over big.*

◆ *verb* **1** endure, survive *e.g.* *They'll never over the winter.* **2** surmount, get over (a difficulty); recover from (an illness).

- **have it over you** have got a difficult ordeal over with.
- **oberins: overall, over all** **1** a slip-coat. **2** an apron for rough housework.

- **over all, owra** surpassing everything.

- **over beyont** far away, yonder, usually referring to America or Scotland.

- **over-by, over-bye, ower-by** *adverb* **1** at a place a short distance away.

2 over the sea in or to Scotland; *also* used by people of Ulster descent in Scotland to refer to Ulster. **3** *of time* past and gone.

◆ *preposition* past *e.g.* *It went ower-by the peat shed.*

- **overcasted** clouded over.
- **over-corned** *of a horse* overfed with corn.
- **over-driven** overworked.
- **over-feed** a surfeit of food.
- **over fornenst** opposite; *see fore*.
- **over-grow** grow too fast.
- **overhand** the "upper hand".
- **over-handed** having too many workers for a particular job.
- **overhaul** recite.
- **overlook** cast the evil eye on.
- **overlooked** bewitched.
- **overly, owerly** too *e.g.* *They're not overly fond of each other.*
- **overmast:**
- **overmast yourself** fall over.
- **overplush, over-plush** the over-plus, the surplus.
- **overseen** "overlooked", bewitched.
- **overset** upset, overturn.
- **over sib** too closely related.
- **overtake:**
- **overtaken by liquor** drunk.
- **over the body** (turn something) upside down.
- **over the line** slightly drunk.
- **over the ways** over the way, across the road.
- **over-time** spare time.
- **over with (a person)** done with, finished with (a person).
- **over-wrought** over-worked.
- **owercome** message, import *e.g.* *An aye the owercome of his sang, Was 'Wae's me for Prince Chairlie'.*
- **ower ocht** beyond anything, extraordinary; *see aucht*.

- **ower the head o** because of.
- **owrance, overance** control, mastery; authority.
- **owre fu'** drunk.
- **owre many 1** too many. **2** more than a match **for**.
- **wee oberins** trifling work [*over + -ing*].

[Scots and Northern English form *ower, our*.]

ow' *noun* sudden fright.

owe¹ *verb* own, possess.

- **the man that owes the corn, owes the horn** a man can do what he likes with what belongs to him.
- **the woman that owes you** a man's wife; *see also* OWN.
- **who's owe?, who owes?, whose owe? 1 whose owe (is) (something)?** who owns (something)?, to whom does (something) belong? **2 who owes ye?, who's owe ye?, who's owe are you?** *to a child* who do you belong to?

[Obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal), *see owe²*.]

owe²: be owe (something) owe, be owing *e.g. I'm owe you a shilling*.

- **owe nothing** *of a farm animal, etc.* have given good service, have been worth the cost.
- **owing** in debt.

[Originally the same word as *owe¹*, through the sense "have to pay".]

ower, owerly *see over*.

owl' *see old*.

own, ain, ane *adjective* own, belonging to yourself.

◆ *verb* recognise, acknowledge (a person).

- **ain sels** *emphatic* -selves, *thus oor ainsels, etc.*
- **ain yins** (your) own family *Ulster Scots*.
- **the woman that owns ye** a man's wife; *see also owe¹*.
- **you would think he was a' yer ain** describing a plausible, "sweet" person.

[Scots and Northern English form *ain, ane*.]

ownshach *noun* a girl of immoral habits.

ownshough *noun* a foolish person, *especially* a female.

[Hiberno-English *oanshagh*, from Irish *óinseach* "a female fool", literally "a ewe lamb".]

owrance *see over*.

owrie *see oorie*.

owther *see outhther*.

ox-eye *noun* **1** a bird: the great tit *Parus major*. **2** a wild flower: the ox-eye daisy *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*.

oxter, oxther, uxter *noun* the armpit.

◆ *verb* **oxter-cog**, help a person along by supporting him or her under the armpits.

- **in debt up till your oxters**
- **legs up to her oxters** describing a woman with long, slim legs.
- **oxter-bound** stiff in the arm and shoulder.
- **oxter-cog** *verb* **1** help someone along by holding him or her under the armpits. **2** link arms with (a person); walk arm-in-arm. **3** put (something) aside, conceal (something) secretly for your own use.

◆ *noun* support under the armpits, *usually give someone an oxter-cog*.
Cf. cog¹.

- **oxterful**, *also oxter* an armful.
- **oxter-pocket** an inside pocket.
- **up the creek up till your oxters**
- **Whether would you rather/ Or rather would you be/ Legs to the oxther,/ Or belly to the knee?** *rhyme*
- **with the head under the oxter** dispirited, with a downcast head.

[Hiberno-English *oxter, oxther*; Scots and Northern English *oaxter*; Yorkshire also *uxter*; from Old English *ōxta*.]

oyster: **oyster-picker** a bird: the oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*.

Illustration see pyot.

P: **P for John, and if it hadn't been for my larnin' I'd have lost my sack,**

P for Joe me father's bag isn't it a nice thing to have the larnin' ironic

a little learning is a dangerous thing.

paaky *see* pawky.

pace *noun* peace.

[Older form in Scots and English. *See also* paicify.]

pachle *see* paughle.

pacific *adjective* specific *e.g.* *That transaction put an end to Susannah's*

legacy; for it was one o' them kind the layers call pacific.

pack *see* pike¹.

pack¹: **packer** a post-rammer.

□ **pack-fellow** a packman, a pedlar.

□ **pack-horse road** an old track impassable for wheeled vehicles.

pack² *adjective, also rarely* **packed** intimate, very friendly.

□ **as pack as pickpockets**

[Scots and Northern English; *cf.* obsolete Standard English *pack*

"conspire; let a person into a conspiracy", related to **pack¹** or to *pact*.]

packeens *noun plural, rare* the hands *Co. Donegal*.

[Possibly Scots *pawkies* "mittens" with Irish diminutive ending *-in* replacing *-ie*.]

packy *see* pawky.

pad¹ *verb* **1** trample, form a path by treading. **2** cut a path by hand round a hayfield to give access for a mechanical reaper.

[The same word as Standard English *pad* "to walk softly", from Low German *padden* "to tread". *Cf.* **pad²**.]

pad² *noun* a path.

□ **dog's pad** a well-trodden path.

□ **I wouldn't go off my pad for her** she is not worth pursuing romantically.

□ **on the pad** travelling; gadding about.

□ **pad-rodgy** a footpath, a track; *see* rodding.

□ **the raat's paad fae Kells tae McKingston, the raat's paad fae Kells tae McKeen'stoon** *nickname* the old narrow-gauge railway.

[English dialectal and Scots; originally English slang, from Low German *pad*. *Cf.* **pad¹**.]

paddal *noun, verb* pedal.

paddle, paidle *verb* **1** paddle, walk with short steps, toddle. **2** walk slowly.

3 *of a dog* wander. **4** *of a horse* lift the feet restlessly while standing.

□ **paddle-canoe** a small square-sterned curragh rowed by one man with a paddle. [ILLUS: paddle-c]

□ **paddlin collie, paidlin collie** a wandering dog.

□ **paddling, paddlin, paidlin** walking slowly, wandering; walking or running with short steps, toddling.

paddock, poddock, puddock *noun* a frog.

□ **as cold as a puddock**

□ **paddock-stool, puddock-steel** *noun* **1** a toadstool; *rarely* a mushroom. **2** *figuratively* describing a cancerous growth. *See* steel.

□ **paddy: paddy frog** a frog.

□ **paddy hat** a toadstool.

[Obsolete Standard English *paddock* (still Scots and English dialectal), Scots also *poddock, puddock, paddy*; from Old English *pada* "a toad" + diminutive ending *-ock*. *See also* **pode**.]

paddy *see* paddock.

Paddy *noun* **1** a forked implement with handles, used for gathering up hay.

2 a tumbling Paddy, a type of horse-drawn hay-rake; *see* tumble.

Illustration see tumble. **3** a trestle used when sawing.

□ **as deaf as Paddy's milestone** *proverbial*

- **like Paddy Hanlon's signboard, the same on the other side** as broad as it is long.
- **like Paddy's blanket, as broad as it's narra**
- **paddy lamp** a simple oil lamp for indoor use.
- **Paddy's eye water** poteen, home-made whiskey.
- **Paddy's hurricane** a calm.
- **Paddy's milestone** the island of Ailsa Craig.
- **Paddy-stope** a large wooden bucket for carrying water, carried by two people by means of a pole passed through holes in two staves that extended upwards on either side; *see* **stoup**.
- **Paddy-whack** a beating, a thrashing.
- padroll, padrowl** *noun, verb* patrol.
 - **on your padrolls** on your walks, on your rounds.
[Northern English and Southern Scots form *padroll*, Yorkshire also *padrowl*.]
- paeth** *noun, placename* **the Paeth** a steep road near Magheramore.
 - **Paeth-fut** the district around the foot of the Paeth.
- pag** *noun* an unflattering term *e.g. He's nothin bether than a pag. He'll neither work nor want.*
- paghil, pahil** *see* paughle.
- paicify** *verb* pacify.
[Influenced by *pace*.]
- paidle** *see* paddle.
- paidrin, padhren** *noun, Roman Catholic* the rosary.
 - **be (or by) the Pandheren Partha** an oath.
- paigh** *see* pegh.
- paik** *verb* beat up, thrash.
 - **paikin** a beating, a thrashing.
[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]
- pain** *noun, in plural, usually* **the pains** rheumatism.
 - **have a pain in your pocket** be impecunious.
 - **painful of a person** hard to listen to because of continual self-praise or boasting.
- pair, perr** *noun* **1** a pair. **2 pair of blankets** a large blanket doubled over. **3 pair of forks** a forked stick (*e.g.* for a catapult).
- pair** *see* poor¹.
- pairins** *noun plural* (pork) parings.
- pairt** *see* part.
- paitridge** *see* partridge.
- pake** *see* pike¹.
- palatic** *see* parlatic.
- pale** *verb, only* **palin(g)** making a fence of posts and wire.
- paleen** *see* pallion.
- palew** *noun* potato bread made with grated raw potatoes, *boxty* Co. Armagh.
[Origin unknown.]
- pall** *see* pawl.
- pallall** *noun* a game: hopscotch.
[Scots and Northern English, altered from French *palet* "a stone or flat piece of metal thrown in games such as quoits".]
- pallin** *noun, also* **pallin post** or **stab** a paling post, a fence post.
[*Cf.* Scots *pall* "a post", form of **pawl**.]
- pallion, palyeen, paleen** *noun* **1** a bundle of clothes. **2** an unfashionable or awkward garment. **3** excessive padding or clothing. **4** *figuratively* a person with a lot of clothes on. **5** a person dressed in rags.
 - **in paleens** torn, in rags.
[Scots *pallion* "a rag, a tatter; a bundle of clothes"; *cf.* Irish *pillin*, Scottish Gaelic *pillin*, "a pack-saddle, a bundle of straw padding", itself believed to be the source of English *pillion*.]

palltog, paltog, poltog, polthogue *noun* **1** a heavy blow. **2** a slap. **3** a cow-pat. **4** a blackthorn stick.

□ **paltoggin** a caning.

[Hiberno-English *polthogue*, from Irish *paltóg* "a thump, a blow".]

palm¹ *noun*, *Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland* a tree whose branches are substituted for palms on Palm Sunday: **(a)** various species of willow; **(b)** the yew; **(c)** the silver fir; **(d)** the spruce.

palm²: **on your palms** on your knees, overwhelmed.

paltog *see* palltog.

palyaver *noun, verb* palaver.

palyeen *see* pallion.

pamphrey *noun* a dark green, loose-leaved variety of spring cabbage.

[Origin unknown.] [ILLUS: pamphrey]

pan¹ *noun* **1** a pail. **2 the pan** a fry, food cooked in a frying pan *e.g.* *Now she can eat anything. Last night she even had the pan.*

□ **a pan like a ploughed field** of a person's face.

□ **pancake** **1** a dropped scone (a small cake made with batter dropped onto a hot griddle) [as in Scotland; not a crêpe (larger and thinner) as in England]. **2 jocular** a cow-pat.

□ **pancake Tuesday** Shrove Tuesday.

□ **pan-crock** a large, shallow earthenware dish.

□ **pancrooked** of a horse exhausted, worn out.

□ **pan-loaf** a baker's loaf baked in a tin.

□ **ponney**: *e.g.* *a tin mug and a ponney for journey.*

See also pandy².

pan² *verb* **1** agree, match, fit. **2** fit, join (things) together.

[Northern English, origin unknown.]

panady, panade *noun* panada (a food for children or invalids made by boiling bread with water, milk or tea).

pandy¹ *noun* a blow on the hand with a cane or ruler, to punish a schoolchild.

◆ *verb* give a pandy to (a person).

[Chiefly Scots, from Latin *pande palmam* "hold out the hand!"]

pandy² *noun* a little pan, a pot.

[Possibly **pan**¹ + intrusive *d* + *-ie* diminutive.]

pandy³ *noun* champ, mashed potatoes.

pane *noun* a section or plot of ground in a garden or orchard; *see also* pen⁴.

pang, peng *verb* **1** cram, pack, stuff full. **2 pang up** pile up, heap up.

◆ *adjective, also pang-full* full, packed, crammed.

◆ *noun* a heap raised on top of a cart, *etc.*

□ **panged**, *also panged up* crammed, stuffed full.

□ **panged with people, like herrings in a barrel**

□ **pang something aff** palm something off (on someone).

[Scots and Northern English, possibly an alteration of Middle Dutch *prangen* "to press, to squeeze".]

panjams *noun, childish* pyjamas.

[*Cf.* colloquial English *pyjams, pyjimjams, etc.*]

panner *verb* patter, make a noise like running feet *Mid Ulster*.

[Possibly an altered form of *patter*.]

pant *noun* **1** a lark, a frolic; an enjoyable occasion. **2** an amusing incident, an episode, an adventure. **3** someone with something interesting to relate, someone with a lot of news. **4** an entertaining person. **5** talk; rumour *e.g.* *That's the pant that's going through the country.*

pantaleers *noun plural* pantaloons.

pantwatchin' *noun* spying on courting couples.

pap *noun* chewed food given to a baby.

pap *noun* a teat [archaic in Standard English].

□ **a pap above** a step above (someone else) socially.

papa, pappie *noun, childish* father.

paper *noun, specifically* a written recommendation, a testimonial.

papish *noun, derogatory* a papist, a Roman Catholic.

◆ *adjective, derogatory* papistical, Roman Catholic.

[Scots and English dialectal, from Scots *pape* form of *pope*.]

pappit *noun* a very tiny person; a poppet.

papple *verb, of flowing water* popple, gurgle.

◆ *noun* **1** a popple, an agitation of the surface of the sea. **2** the purling of flowing water.

[Hiberno-English form.]

paraban *noun* a herb used for making a plaster to draw boils.

parable *noun* a model, an exemplary person or thing *e.g. He's a parable to all.*

parade *noun* a street, a pavement.

paramble, peramble *noun* a preamble.

[English dialectal form *peramble*.]

paramoudra *noun* a large, roughly cylindrical mass of flint.

paraphrase, parryfrase *noun, Presbyterian* a metrical passage of Scripture, arranged for singing to psalm tunes in Presbyterian hymnals.

parboiled *adjective, of the flesh* raw and sore *e.g. My hands are all parboiled.*

parcel, percel, passel *noun* **1** a parcel. **2** a troublesome or peculiar person.

◆ *verb* parcel (out).

[South-Western Scots form *percel*, Southern English *passel*.]

parch *noun* a measure of length: a perch (in Ireland, 6.40 metres).

[Probably an old form, *cf. sarten* (see *certaint*), *clargy* (see *clergy*), *etc.*]

pardeog *see* bardock.

pare: parin mean, stingy.

parfit, perfit, perfect *adjective* perfect.

□ **parfitly, perfectly, perfitly** perfectly.

□ **perfection** perfection.

[Older form (not in Scots) *parfit*, from Old French *parfit*. Standard

English *perfect* and the intermediate forms *perfit*, *perfect* are altered by the influence of Latin *perfectus*.]

parful *see* power.

parge *noun* a plaster for walls made of blue clay and cow-dung.

[English dialectal shortening of *parget*.]

parin *see* pare.

parish *see* perish¹.

park *noun* a field.

parkin *noun* a piece of oatcake.

parlatic, palatic *adjective* "paralytic", very drunk.

◆ *noun* a blow sufficient to paralyse.

[English dialectal and slang forms.]

parle *noun* a parley; an argument.

parley *exclamation, in children's games* a call for a truce.

◆ *noun, in certain games* "home", the base.

[*Cf. barley*² and Standard English *parley*.]

parlous *adjective* perilous, dangerous *e.g. He was in a parlous state* [archaic in Standard English].

pharmacy *noun* a pharmacy.

parr *noun* a young salmon.

parrafint *noun* paraffin.

□ **parrafint ile lamp** an oil and wick lamp.

parran *see* poreen.

parridge, parritch *see* porridge.

parritch¹

□ **I wouldn't know him if I met him in my parritch** I have no acquaintance with him at all.

parryfrase *see* paraphrase.

parsioniage *noun* a personage *e.g.* *An intellectual-headed par-sion-iage.*

part, part *noun, verb* part.

- **part and parcel** of the same sort or kind.
- **parting: parting of the waters** a water-shed.
- **partly** almost, nearly.

[Scots and Northern English form *part.*]

partan *noun* a crab: *specifically* (a) the common crab *Cancer pagurus*; (b) the shore crab *Carcinus maenas*.

- **partan hook** an iron hook for catching crabs.
- [Ulster Irish *partán* (Standard Irish *portán*) "a crab"; also Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *partan*.]

parteeshun *see* patition.

partick *see* patridge.

partikler, parteeclar *adjective* particular.

- **particklery, perticklaly** particularly.
- [Old forms *partikler, perticular* (still Scots and English dialectal); Scots also *parteeclar*.]

partner: be partners with be the partner of.

- **partnership** an exchange agreement between two farmers involving the mutual borrowing of horses and labour for ploughing, harrowing and drilling.

partrick *see* patridge.

partule *see* portyoul.

party, perty *noun* a party.

- **party-pot** a pot owned jointly by several households.
 - **party-work** party politics.
- [Scots form *perty*.]

pase *see* pay².

pass¹ *verb* **1** bypass, avoid *e.g.* *He went six miles out of his way to pass the wood.* **2** surpass, exceed *e.g.* *It passes my skill* [archaic in Standard English].

- **pass a worm**
- **pass-remarkable, pass-remarkin** given to "passing remarks" about other people.
- **pass the time of day** exchange a few words with someone in passing.
- **pass yourself** keep up appearances; do what is expected of you out of politeness.
- **pass your word** promise to pay *e.g.* *He had to pass his word for a hundred pounds to clear him of debt.*
- **pastin'** *literally* passing: except *e.g.* *Pastin' a jig or a hornpipe, I nivver was much of a dancer.*

pass² *noun* a corridor between rows of machinery in a weaving mill.

pass³: put pass on someone **1** take notice of, give heed to someone.

- 2** *in negative* not have faith in someone, not have regard for someone *e.g.* *I would not put much pass on her as a fortune-teller.*

[Origin unknown.]

passage *noun* a journey, not necessarily by sea.

passel *see* parcel.

passerine: passerine bunting a bird: the reed bunting.

past: lay or put past lay by, put aside; *hence* **past** laid by *e.g.* *Have you any tobacco past?*

- **past all** exceptional, unprecedented.
- **past ordinar, past the ordinar, past the common** exceptionally good or bad.
- **past yourself** **1** beside yourself, distraught. **2** exhausted (with tiredness, grief, *etc.*).

paste

- **I'll paste the face off him** a curious threat.

- **pace-boord** paste-board, cardboard.
- **pasting** a beating, a thrashing.

paster, pesther *noun* the pastern of a horse.

[Scots *paster, paister*; from Old French *pasture* "pasture; a tether for the leg of a horse at pasture; the pastern of a horse's leg". Standard English *pastern* is an altered form, making *pastern* and *pasture* into two different words.]

Pat:

pat *adjective* fluent in speech, with ready utterance.

pat *see* paut.

- **there's Lame Pat, Crutchy Pat, and Pat the Heckle-pin, There's Mick's Pat and Pat's Pat, and Pat from Brick-a-lin** (*i.e.*

Loughbrickland)

patch: not a patch to, not make a patch on "not a patch on", not comparable with.

- **patch-a-de-lap** *nickname* a person with much-patched clothes.
- **patch beside patch is neighbourly, but patch upon patch is beggarly**

patch¹ *noun* an ill-natured, disobliging person; a "cross-patch".

pateeshin *see* patition.

pater-and-ave, patheranavy *noun, Roman Catholic* a Paternoster ("Our Father") and an Ave Maria ("Hail Mary"); *see also* pauderins.

pathern *see* patron¹.

patience: patience an' persevrance got a wife for his reverence

patient: my patience *exclamation* a disguised oath.

- **patient of death** the death throes.
- [Scots form of *passion*.]

patition, pateeshin, parteeshun *noun* a partition.

Patrickmas *noun* St Patrick's Day; the period of time around St Patrick's Day.

partridge, patteridge, paitridge, petteridge, petricks, pettericks, partricks, particks *noun* a bird: the grey partridge *Perdix perdix*.

[Scots and English dialectal form *partridge*; Northern English also *paitrich*; Scots also *paitrick, partricks, pertricks* (mistaken singular forms as if Older Scots form *perdris* was a plural).]

patron¹, pattern, pathern *noun* a fair in honour of a patron saint.

[Hiberno-English form *pattern*. *See* patron².]

patron², pattron *noun* a pattern.

[Older form *patron* (still general dialectal and Scots), from French *patron*. Standard English *pattern* is an altered form, making *patron* and *pattern* into two different words. *See also* patron¹.]

patten *noun* a wooden sole tied onto the foot, to raise it above mud or rain water.

patter

patteridge *see* partridge.

pattern *see* patron¹.

pattron *see* patron².

pauchle *see* paughle.

pauderins, pudderins *Roman Catholic, noun plural* **1** rosary beads.

2 prayers on the rosary.

[Irish *paidrín* "the rosary", from *paidir* "prayer" (itself from Latin *pater* in *pater noster*) + diminutive ending *-ín*. *See also* pater-and-ave.]

paugh *noun* a conceited person.

[*Cf.* Scots and Northern English *pauchtie, paughty* "conceited", origin unknown.]

paughle, pauchle, poghle, paghil, pachle, pahil, packel, paugle *noun*

1 a "dollop", a lump (*e.g.* of dirt or manure). **2** a bundle (*e.g.* of rags or hay); a small heap of hay. **3** a bumfle, a bulge in clothing that has bunched up around the wearer. **4** a pallion, a person heavily wrapped up

with clothes. **5** a stout, thick-set person, "a big lump"; a chubby child. **6** a stout, clumsy person, *especially* one who has difficulty walking; *cf.* **bachle**. **7** a fat, lazy person; *cf.* **bachle**. **8** an old, frail person. **9** a person in difficulties. **10** an awkward person; a blunderer, an incompetent workman; a fool; a useless person; *frequently* **the paughle fae Ahoghill** [Ahoghill (pronounced a-hoch-il) is in Co. Antrim]; *also* **rowlt-up poghle** *literally* a rolled-up poghle: an extreme poghle; *cf.* **bachle**. **11** an untidy person; *cf.* **bachle**. **12** a timid person who will not put up a fight; *cf.* **bachle**. **13** a badly-done job; *cf.* **bachle**.

♦ *verb* **1** walk in a clumsy way. **2 paughle about** *of a child* shuffle about on its bottom. **3** make your way on foot with difficulty. **4** get into difficulties.

□ **paughler** a clumsy person.

□ **you might as well go to Hell with a load as with a pahil** you may as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb.

[Scots *pauchle* "a bundle", apparently formed on *pack* (*see pack*¹); influenced in some senses by **bachle**.]

paut, pat *verb* **1** move about with leisurely, dragging footsteps. **2** go about in stockinged feet. **3** take long strides.

[Scots and Northern English *paut*, Scots also *paat*, "walk in a heavy way; walk in a leisurely way"; form of obsolete Standard English *pote*, from Old English *potian* "push with the foot".]

pavee, pavy, pavise *verb* **1** contort the body, take up odd postures.

2 delay over work. **3** wander about aimlessly to kill time.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

paver, paviour *noun* a heavy boot-nail.

pavilion *noun* a pillion. *also* **pavilion passenger** rider on a motor-cycle pillion.

pavise *see* pavee.

pavy *see* pavee.

pavy *noun* a pedlar.

[Origin unknown.]

pawiste *noun* a child.

pawk *verb* word used when the hand is not kept steady on the ground when shooting the marble.

pawky, paaky, packy *adjective* **1** cunning, sly, insinuating. **2** deceitful.

3 shrewd, knowing, artful. **4** mean, stingy. **5** shy, retiring. **6** effeminate.

7 lazy, indolent.

□ **pawkily: pawkiness:**

[Scots and Northern English; from Scots *pawk* "a trick", origin unknown.]

pawl, pall *verb* baffle, puzzle, bring (someone) up short.

[Figurative sense of Standard English *pawl* "one of the bars that stops a windlass, etc.", from recoiling".]

pay¹, pey *noun, verb* pay.

□ **drawing pay** *figuratively* capable of working *e.g.* *One of them horses had only three legs drawin pay.*

□ **pay sock** be penalised; "pay through the nose".

□ **pay the piper** pay the penalty, suffer for something [in Standard English "bear the expense of something"].

□ **pay your footing** give out money for drink to mark the first time you do something.

[Scots form *pey*.]

pay², plural pase, *noun* a pea; *figuratively* the roe of fish.

□ **like a pea on a drum** **1** not of much importance. **2** *e.g.* *dancin about like a pee on the enn o a drum.*

□ **pay husk** a pea pod.

□ **pea hull, pay-hull** a pea pod.

□ **pea pod, pay pod** a pea pod.

- **pea shell** a pea pod.
- **pea skin** a pea pod.
[Older form in Scots and English.]
- paycock** *noun* a bird: the peacock.
[Older form in Scots and English.]
- pays** *exclamation* **1** peace!, quiet! **2** "pax!", truce!
[Older form in Scots and English of *peace*.]
- pays-wisp** *see* pease.
- peak** *see* pike¹.
- peakish** *adjective*, *also* **peekit** ill, sickly; thin, underfed looking.
- peakit** *adjective* pointed.
- pea-pea, pee-pee** *exclamation* a call to turkeys.
[*Cf.* Scots *pea-pea* or *pease* "a call to pigeons to come for food", probably the same word as *pay*², *pease*. *Cf.* *peep*².]
- pearl**¹ *noun* a cataract (an opaque film growing over the eye); *see also* *pearl*².
□ **pearl-shell** the fresh-water mussel *Unio Margaritifera*, a pearl-producing shellfish; the pearl mussel.
□ **there's a glass that wud tak the pearl off a piper's eye**
- pearl**² *noun* **1** the knob at the base of the stem of false oat-grass. **2** a grass: (a) false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*; (b) *also* **pirll** couch-grass *Elymus spp.*
[Scots *pirll-grass* "creeping couch-grass", *pearl-grass* "button-grass".
The first part of the name may be either *pearl*¹ or *purl* (as in knitting).]
- pease**: **pease-brose** brose made from pea-flour instead of oatmeal.
□ **peasewisp, peasewusp, pays-wisp** *figuratively* a tangled mass
e.g. *Her hair's in a peasewisp*; *see also* **bees-wisp**.
[Older form in Scots and English *pays*. *See* *pay*²]
- peastia, pistia** *noun* a mythical monster supposed to live in a lough.
[Irish *péist*(*each*) "a monster".]
- peat** *noun*, *usually in plural* pieces of peat, turfs, cut or formed into brick shapes and used for fuel [not a countable noun in Standard English, which cannot say "a peat"].
□ **burn nine peat stacks** delay, stay a length of time. *usually not burn nine peat stacks* *e.g.* *They didn't burn nine peat-stacks together (of a servant who did not stay long)*.
□ **peat-bank** the vertical face from which peat is cut.
□ **peat-barrow** a flat barrow with no sides, used for carrying peat.
[ILLUS: peat-brw]
□ **peat clod** broken pieces of peat.
□ **peat coom** the dust of peat; *see* **coom**.
□ **peat dust**:
□ **peat-leading** a gathering of people to cart home a neighbour's peat as a favour; *see* **lead**¹.
□ **peat-mould** bog-mould, soil largely composed of peat.
□ **peat reek** peat smoke; *see* **reek**.
□ **peat-seep** a trench cut in a bog, which fills with water seeping into it.
□ **peat stack** a stack of dried peats.
□ **peat weight** a tray like a *bowraun*, used for carrying peat into the house; *see* **weight**².
- pech** *see* **pegh**.
- Pecht** *noun* a Pict.
□ **pechts' pipes** *literally* Picts' pipes: small chalk pipes found in the ground; *see also* **Dane**.
[Scots *pecht* "a Pict", from Old English *Peoht*.]
- peck** *noun* a creel.
- peck** *see* **pike**¹.
- peckled** *adjective*, *of cement or plaster* pock-marked by the effect of rain when still wet.

[English dialectal form of *speckled*.]

pedlar: **pedlar's cream 1** buttermilk with small particles of butter floating in it, after the bulk of the butter has been removed. **2** froth on the surface of milk, caused by the action of churning.

pebble¹ *noun* a pebble.

□ **pebble-dashed** pebble-dashed.

[Older form (still Scots).]

pebble² *verb* whistle tunelessly.

[Onomatopoeic, *cf.* Scots *wheeple*.]

peedy *noun* a little boy's penis.

[*Cf.* Northumberland and Durham "anything very small", alteration of Scots *peerie* (see **peer**).]

peefeet *see* **peewit**.

peein *noun* a small amount (of liquid).

peek *see* **pike¹**.

peel¹ *verb* skin, scrape the skin of (your knee, heel, *etc.*).

□ **peeler** a crab that has cast its shell; *specifically* the shore crab *Carcinus maenus*, used for bait.

□ **peel-garlic, pilgarlic 1** a person with a yellowish complexion. **2** a person dressed shabbily or oddly.

□ **peeling, peelin** the peel, the skin (of a potato, apple *etc.*).

□ **peel off you** "peel off", take off your clothes.

□ **peely**:

□ **peely-grass** hulled barley.

peel² *noun, in plural* quits.

[Scots, in competitive games "to draw even", origin unknown.]

peeler *see* **peel¹**.

peeler *noun* a policeman.

[Originally Hiberno-English, formerly in wide use in English slang and still in everyday use in Ulster; from the surname of Robert Peel, who founded the Royal Irish Constabulary.]

peely-grass *see* **peel¹**.

peely-wally *adjective* pale and sickly-looking.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

peen *noun* the pointed side of the head of a hammer.

[Scots and Northern English form of technical English *pane* "the pointed or edged end of a hammer", from French *panne*. The form *peen* may, however, be Scandinavian: *cf.* Norwegian *pen*. Also adopted in technical English, alongside *pane*, but usually spelled *pein*.]

peenthru *noun* silly talk or playful behaviour between people.

peedler *noun, not always critical* a naughty or mischievous person.

peep¹: **Peep o Day Boys** *historical* an agrarian secret society of Protestant tenant-farmers in County Armagh, whose members conducted daybreak arms searches on Roman Catholics. In 1795 some members formed the Orange Order.

peep² *exclamation* **peep-peep** a call to turkeys or ducks; *cf.* **pea-pea**.

□ **peep-hawk** the kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*.

[*Peep* "cheep" is now archaic in Standard English.]

pee-pee *see* **pea-pea**.

peer *see* **poor¹**.

peer *noun* a pear.

□ **peerie 1** a spinning top. **2** *also* **peerie pod, fir peerie** a fir cone.

□ **peerie-arsed** *of a cow* having pointy hindquarters; *see* **arse**.

□ **spinnin' roun' like a peerie** *of a sore head*.

[Scots and English dialectal form.]

peerigal *see* **perrigle**.

peerigled *adjective* standing in an embarrassingly conspicuous position.

peesh-weesh-weesh *see* **piss**.

peesweep, peesweet, peeswheet *see* **peewit**.

peetifu', **peety** *see* pity.

pee-wee-wee *see* piss.

peewit, **peewhit**, **peewheet**, **peewheet**, **peefheet**, **peewEEP**, **peewheep**, **peesweep**, **peesweet**, **peeswheet**, **peewee** *noun* a bird: the lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. *Illustration see top*.

peezy-weezy sickly; hypochondriacal.

[Scots and English dialectal *peewit*, *peewheet*, *peewEEP*, *peesweep*; Scots also *peewheet*, *peesweet*, *peewee*; onomatopoeic, from the sound of its cry. *Peefheet* is altered by the influence of Irish pronunciation, *cf.* when.]

pee-yo, **poo-hoo**, **puo-puo**, **poch**, **pwough**, **pyough**, **ploh-ploh** *exclamation* a call to a horse; *cf.* proo.

peezele *noun* a pizzle (a bull's penis).

as hard as a bull's peezele

[Old form.]

peezy-weezy *see* peewit.

peg *verb* **1** *of a ram* butt; *of a horned cow* use the horns on another cow.

2 rap, hammer (on a door, *etc.*). **3** throw (a stone, *etc.*). **4** *also* **peg away** walk fast.

◆ *noun* **1** a blow. **2** *specifically* a blow from an animal's head.

not care a peg care nothing at all.

peg away **1** walk fast, hurry. **2** work hard.

pegged **1** annoyed, angered. **2** taken aback; in the huff, sulking.

pegged out tired out, exhausted.

pegging-top, **peggin-top** a peg-top, a spinning top.

peg it walk.

Peggy: **peggy's leg** *noun* a type of sweetie in the form of a stick of rock [Hiberno-English, from English dialect *peggy-legs* "the legs of a *peggy* (a wooden implement for stirring washing in a tub)"].

pegh, **pech**, **peigh**, **paigh**, **pih** *verb* **1** pant, puff, breathe heavily. **2** sigh; groan. **3** cough in a breathless way.

◆ *noun* **1** a laboured breath. **2** a deep sigh.

peichin' and fetchin' breathing with difficulty, gasping.

[Scots; onomatopoeic, *cf.* peuchering.]

peigh *see* pegh.

pelloot *noun* **1** a person who takes a long time to relate anything. **2** a long-winded person.

pelt *verb* work vigorously.

◆ *noun* **1** a heavy blow. **2** a rush *e.g.* *He came in with a pelt.*

a pelt in the gob *slang* a blow on the mouth.

full pelt at full speed.

pelt¹: **in your (bare) pelt**, **bare pelt** naked.

pen *see* penfeather.

pen¹ *noun* the droppings of fowl.

in pens *literally* in pig pens: in poverty.

penned in the sinews *of a horse's knee* contracted.

[Scots and Northern English *hen-pen*, from it being the contents of the hen coop.]

pen² *noun* a covered drain in a field.

[Western and Southern Scots sense of Scots *pen(d)* "to vault; an arch; a vaulted passage"; from Old French *pendre*, Latin *pendere* "to hang".]

pen³ *noun* a dead twig in a hedge.

[English dialectal sense of *pen* "a feather, a quill". *See also* penfeather.]

pen⁴ *noun* a pane (of glass).

pence *see* penny.

penfeather *noun* a pin-feather, a quill just breaking through the skin of a bird.

in the pens *of a bird* moulting.

pen:

[English dialectal form of *pin-feather*, influenced by *pen* "a feather", *cf.*

pen³.]

peng *see* pang.

penguin, pinguin *noun, historical* a bird: the great auk.

pennorth *see* penny.

penny: a good **pennorth** a good bargain.

□ **a thief's pennorth** something sold cheaply and in generous measure [as if stolen goods].

□ **pence apiece** a penny apiece, one (old) penny each.

□ **penny bird** the little grebe *Trachybaptus ruficollis*; *see also* drink.

□ **penny-boy** someone who runs errands; *hence* someone who is at the beck and call of another person.

□ **penny society** *historical* a type of charitable society founded to help the sick poor.

□ **penny whip, penny wheep** a weak kind of beer, formerly sold at one (old) penny a bottle [*penny* + slang *whip* "drink off quickly", Scots form *wheep*].

□ **pennyworth, penerth, pennorth**

□ **that's the sweet pennorth** *sarcastic* said of a matrimonial bargain.

penny-o-wink *noun* a game: hide and seek.

pennywinkle *noun* a shellfish: the periwinkle *Littorina littorea*.

□ **pennywinkle, lectum, jump cat, O! Kitty, kitty, kinneyo**

[English dialectal form, from Old English *pinewincla*. Standard English *periwinkle* is an alteration.]

peony, piano *noun, also peony-rose* a garden flower: the peony.

peoracle *see* perrigle.

peramble *see* paramble.

percel *see* parcel.

percer *noun* a bradawl.

[Southern English form of *piercer*.]

perch

perches *noun, in plural the perches* the fair way or passage between

Warrenpoint and Omeath, which is often rough.

perfection, perfit, perfitty *see* parfit.

perish¹, parish *verb* **1** kill or starve with cold or hunger [*perish* archaic in

Standard English]. **2** ruin with neglect *e.g. The estates'll be perished altogether* [*perish* archaic in Standard English].

□ **perished, parished** starved with cold, half-dead with cold.

□ **perish the pack** squander all your money; *cf.* pack¹.

□ **that night would parrish a priest, it wud perish a whuttrit**

[Old form (not in Scots) *parish*.]

perish² *noun* a parish.

[Scots form.]

perk *verb* waste away.

perlicket *see* devil.

per-ma *see* pirr.

pernickety, pernyickerty *adjective* **1** particular, fastidious, fussy about

small things [*pernickety* also adopted in Standard English]. **2** hard to please, cantankerous.

[Originally Scots; apparently containing Scots intensifying prefix *per-*, from Latin *per-*.]

perplexion *noun* a perplexity.

[Obsolete in Standard English, from Latin *perplexiōnem*.]

perr *see* pair.

perrigle, peerigal, peoracle *noun* **1** a sickly child. **2** a woman who looks a "sight".

□ **peerigled** stuck in an embarrassingly conspicuous position.

[Origin unknown.]

perry *noun* an effort, attempt *e.g. He made a perry to go*.

persave *verb* perceive.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

persevere *verb* **persevere on** be persistently severe with or hard on someone.

□ **perseverance, perseverance** [older pronunciation *perseverance*].

personable *adjective* good-looking.

persperate *verb* sweat, perspire.

persuasions, perswadians *noun plural* persuadings, entreaties.

[*Cf.* Scots *perswad* form of *persuade*.]

persuasion *noun* sect *e.g.* *They are of the wan persuasion.*

perticklaly *see* partikler.

perty *see* party.

peruse *noun* a stroll, a ramble.

pesther *see* paster.

pet *see* put.

pet¹ *noun* **1** *also* **pet lamb, pet pig** a lamb or piglet reared by hand [also adopted in Standard English]. **2** a person spoiled as a child. **3** *also* **pet day (a)** a fine day in the midst of bad weather; **(b)** a day that starts out surprisingly fine but turns showery.

□ **petted: petted lip** a pout as if about to cry.

□ **petted on** *of a child* clinging to, very attached to (usually his or her mother).

[Scots, also Hiberno-English; apparently from Scottish Gaelic and Irish *peata* "a pet; a fine day".]

pet² *noun* a pit.

[South-Eastern English form.]

pet³ *noun* ill-humour.

□ **please yourself and you'll never die in a pet** have your own way.

Peter: Peter Dick, Peter-a-Dick, in full Peter Dick, Peter Dick, Peter Dick's peat-stack or Peter Dick, Peter Dick, Peter Dick, pot-stick **1** a jingle representing a rhythm. **2 Peter Dick** a child's toy made of a half walnut-shell, a small piece of stick and some thread, played in this rhythm.

petrick, petterick, petteridge *see* partridge.

petticoatee *noun, historical* a type of dance for four people.

[*Cf.* Scots *petticoatie*, diminutive of *petticoat*.]

Pettigo: go or clear (away) to Pettigo! "get lost"! *Co. Donegal* [Pettigo is on the Border between Co. Donegal and Co. Fermanagh.].

pettle *noun* a plough-staff, a scraper used for cleaning the mouldboard of a plough.

[Scots alteration of *paddle*.] [ILLUS: pettle]

petty *noun* an outside toilet.

[English dialectal; from French *petit* "little", as being a "little house".]

peuchering, peucherin *noun* a wheezy cough.

[Scots *peucher* "cough in a wheezy way; cough to clear the throat", an extended form of onomatopoeic Scots *peuch* "puff"; *cf.* *pegh, pleugher*.]

peuts *exclamation* expressing impatience *Co. Donegal*.

[Onomatopoeic.]

pevel, pevil *verb* **1** rain blows on. **2** pelt (with stones, *etc.*). **3** throw (stones, a ball, *etc.*).

□ **pevelling, pevellin** a beating, a thrashing.

[Origin unknown.]

pewmonia, pewmonie *noun* pneumonia.

[Scots *peumonie*, mistaken or jocular form.]

pey *see* pay¹.

peysle, pisel [pronounced as if **pie-sel**] *verb* work half-heartedly or ineffectually; make a pretence of being busy at work.

[*Cf.* Southern Scots *peysle* "a thing of little value" (origin unknown) and Scots *peist* "work in a half-hearted way" (origin unknown).]

phaisan *see* faysant.

philander *verb, of a horse* prance, caper.

philemon *noun* Dean Gwynn's name for a field on a farm near Ramelton, used as a croft or outsport.

philflouster *see* fluster.

phrase *verb* talk in a gushing, exaggerated way.

phrase *noun* a phase *e.g.* *She's goin through one of her phrases.*

phruggy *exclamation* a call to a cow.

physic *verb* **physic on** act as a laxative on *e.g.* *Why don't you give the baby porridge? Because it physicks on him.*

piano *see* peony.

piccadillies *noun plural* peccadilloes, minor misdemeanours *Co. Donegal.*

picher, pigher *noun* a fluster, an agitated state.

◆ *verb* work in a flustered, bustling way.

[Scots; possibly a form of Standard English *pucker* "a state of agitation", which is a colloquial sense of Standard English *pucker* "gather into folds".]

pick¹ *verb* **1** interrogate (a person). **2 pick at** niggle at, try to incite (a person) to a quarrel.

◆ *noun* **1** *literally* as much as a bird would peck: a small quantity, usually of food. **2** *in plural* crumbs.

□ **have neither pick nor dab with someone** have nothing to do with someone [Ulster only].

□ **pick and dab** a meal of potatoes and salt; *hence* **have neither pick nor dab with someone** have nothing to do with someone; *see* **dab²**.

□ **pick at** eat slightly *e.g.* *I just distest till see people pickin' at; they wud give ye the skundher.*

□ **pickens** the remains of a meal; what has been picked over; scraps of food.

□ **pickie-dog, piky-dog** a fish: the spurdog *Squalus acanthias* [*pick* here has the sense of "a spike, a spine". **pick¹** and **pike²** are ultimately the same word]. [ILLUS: pickie-d]

□ **pickle** *noun* **1** a single grain (of corn); *hence* **the pickle next the wind** *literally* the grain at the edge of the field: **(a)** the oldest unmarried daughter, regarded as the next who will get married; **(b)** the oldest person present, regarded as the likeliest to die next. **2 top pickle** the grain of corn at the top of a stack, considered to belong to the fairies. **3** a very small quantity, a speck; *specifically* **(a)** a grain of sugar; **(b)** a single grain (of shot); **(c)** a hailstone; a snowflake. **4** *generally* a very small quantity or number.

◆ *verb* potter about ineffectually.

□ **pick-me-over:**

□ **pick out** worm out (a secret).

□ **pick someone up** understand what someone is saying.

□ **pickthank** **1** a flatterer. **2** a tale-bearer, a tell-tale.

□ **picky, peaky** dainty, fastidious in eating.

□ **pick your teeth with (a problem)** puzzle over (a problem).

□ **see as far through a stone as he that picked it, see as far through a millstone as the man picked it** understand what is going on.

□ **the pickle next the wind** *literally* the grain at the edge of the field: **(a)** the oldest unmarried daughter, regarded as the next who will get married [Ulster only]; **(b)** the oldest person present, regarded as the likeliest to die next.

See also **pike²**, **pyock**.

pick² *verb, of a farm animal* give birth prematurely; *also* **pick calf, pick foal**

□ **picked** *of a ewe* having given birth to a still-born lamb [Ulster only].

□ **pickie** *noun, also* **the pickies** a game: hopscotch.

[Scots and Northern English form of *pitch* "throw, cast".]

pick³: **have a pick with somebody, have a pick on you** bear a grudge (towards somebody).

- **take a pick at or of someone** become suspicious or spiteful towards someone.

[Old form (still Scots) of *pique*.]

pick⁴ *noun* the lid of a churn.

pick⁵ *verb* prick (e.g. your finger).

picka, picky, pickcock, picker *noun* the young of the coalfish *Pollachius virens*.

[*Picka, pickcock, picky* from Irish *piocach*; *picky* also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *piocach*. Angus also *picker*. The final syllable has been substituted in various ways.]

pickaxe: pickaxe-heeled having long heels.

pickeary *adjective* inquisitive *Co. Monaghan*.

picker *see* picka.

pickie *see* pick².

pickie-dog *see* pick¹.

pickle *noun* an unpleasant situation; a state of difficulty or trouble.

pickle *see* pick¹.

- **pickle herrin** *literally* pickled herring: a bedraggled person.

pickcock *see* picka.

pickthank *see* pick¹.

picky *see* picka.

picture, pictur, picther *noun* **1** a picture; an image, a likeness.

2 *derogatory* a spectacle, a "sight".

- **damn yer picture!** a curse, implying "I hate the sight of you".

- **picky: picky-man** *historical* a Jewish pedlar who sold framed prints.

[Scots and English dialectal form *picter*.]

piddle *childish*

- **O, Mary's or Tommy's blue or white etc. drawers/O, Mary's or Tommy's blue or white etc. drawers/A wee hole in the middle/For Mary or Tommy to piddle/O, Mary's or Tommy's blue drawers** *children's teasing song*

piddock *noun* a young coalfish.

pie *verb* pry about, peer about.

- **pied** searched, examined.

[Possibly from *pie* "the magpie"; *cf.* *pyot*.]

piece *noun* **1** with omission of *of*, e.g. *a piece bread and butter*. **2** *also*

piecie a slice of bread with butter, jam, *etc.* **3 (a)** a snack usually in the form of a sandwich or, formerly, oatcake; **(b)** *specifically* a snack taken to work or to school, a packed lunch; *also* **piece time** **4** an indefinite space or distance e.g. *I'll go a piece along the road with you*. **5** a short period of time e.g. *Wait a piece and I'll be with you*. **6** a recitation in prose or verse. **7** the recounting of a striking occurrence; *hence* the occurrence itself. **8** a person, *thus* **a sore piece** a troublesome person [archaic in Standard English].

- **all to pieces** "to bits", thoroughly.

- **cry, drink, etc. the piece out** cry, drink, *etc.* until it is possible to do so no longer.

- **piece of goods** *disrespectful* a girl or woman.

- **piece-plate** a sandwich plate.

- **piece-time** lunchtime.

pienet *noun* a bird: the magpie *Pica pica*. *Illustration see* *pyot*.

[Scots and English dialectal; from Old French *pie* "the magpie", *cf.*

French *pionet* "the spotted woodpecker". *Cf.* *pyot*.]

piet *see* *pyot*.

piffle *noun* a "piffler", a trifler, someone whose efforts are ineffectual.

pig¹, peg *noun* a pig.

- ◆ **exclamation pig-pig, also piggy-piggy** a call to pigs.

- **as happy as a pig a-ringing** ill-at-ease, unhappy.

- **as ignorant as a (boar) pig, a pig wudnae be seen in yer company,**

a pig and ye are no far related

- **bring your pigs to a bad market, drive your pigs to a poor market, take your pigs to a bad market** **1** make a bad bargain. **2** do something without having first examined the situation; make a mistake. **3** be disappointed.
- **buy a pig in a poke** make a bad bargain, do something without having first examined the situation.
- **did ye ivver hear tell of Paddy Coyle's pig? When they axed for it, the ans'er wos, 'Deed, then, it's betther, but waker'**
- **have the pig on your back** be unfortunate; *see* on the pig's back.
- **if ye go to catch a houl't of a pig, catch it by the fut**
- **like a pig in a well** helpless.
- **on the pig's back** lucky, well off [translation of Irish *ar mhuin na muice*. Also adopted generally in colloquial English].
- **piggie** the pointed stick used in the game of piggie-wiggie.
- **piggie-wiggie** a game: a short, pointed stick, the piggie, is hit on one end with a longer stick, driving it over a distance.
- **pigging, piggin** *slang* filthy.
- **pig house** a pigsty.
- **pigs can see the wind**
- **pig's lugs** *nickname* a person with big ears; *see* lug.
- **pig's meat** food for pigs; *see* meat.
- **pigs might fly but they're unlikely birds** great things are planned but impossible to achieve.
- **pig-sticker** a slaughterer of pigs.
- **pig's whisper** **1** a loud whisper meant to be heard, a stage whisper. **2** a measure of distance: as far as a pig's whisper can be heard.
- **pig's wrack** a seaweed, probably Irish moss *Chondrus crispus*, fed to pigs with oatmeal or potatoes.
- **pig trotter** a pig's foot.
- **pigyard** a pigsty.
- **take a pig to Australia, and bring it home, an' it's still a pig**
- **the fat pig aye gets fatter** *figuratively* a person with money gets more.
- **the pigs ran through it** arrangements were upset.
- **they pig in and they pig out** said of a family who keep a dirty house.
- **we don't kill a pig every day** it is not every day we are in luck.
- **what do you expect from a pig but a grunt?, what wud ye expect from a pig but a grunt?, what would you expect from a pig but a grunt?** *proverbial* describing churlishness; pointing out the natural result of someone's characteristics or qualities.

pig² *noun* a hot water bottle.

- **go to pigs and whistles** go to pieces, be ruined [also adopted in Standard English].

[Scots, origin unknown.]

pigeon: pigeon-futted sly, cunning.

- **pigeon-necked** suffering from goitre.
- **pigeon's pair** a family of only two children.
- **pigeon-walk** a boys' game: the "pigeon" is blindfolded and stands with legs astride. The other players throw their caps between his legs. At the shout "Pigeon-walk!" the "pigeon" walks forward, attempting to touch a cap with his foot. If he succeeds, the owner of the cap he touches becomes the "pigeon".

piggin *noun* a wooden vessel made of hoops and staves, with one stave extending upwards to form a handle; formerly used especially in milking and in the dairy.

[Hiberno-English and English dialectal, rare in Scots; origin unknown.

Irish *pigin* is borrowed from English.] [ILLUS: piggin]

piggin-riggin *noun* a half-grown boy or girl.

pigher *see* picher.

pih *see* pegg.

pike¹, pake, peak, peek, pack, peck *noun, also hay-pike* a usually round, conical haystack built either temporarily in a hayfield or in a stackyard.

◆ *verb* build (hay) into a **pike**.

□ **pikebottom, pikestale, pikestand** the base of a haystack; *see* stale¹.

[Northern English and Scots *pike*. This may be the same word as **pike²**, but the sense has been influenced by Scandinavian, *cf.* Norwegian dialect *pik* "a mountain peak". English *peak* is in origin a form of **pike¹/pike²**, but does not occur in England with the sense "haystack".]

pike² *noun* a hay-fork.

◆ *verb* use a hay-fork.

□ **pikey 1** spiked, having a sharp point. **2 pikey eater** a greedy eater.

See also pick¹, pike¹.

pike³: Pike Sunday the day (in 1798) of General Monroe's encounter with British forces, when he was captured.

pikey *see* pike².

piky-dog *see* pick¹.

pila *noun* a good deal (as applied to stones, grain etc.).

pilch¹ *noun 1* a long, sleeveless garment for a baby [archaic in Standard English]. *Illustration see* barra². **2** a short, fat person. **3 also pilchon** an effeminate man.

pilch² *verb* pilfer.

[English dialectal; probably an alteration of Low German *pülken* "pick", *cf.* Scots *pilk*.]

pile *noun 1* a single grain of lead shot. **2 pile of snow** a snowflake.

◆ *verb, of snow* fall in flakes.

[Western Scots senses of dialectal *pile* "a blade of grass", from Old English *pil* "a spike, a prickle".]

pile¹ *noun 1* a small quantity *e.g. a wee pile of books*. *also piles* a good deal (of stones, snow etc.); a crowd (of people). **2 (a) also piley** the intermediate hay-heap. **(b)** the antemedial hay-heap. **(c)** the first small heap, about three feet high.

pile³ *noun* a boil.

piley *adjective* black and white speckled.

◆ *noun, also piley hen* a speckled hen.

[Northumberland and Cumberland "speckled; a white fowl speckled with red or black", from *pile* "the nap of cloth; white coloration speckled with red in fowl".]

pilgarlic *see* peel¹.

pill *noun usually a bad or bitter pill* a disagreeable person.

□ **couldn't even throw a goat's pill** comment on the inaccurate throw of a sportsman.

pillaber *noun* a pillow-case.

[Scots and English dialectal *pillow-bere*, from *pillow* + Low German *büre* "pillow-case"]

pillaloo, pillilew, pillallo *noun 1* crying; howling. **2** an exclamation, an outcry.

◆ *verb* cry, howl; moan.

◆ *exclamation* a cry of lamentation or distress, *especially in the phrase cry or sing pillaloo*

[Hiberno-English and English dialectal, onomatopoeic.]

pillibeen, phillibeen, pilibeen, plebeen *noun* a bird: the lapwing *Vanellus vulgaris*.

pillion *noun* a pillion, an extra seat behind a saddle.

pillow: pillow on a stone, make your pillow on a stone sleep outside.

□ **pillow-sham** a cover.

pillow-horse *noun* a horse with a pillow or cushion for carrying an extra rider.

pimp *verb, frequently pimp at* be squeamish or finicky about (food); *see*

also mimp.

[Yorkshire; probably from *pimper*, a dialectal alteration of *pamper*.]

pimple *noun* a boil.

pin *noun*, *also* **pine-bone** the pin-bone (the projecting bone of the hip, especially of a horse).

- **as dry as a pincushion** very dry.
- **Christmas pin** a small pin.
- **I'll turn anither pin in yer nose, I'll put another pin in your mouth** a threat to bring a person's behaviour under control [from the practice of putting a peg in a pig's snout to prevent it from rooting].
- **not a pin-point (the worse etc.)** hardly any.
- **pincass** a pincushion.
- **pincushin** a pincushion [Scots and English dialectal form *cushin* with vowel as in "cup"].
- **pinfowlder** *noun* pin-cushion; *see* **fauld**.
- **pinhead** a pimple; *usually plural* the fry of the minnow.
- **pinner** something very large or very good.
- **pin-point**:
- **pin-row, pin-rowed butter** badly-made butter containing marks that resemble pin-pricks.
- **pin-toed** pigeon-toed.
- **pin-well** a well into which pins are dropped for luck.
- **play your pins** carry on.
- **put to the pin of your collar** working hard, doing your utmost.

pinch: **pinch-bar** a small, short crowbar; a crow-bar.

- **pincher 1** a pinch, a pinch-bar (a crow-bar). **2** *in plural* pincers, pliers.
- **put someone to his pinches** put someone in a position of difficulty.

pinder¹, pindher *verb* **1** work diligently at an unprofitable task. **2** work in a poor light.

[*Cf.* Scots *pander* "wander about aimlessly; waste time at work", origin unknown.]

pinder², pindher *verb* burn (meat) in cooking.

[Northern English, origin unknown.]

pindher *see* **pinder¹, pinder²**.

pindy *adjective, of meal* musty.

[Hiberno-English and South-Western English, origin unknown.]

pine *noun*, *also* **pine-maw** the black-headed gull *Larus ridibundus* [for *maw*, *see* **pirr**].

[*Cf.* archaic English *pine* "lament", from its cry.]

pine-bone *see* **pin**.

pine-maw *see* **pine**.

pinge: **pingey**:

- **pingey-looking** pinched-looking, pale and drawn.
 - **pingin 1** whining, peevish, fretful. **2** stingy; apt to complain unjustifiably of poverty.
- [Scots and Northern English *peenge, pinge* "whine, complain; plead poverty unjustifiably", onomatopoeic.]

pink¹ *verb* shoot (a marble) by flicking the thumb over the forefinger.

[Scots, either onomatopoeic or the same word as **pink²**.]

pink² *noun* an accurate blow *e.g.* *He hit it a pink*.

- **pinker 1** something very large or very good. **2 be pinkers** *in games* draw even, be equal.

[The same word as Standard English *pink* "pierce, stab", boxing slang "strike".]

pink³ *noun* a wild flower: the corn cockle *Agrostemma githago* [eliminated as a cornfield weed because of its poisonous seeds, and now seen only as a garden flower. In Standard English, the *pink* is a cultivated flower *Dianthus spp.*].

pinkeen *noun, usually plural* the fry of the minnow *Phoxinus phoxinus*.

[Hiberno-English, from English dialectal *pink* "a minnow" (apparently from dialectal German) + Irish diminutive ending *-in*.]

pinkie¹ *noun* **1** the little finger. **2** the penis.

[Scots "the little finger", from Dutch *pink*.]

pinkie² *noun*, *in plural* broken pieces of china used as playthings.

[Origin unknown.]

pinner *see* pin.

pinnie *noun* an apron.

pintle *noun* a small, annoying person.

pipe: be the piper (that played before Moses (and that's a musical oath)) *exclamation*

□ **break like a pipe-shank** said of something very brittle or easily broken.

□ **piper** a stalk of grass; *cf* pipe-staple.

□ **pipe reek** tobacco smoke.

□ **pipe-shankit** having long thin legs; *see* shank.

□ **pipy** *of peat* containing the fibres or roots of bog fir.

pippin *noun* a pip (the seed of an apple, orange or pear).

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Northern English), from Old French *pepin*. Standard English *pip* is a shortened form.]

pirl *see* pearl².

pirlique *noun* a misfortune.

[Scots *pirlicue* "an ornamental flourish; a sequel; the second of two similar misfortunes"; from *pirl* "twist, curl" (older form of *purl*) + either *queue* "tail", or *Q* the letter (*cf.* Standard English *curlicue*). *See also* *purlie*.]

pirn *see* birn¹.

pirn *noun* **1** a bobbin or spool for holding yarn or thread. **2** *specifically* the bobbin of a weaver's shuttle. **3** the reel of a fishing-rod. [ILLUS: pirn]

□ **pirn-cage** a framework holding the bobbins of a power loom.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

pirr *noun* **1** the cry of the tern *Sterna spp.* **2** *also* **purr**, **pirr-maw**, **purr-maw**, **per-ma** a bird: (a) *also* **pirrie** the tern *Sterna spp.* *Illustration see* fish; (b) the black-headed gull *Larus ridibundus*; (c) the dunlin *Calidris alpina*.

[Scots *pirr* "the tern; the black-headed gull", English dialectal *purr* "the dunlin"; from the cries of these birds. Scots *pirr-maw* is *pirr* + Scots *maw*, *ma* "a seagull" (from Old Norse *mávar* "seagulls"). *See also* *spurr*.]

pirrie *see* *pirr*, potato.

pirr-maw *see* *pirr*.

pirr-pirr *exclamation* a call to a horse; *cf.* *proo*.

pirta, **partie** *see* potato.

pirty *see* pretty.

pisel *see* peysle.

pish *vulgar, verb* piss, urinate.

◆ *noun* piss, urine.

□ **like a pishmire** very cross.

□ **pishamoolog** a wild flower: the dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*, [apparently *pishamool* (see below) + Irish diminutive ending *-óg*; *cf.* *pish-the-bed* and *pismire*].

□ **pish out of one queel** have the same aim or object in view; be in complete agreement.

□ **pish-the-bed** **1** the dandelion, also known as *pissabed*. **2** *slang* a "pissabed", a bed-wetter.

□ **pismire**, **pissmire**, **pishmire**, **pismither**, **pishmither**, **pishmother**, **pishmucker**, **pishmonger**, **pishmugger**, **pissmugger**, **pissmug**, **pismoul**, **pissmould**, **pishmool**, **pishamool**, **pishiemool**, **pishmould**, **pishmowl**, **pishmule**, **pishmul**, **pishmullie** *noun* the ant [*piss* + Old English *mīre* "an ant", because of the smell of the anthill].

□ **pismire bed** *or* **hill** an anthill.

- **pismire's posy** a wild flower: the mouse-ear hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum* [probably confused with the dandelion, *cf.* pish-the-bed].
[Scots form.]
- pishamolog** *see* pish.
- pishawish** *see* piss.
- pishleean** *noun* a dribbling from the mouth of a person.
- pishogue, pisog, pishroga, pishrob, pishtrogue, pisteroge** *noun* **1** *also* **pishlag** a spell; a charm; a charm used to blink cattle, *etc.* **2** a fairy influence. **3** a superstition.
[Hiberno-English *pishogue*; from Irish *piseog*, Ulster Irish also *pisreog*, **pisleog* "witchcraft; a spell".]
- pish-pish, pish-wish-wish, pishy-pishy, pishy-wishy** *see* piss.
- piskin** *noun* a basket made of rods, used for washing potatoes.
- pismire, pismither, pismoul** *see* pish.
- pisog** *see* pishogue.
- piss** *exclamation* said to drive away a cat or dog; *also* **piss cat**
 - ◆ *verb* **1** **piss on** incite (a dog) to attack; egg (a person) on. **2** **piss (a dog) at (a person)** set (a dog) on (someone).
 - **pish-pish, pishy-pishy, piss-wiss, piss-wiss-wiss, pish-wish-wish, pishawish, pishy-wishy, peesh-weesh-weesh, pee-wee-wee** a call to a cat.
[Scots *piss, pees* "a call-name to a cat; a cry to chase off a cat or dog; incite a dog to attack"; from Scandinavian, *cf.* Danish *pis* "puss". *See also* puss².]
- pissmire, pissmould, pissmug, pissmugger** *see* pish.
- pisteroge** *see* pishogue.
- pistia** *see* peastia.
- pit** *noun* an ash pit under a hearth.
 - ◆ *verb* put (potatoes) in a storage pit.
- pit** *see* put.
 - **potato-pit** a "bing", a heap of potatoes.
- pit-aff** *see* put.
- pitatie** *see* potato.
- pitch: neither pitch nor toss with someone** neither friendly nor unfriendly with someone *Co. Donegal*.
 - **pitch your fortune** seek your fortune.
- pitcher** *noun* a cup, a dish (of tea).
- piteog** *noun* a man who pries into things (in the household or elsewhere) that are supposed or understood to belong entirely to the sphere of woman.
- pithy** *adjective* witty.
- pitifu'** *see* pity.
- pitter** *see* potato.
- pittuck** *noun* a fish: the sprat *Sprattus sprattus*.
[*Cf.* English dialectal *puttock* "a small item added to a scale to make up the weight", origin unknown.]
- pity, peety** *noun* pity, a pity.
 - ◆ *impersonal verb* fill (you, *etc.*) with pity *e.g.* *It would pity you to see it.*
 - **it's a pity of (a person)** an expression of compassion for (a person) [archaic in Standard English].
 - **peetifu', pitifu'** pitiful.
[Scots form *peety*.]
- pixie** *noun* a pixie hat.
- pizen** *see* poison.
- place** *noun*
 - **any place** anywhere *e.g.* *Look any place for it.*
 - **in place of** instead of *e.g.* *In place of doing it he went away.*
- plack** *see* play.
- plack¹** *noun* a mouthful.
- plack¹** *noun* a coin of low value; the smallest coin in circulation.

[Scots and Northern English; originally a fifteenth century Flemish and Dutch coin, applied to a Scots coin worth one third of an old penny sterling, hence "the smallest possible amount".]

plack² *verb* hold back (corn) with a rod to make it easier to cut with a scythe *Co. Tyrone*.

[Origin unknown.]

pladdy *noun* a low, flat island; a sunken rock *Strangford Lough*.

[Possibly Old Norse *flatēy* "flat island" via Irish **pladaí*.]

plague: **plague on ye** a quasi-oath and expletive.

□ **ye wud plague a saint**

plaid; **plide** [rhymes with "ride"] *noun* **1** a plaid. **2** also **Scotch plaid** plaid, tartan.

□ **plaidin frock** *historical* a type of jacket worn by fishermen *Carlingford Lough*.

□ **plaiding, plaidin** woollen material for making plaids.

[Scots, possibly formed on obsolete Scots *play* form of *ply* "to twist".

Scottish Gaelic *plaid* is probably from Scots. *Plaid* also adopted in Standard English.]

plain *adjective* **1** simple, direct; sincere; also in nicknames, e.g. *Plain Aleck*. **2** courteous, affable.

□ **plain Tam**: e.g. *I just spoke me mine to him for I'm plain Tam*.

plaisham, plasham *noun* a fool.

□ **plasham on (someone)** a curse.

[Donegal Irish *pléiseam* "a person who talks nonsense", itself borrowed from English *play* + *sham*.]

plan *noun* **1** a farm of land allocated in the nineteenth century *Mournes*.

2 a plot of the seashore, allotted to a specific farm, on which seaweed was grown for manure.

[Scots *plank, plan* "a plot of land", apparently from French *planche* "a strip of land".]

planet *noun*, also **planet-rain, planet-shower** a heavy but localised shower [Berwickshire *planet*; misunderstanding of English dialectal *rain* by *planets* "pour in one area and not in another, as if governed by astrological forces"].

plank *verb* **1** place, set down heavily; **plank yourself down** sit down heavily. **2** hide (an object).

plant, plent *noun* **1** a young cabbage plant ready for planting out. **2** also **ash plant** a stout stick of ash, etc. **3 bad plant** a bad character, a rascal.

□ **planter** a descendant of the planters (the Scots and English settled in Ulster in the seventeenth century).

□ **planting, plantin** a plantation of young trees.

[Scots form *plent*.]

plantation: **plantation measure** Irish land measure.

plarry *noun* an unappetising mess of food *Co. Antrim*.

[Possibly onomatopoeic.]

plart *see* plert.

plart *noun* a thick daub of dirt.

[Cf. English dialectal *plat* "a cow-pat".]

plase, placement *see* please.

plash *noun* a heavy fall (of rain).

◆ *verb* rain heavily.

□ **plashy** wet, rainy.

plasham *see* plaisham.

plassy *verb* fondle; coax.

[Irish *plásaíocht* "(an act of) flattering, wheedling; smooth talk".]

plaster, plester *noun* **1** plaster. **2** a troublesome person who attaches himself or herself to another person; specifically an insincere flatterer; cf. *poultice*. **3** an over-affectionate animal. **4** something overloaded with tasteless, showy ornamentation.

- ◆ **verb 1** mess about. **2** flatter insincerely; behave in an unpleasantly cloying way.
- **plastery** gaudy.
[Scots form *plester*.]
- plat** *see* cow¹.
- plat**¹ *noun* a blow.
[*Cf.* Older Scots *plat* "a smack", from Old English *plætt*.]
- plat**², **plet** *noun 1* a plat, a plot of ground. **2** a ploughed portion of a field.
- **green plet** an unploughed portion of a field.
- plate** *verb* plait.
- plate** *noun* a flat rock in a harbour *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*; *cf.* pladdy.
- plater** *noun* a lively girl.
- plaugher** *see* pleugher.
- play** *verb 1* **play yourself** amuse yourself, play. **2** **play jump, grab, kick, etc.** make a jump, grab, kick, *etc.*
- **plack** *noun 1* a plaything. **2** *in plural* amusing antics to please children.
- ◆ *verb* amuse children by playing with them.
[Scots *playock, plack*.]
- **play-act** play; practise practical jokes.
- **play-actor** someone who plays practical jokes.
- **playboy** an irresponsible, pleasure-seeking man or woman [in Standard English, used only of men].
- **play rap at something** strike something smartly.
- **play snap at the fluir** snatch at; catch suddenly at.
- **playsome** playful.
- **play up** play, strike up (a tune).
- **the best of your play** your best policy, your best course.
- plead**, *past tense and past participle* **pled**.
- **plead someone's pardon** ask someone's pardon [archaic in Standard English].
[Scots and English dialectal past tense and past participle *pled*.]
- pleaich** *noun* the angler fish *Lophius piscatorius*; *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*.
[Origin unknown.]
- please, plase, pleash** *verb* please.
- ◆ *noun* someone who tries to please.
- **I couldn't please you if I put my eyes on sticks** you are impossible to please.
- **pleasement, plasement** pleasure; (a source of) satisfaction, gratification.
- **pleasure, plisure** *noun* pleasure.
- ◆ *verb 1* please, give pleasure to. **2** amuse (yourself).
- **to your plasement** to your taste, to your satisfaction.
[Older form in Scots and English *plase*.]
- pled** *see* plead.
- plenish** *verb* furnish (a house, farm, *etc.*).
- **plenishing, plenishin** **1** furniture and household goods. **2** grocery supplies, *etc.* in a house.
[Scots and Northern English, from Old French (*ilz*) *plenissent* "(they) fill". *See also* displenish.]
- plent** *see* plant.
- plenty** *adjective* used without a following *of*, *e.g.* *plenty time*.
- **as plentiful as blackberries**
- **plentiful: plentiness** a good deal of liquid.
- plert, plart** *verb 1* fall flat. **2** splash.
- ◆ *noun* a heavy fall, a splash.
[Scots *plert* "plod through mud; a heavy fall", probably onomatopoeic.]
- plester** *see* plaster.
- plet** *see* plat².
- plet**, *past tense and past participle* **pletted**, *past participle also* **plet**, *verb*

plait.

◆ **noun** **1** a plait. **2** a pleat, a fold.

[Scots and Northern English form of *plait*, *plat*, *pleat*.]

pleuch, **pleugh** *see* plough.

pleugher, **plougher**, **plugher**, **plucher**, **plaugher**, **plocher**, **plogher** *verb*

1 *also* **bleugher**, **bloocher**, **bloigher**, **blaher** cough to clear the throat; *cf.* blooter. **2** *also* **ploigher** cough in a wheezing way. **3** cough continuously.

◆ **noun** **1** a cough; *specifically also* **bloigher**, **bloigh** a chesty cough. **2** a smoky, choking atmosphere.

□ **bloigerin** loud, loose coughing.

□ **plughering** a choking cough.

[Alteration of Scots *peucher*, *see* peuchering.]

plew *see* plough.

plide *see* plaid.

plisky *noun* a mischievous trick.

◆ *adjective* sly, underhand.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

plitter *see* plouter.

pliver *see* plover.

plocher, **plogher** *see* pleugher.

ploh-ploh *see* pee-yo.

ploid: **ploid on (a person)** a curse [Irish *plóid ort* literally "the pillory upon you!"].

ploigher *see* pleugher.

plait *verb* **1** splash. **2** *of a person* **plait down** fall down with a bump.

[Scots, a rare form of *plout*.]

plaiter *see* plouter.

plonter *verb* mess, splash.

ploo *see* plough.

ploodacha *adjective* full, "stuffed".

[*Cf.* Irish *plodaithe* "filled" and *plúchta* "thronged, suffocated".]

plook *noun* a pimple.

[Scots and Northern English, possibly from Middle Low German *pluck* "a plug, a bung".]

ploo-shar *see* plough.

plout *noun* a downpour of rain.

[Scots, *see* *plout*.]

plop, **ploup** *verb* **ploup** plop, plunge (something into water).

◆ *noun* **plop** *childish* a turd; a cow-pat, *etc.*; cow-dung.

[Scots form *ploup*, *cf.* *plout*.]

plough, **ploo**, **plew**, **pyoo**, **pue**, **pleugh**, **pleuch** *noun, verb* plough.

□ **ploo-shar**, **plough-shire** a ploughshare [older form *shar*]. [ILLUS: plough]

□ **ploughed groun'** ground that has been ploughed but not yet seeded.

□ **ploughing-day** an occasion when assistance is given to a farmer in ploughing a newly-acquired farm.

□ **throw the pleuch in the midden** go bankrupt.

□ **when ye hae harrowed as much as I hae pleughed, ye'll be a guid yin; when ye hae harrowed as much as I hae pleughed, ye'll be an oul man**

[Scots and Northern English form *plew*, Scots form *pleuch*.]

plougher *see* pleugher.

ploup *see* plop.

plout *verb* **1** *of a person* plunge into water, take a dip. **2** *of liquid* boil vigorously.

◆ *noun* **1** a dip, a swim. **2** the bubbling of boiling water *e.g.* *There's the plout on the kettle - make the tay*. **3** the noise made by liquid boiling over into the fire. **4** a rapid boil, the act of boiling vigorously.

□ **plouting** the bubbling that indicates that a liquid has reached boiling

point.

[Scots *plowt, ploom, ploit* "plunge into a liquid; plop down; (the sound of) a plunge into water; a downpour of rain"; onomatopoeic. *See also* *plait, ploom, plouter, plump*.]

plouter, plowter, ploiter, plitter *verb* **1** wade about messily. **2** walk in a clumsy, shuffling way. **3** splash in liquid. **4** mess about with water.

5 potter, polter, work ineffectually. **6** *of a pig* root, polter.

◆ *noun* a person who works ineffectually, a polter.

□ **ploutering** the act of wading through water or mud.

□ **that weak he couldnae play plouter** so weak he couldn't do a thing; *see* *play*.

[Scots; either a strengthened form of *plout*, or from Dutch *ploeteren* "dabble in water". Perhaps influenced by *polter*. *See also* *spleuter*.]

plover, pliver *noun* a bird: the lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* [in Standard English applied to different birds, species of *Pluvialis spp.*]. *Illustration see top*.

[Scots form *pliver*.]

plowter *see* *plouter*.

play *noun* **1** a frolic, a piece of fun. **2** a social gathering, a party.

[Scots, shortened form of *employ* "an employment".]

plubber *verb* talk incessantly.

□ **plubbering** incessant talk.

[Irish *plobaireacht* "excessive talking", itself probably borrowed from English *blubber*.]

plucher *see* *pleugher*.

pluck *noun* a snack, a light meal.

□ **don't pluck a goose till ye hev killed her**

□ **pluck-stick** a stick used by a hand-loom weaver to propel the shuttle to and fro. *Illustration see* *gear, lease*.

□ **Purty people an' ragget people's often gettin' plucks** *i.e.* getting caught on a nail or a briar.

□ **short pluck or long draw** a punishment inflicted on boys by one another: either a short upward tug on the hair or a long downward pull.

□ **they're pluckin geese in France or Scotland** said when it is snowing.

Plues *noun plural, nickname* Linfield Football Club.

pluether *noun* an asthmatic person.

pluff *verb* **1** puff, blow a short, sharp breath. **2** *specifically* blow (peas, hawstones, *etc.*) through a tube. **3** puff up, swell.

□ **pluffer, also pea-pluffer** a pea-shooter made from the hollow stem of a plant such as cow parsley.

□ **pluff someone off** put someone off.

□ **pluffy** swollen.

[Scots and English dialectal, from Dutch *pluffen* "to puff, explode".]

plug: plug-and-feathers a charge of blasting powder.

□ **plug-gun** a pop-gun.

plugher *see* *pleugher*.

plughering *see* *pleugher*.

plumb *adjective* deep.

◆ *noun* **The Plum** the main waterfall in Glenoe.

plume *see* *damson*.

plump *noun* **1** a heavy downpour of rain; *also* **thunder plump** a thunder shower. **2** a rapid boil, the act of boiling vigorously *e.g.* *I gave the pratas a plump*. **3** the sound of boiling liquid.

◆ *verb* **1** shoot (a marble). **2** *of liquid* boil vigorously.

[Onomatopoeic, *cf.* *plout*.]

plunk: plunker a very large marble.

□ **plunk your foot on it** *figuratively* hit the mark, be correct.

plunk¹ *verb* fail exams.

pluxty *noun* a red cheeked person.

plyawky *noun* a small sting-fish.

poaky hole *noun* a hole (used in playing marbles).

poch *see* pee-yo.

pochard *noun* applied to the males of various diving sea ducks.

pock *see* puck.

pocket: as safe as in God's pocket

□ **pocket your pride** "stoop to conquer".

□ **po't handkerchief** a handkerchief.

□ **wear the (tin) pockets** *historical* be a dealer in poteen [from the practice of women carrying it in tins concealed in pockets on either side of the body].

poddial *noun* spent liquid from a distillery.

poddock *see* paddock.

pode *noun* a louse.

[North-Eastern Scots *pod* "a louse"; *cf.* obsolete Standard English *pode* "a toad", itself a form of *pad* (*see* paddock).]

podge *noun* **1** a short thick-set person. **2** a thick and sticky substance.

□ **podgy** short and fat.

[Altered form of *pudge*.]

podion ball *noun* a large, round, hard ball *e.g.* *How would I know what hit him? Sure I wasn't there. But by the look o' thon lump on the back of his head, it could a been a podion ball.*

poet *noun* an outlandish, eccentric fellow.

pogey *verb* play truant from school.

poggled *see* puggled.

poghle *see* paughle.

pogue, pog, pug *noun* a kiss.

[Irish *póg*; itself from Latin *pāx, pācem* "peace".]

poighe *noun* a small, fat person.

point: bring to a point put into practice; prove.

□ **pointer** a hint, a clue, a tip.

poire *noun* a party, a sect.

poison, pizen, pushen, puzion, poyshin *noun, verb* poison.

□ **poison-plant, also poisoned-plant** a wild flower: ground elder *Aegopodium podagraria* [a very vigorous and tenacious weed, *cf.* *farm*].

[Scots forms.]

poit *verb* throw up odd potatoes with the spade when digging over the ground.

poitered *see* polter.

poka *noun* a game: hop-scotch.

poke¹ *noun* **1** a bag, a sack. **2** a wallet. **3** a pocket. **4** the tummy, the abdomen. **5** a small paper bag for sweets, tea, *etc.* **6** the pointed continuation of a pixie hat. **7 (a)** *in sheep* a disease: rot [from the pouch-like swelling that appears under the jaw]; **(b)** *figuratively* a water-filled blister under a person's skin.

□ **poke-needle** a large needle used for mending sacks.

□ **poke-piece** a pocket-piece, a coin kept for luck.

□ **poke-shakings, poke-shakins** **1** the last of anything shaken out of a bag. **2** *figuratively* **(a)** the last pig of a litter; **(b)** the youngest child in a large family. *See also* bag.

[General dialectal and Scots "a bag, sack, wallet, anything shaped like a bag"; Middle English *poke*, of uncertain origin: there are parallels in Anglo-Norman *poque*, Icelandic *poki*, early Modern Flemish *poke*, Scottish Gaelic *poca* and Irish *poc(án)*.]

poke² *noun* a stoop.

□ **poke-up** *of the nose* up-turned.

See also puck.

poke³ *noun* an ice-cream cone; *also* **poke man, poke van**

[Western Scots, from English slang or colloquial *hokey-pokey*

"ice-cream"; influenced by **poke**¹.]

poke⁴ *noun* a mitten.

[Southern Scots form of *pawkie, poky*; origin unknown, *cf.* **poke**¹.]

poket *noun, verb* pocket.

□ **eat yer fæl an poket naen** advice to someone going to a party.

police, polis [**poa**-liss] *noun* **1** also **polisman** a policeman. **2** the police.

[Older pronunciation with stress on the first syllable (still Scots) *polis*.]

policy *noun* premeditation, calculation *e.g.* *There's too much policy about him.*

polished *adjective* **1** in a negative sense: thorough, complete *e.g.* *a polished villain*. **2** knowing, cunning.

polite: **the polite half** the smaller of two portions.

poll *noun*, also **pow** **1** the head, *especially* the crown of the head [*poll* archaic in Standard English]. **2** a skull.

□ **if you light the candle at the low (fire) you have no wit in your pow** *proverbial*

□ **polly** *noun* a hornless cow. *Illustration see moiley.*

◆ *adjective, of a cow, bullock, etc.* polled, having had the horns removed.

[Scots and Northern English form *pow*.]

pollan, pullan *noun* a fresh-water fish, *Coregonus pollan, Lough Neagh* [*pollan* also adopted in Standard English].

[Irish *pollán*.] [ILLUS: pollan]

pollan gull *noun* the lesser black-backed gull.

pollard *noun* spoiled grain, used to feed pigs.

[Origin unknown.]

polley *see* poly.

pollute *verb* **1** **pollute a mearing** tamper with a boundary; *see* mear.

2 pester, annoy.

◆ *noun, of a person* a nuisance, a bore; *specifically* a visitor who comes too often.

□ **polluted** **1** annoyed, pestered *e.g.* *Ye have me polluted*. **2** **polluted with** infested, over-run with. **3** puffed up with pride, conceited.

□ **pollution** a nuisance.

polter, powther, pouther, powder, powther, pouter, pouter, pooter *verb* **1** work in a careless, unskilful way; work half-heartedly; potter, do small, easy jobs. **2** poke about in the dark. **3** stir the fire unnecessarily.

4 *of a pig* root. **5** grub up potatoes with the hands. **6** dig ground in a superficial or incompetent way.

◆ *noun* an incompetent worker.

□ **poutered out, poitered out** *of soil* exhausted.

□ **pouterin, powtherin** *noun* **1** the act of working in a careless way. **2** the act of a pig rooting.

◆ *adjective* paltry, trifling.

[Northern English *polter*; Scots *powther, pooter* "work in a fiddling way"; possibly related to Standard English *potter*, perhaps influenced by *plouter*.]

polthogue, poltog *see* palltog.

poly [rhymes with "holy"] *verb* shoot (a marble) by flicking the thumb over the forefinger.

□ **polley-holes** a game of marbles using three holes.

[Origin unknown.]

pome *noun* a poem.

pommy-stone *noun* a pumice-stone.

[English dialectal, from false division of older form *pomice-stone*.]

pompous grass *noun* pampas grass.

pondrill *noun* a weight for a clock.

pont *noun* a pontoon (a flat-bottomed boat).

[Archaic in Standard English; from Dutch *pont*, corresponding to English *punt*.]

poo *see* pull.

pooch¹ *noun* **1** a pouch. **2** a purse. **3** a pocket.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

pooch² *verb* **1** poach. **2** *loosely* go out shooting.

□ **poocher, poucher** a poacher.

[Southern English forms *pouch, pooch*.]

pooch³ *verb* **1** spy. **2** look for something.

pooper *see* power.

poogh *verb, noun* puff *e.g.* *He just gave a wee poogh an he was dead.*

poo-hoo *see* pee-yo.

pook¹, **pouk, puck** *verb* **1** pull, tug; *specifically* tug at (a person's clothes) to draw his or her attention. **2** pluck (*e.g.* feathers from a fowl).

◆ *noun* a tug; *specifically* a gentle pull at someone to draw attention.

□ **pookit: pookit-luckin** dishevelled, untidy.

[Scots, origin unknown. *See also* spook.]

pook²: **short in the pook** **1** *of wood* crackly and likely to burn well. **2** *of a person* quick-tempered.

[Origin unknown.]

pooka, pooky, poucaun *noun* **1** a hobgoblin, a bogle. **2** an elf, a fairy. **3** a supernatural being inhabiting a mountain lake, believed to come ashore, sometimes in the form of a cow, to beguile cattle or human beings. **4** a supernatural being taking the form of a horse, believed to carry off on its back travellers who have been overtaken by nightfall.

□ **Phooka Rey** the king of the fairies.

□ **what the Pooka writes, only the Pooka himself can read**

[Hiberno-English; from Irish *púca, púcán* "a hobgoblin".]

pool¹: **poolie** *childish* **1** urine, *usually* **make poolie, do yer poolie** **2** a pee, the act of urinating.

pool² *noun* **the pool** *in playing games* home, the base.

pool³ *verb* catch trout with the hands.

poolie *adjective* very ill, poorly.

poon' *see* pound¹.

poor¹, **pair, peer** *adjective* poor.

□ **make a poor mouth** plead poverty [probably a translation of Irish *an béal bocht* literally "the poor mouth", but also found in Scots].

□ **poor-body** **1** a sickly, delicate person. **2** a beggar.

□ **poor case, poor thing** a "poor show", a sad state of affairs.

□ **poor-house** the workhouse.

□ **poor Jone** *literally* poor John: a medium-sized haystack.

□ **poor-man**

□ **poor-man's blanket** a wild flower: the great mullein *Verbascum thapsus* [from the softness of its leaves].

□ **poor-tempered** ill-tempered.

□ **poor-widow** a children's game.

[Scots forms *pair, peer*. *See also* poortith.]

poor², **powr** *verb* pour.

◆ *noun* a small quantity (of tea).

[Scots form *poor*, rarely *powr*.]

poortith, poortith *noun* poverty.

[Scots and Northern English, from Anglo-Norman **portet*. English *poverty* is from Old French *poverté*. *See also* poor¹.]

poosh, poosh-a-woosh, poosh-woosh-woosh, pooshy *see* puss².

poosin *adjective* sulky.

poota *see* potato.

pooter *see* polter.

poother *see* powder.

pop *verb* shoot (a marble).

◆ *noun* a large marble.

[*Cf.* Scots *pap* "aim (an object)", Scots form of *pop*.]

pop¹ *noun* a pap, a cow's teat.

pope: **better not fight with the pope if you live in Rome** "in Rome do as the Romans".

□ **pope's eye** the goldcrest *Regulus regulus* [The white around its eye makes it resemble a human eye, while its crest resembles a cap.]

□ **pope's head** a circular brush with a very long handle for dislodging cobwebs.

□ **pope's nose** the tailpiece of cooked poultry, *especially* turkey.

popple *noun* **1** a wild flower: the corn cockle *Agrostemma githago* [eliminated as a cornfield weed because of its poisonous seeds, and now seen only as a garden flower]. **2** the seed of the corn cockle.

[English dialectal; Middle English *popil*, origin unknown.]

por: **have a good por in it** *of a horse, etc.* be from good stock.

[Irish *pór* "seed"]

pore, purr *verb* **1** *of a bull or cow* push with the head; gore with the horns. **2** probe.

[Scots and Northern English "prod, poke"; from Middle Dutch *porren*, Middle Low German *purren*.]

poreen, porian, porren, porn, parran *noun* **1** *also porrie* an undersized potato. **2** *generally* a puny, undersized object.

[Irish *póirin* "a small potato".]

Pore-trush *proper noun* Portrush.

porie *see* potato.

pork *noun* a pig.

porn *see* poreen.

purpose *noun* **1** a porpoise. **2** *figuratively* a very fat man.

porren *see* poreen.

porridge, porritch, parritch, parridge *noun* porridge. Treated as plural *e.g.* *Did you take many porridge?*

□ **as thick as parritch** very thick; muddy, not clear.

□ **keep yer breath to cool yer parritch, save yer breath tae cool yer paaritch** meaning stop importuning someone because it is a waste of time; don't spend labour or words in vain; hold your tongue; mind your own business; conserve your energy.

□ **parritch pot, parritch pan** a vessel for boiling porridge in.

□ **reared on parritch and the Shorter Catechism**

[Scots and Northern English form *porritch*; Scots also *parritch, parridge*.]

porrie *see* poreen.

portlock *noun, masonry* a hole in a wall to support scaffolding *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

portmanty, portmantle *noun* a portmanteau, a type of suitcase.

[Hiberno-English and Scots form *portmanty*. Scots and English dialectal *portmantle* is from Old French, whereas *portmanteau* is from more modern French.]

port-wine: **port-wine mark** a birth-mark.

Portydown *proper noun* Portadown.

portyoul, portule, partule *noun* a cry, a howl.

□ **sing portule** cry out *e.g.* *A'll mak you sing portule wi the wrang side o your lip oot.*

[Scots; from *port* "a lively pipe tune" (from Scottish Gaelic *port* "a tune") + *yowl* "howl", as if the name of a tune (like "Port Lennox", *etc.*).]

porvent, purvent *verb* prevent.

posey *adjective* conceited-looking.

poss *verb* **1** *also pouss* push. **2** dash, thrust. **3** *also pouss* thump, strike; knock about. **4** kick. **5** *of a butcher* push against the belly of a slaughtered animal with the foot to cleanse the internal organs of blood. **6** *also pouss* pound (clothes) in the process of hand-washing.

□ **poss-tub, pouss-tub** a wash-tub.

[Scots and English dialectal form *poss*, Scots and Northern English form *pouss*; from Old French *pousser*. Standard English has altered the consonant to give *push*.]

posset *noun* **1** a hot milk drink. **2** *specifically* fresh milk and buttermilk heated together, taken as a cure for colds.

◆ *verb, of a baby* bring up curdled milk.

[Obsolete Standard English "a hot milk drink with alcohol in it" (latterly English dialectal), origin unknown.]

possible *exclamation, also possible of the world!* is it possible?

e.g. Possible it's you?!

possy *adjective* ill-looking.

post *noun* a postman [archaic in Standard English, historically "a post-rider"].

□ **posted** informed *e.g. I'm not well posted in them things*.

post¹ *noun, in playing games* home, the base.

posted *adjective* suffering severe sickness or pain.

[Scots *postit wi sickness*, probably from *post* "poss (clothes)". *Poss* became *post* when it was borrowed into Scottish Gaelic. It was then reborrowed into Scots.]

posture *noun* a dilemma, a fix.

posy *noun* **1** a single flower, *specifically* a flower for the button-hole. **2** *of a child, ironic* a nuisance.

□ **pull a posie aff a whin-bush**

pot *noun, also pot hole* the hole aimed at in playing marbles.

□ **gone to pot** ruined, destroyed.

□ **go to pot!** go to the devil!

□ **go to pot and buy a skillet**

□ **have your own pot on the fire** have an axe to grind.

□ **pot-lug** the loop on either side of a pot by which it is hooked over an open fire; *see lug. Illustration see bool¹*.

□ **pot-stick** a wooden stick used for stirring porridge, *etc. Illustration see spurtle*.

□ **potted: potted heid** minced pork.

□ **pottock** a pot-hook: (a) an implement for suspending pots, *etc.* over an open fire; (b) a linked pair of hooks for lifting a handleless pot away from an open fire. *Illustration see bool¹*.

□ **pot-walloper** someone who is fond of drinking.

□ **wee pots have sometimes long lugs** a warning not to talk too much in the presence of certain people.

See also honey.

potato, pitatie, pirtie, pirta, purta, purty, pitter, porie, pratie, praitie, prae, prata, prater, pritta, pritty, pruta, poota, tater, tattie, totie *noun* a potato.

□ **as coarse as praity-oaten**

□ **as soft as a pratey in June**

□ **carry or keep a stolen potato in your pocket** a supposed cure for rheumatism.

□ **pitatie-pit** a potato-heap covered over for the winter.

□ **potato-apple, pirrie-apple-pie** potato-bread with apple.

□ **potato-beetle, potato-bruiser** a beetle (a pestle for mashing potatoes).

[ILLUS: potato-b]

□ **potato bread, pritta-breid** griddle bread made with mashed potatoes and flour.

□ **potato-cake** a small cake made with potatoes.

□ **potato drainer** an implement for straining potatoes; a wooden box with slits to allow the water to escape.

□ **potatoes and point** *jocular* a meal of potatoes only. When the other food (*e.g.* a herring) was too little to go round, it was placed in the centre

and the potatoes were pointed at it.

- **potato garlic** a wild flower: Babington's leek *Allium babingtonii*.
- **potato-haulin** a potato top.
- **potato hoop** *historical* a hoop placed on the floor with the potatoes inside, round which people sat to eat.
- **potato-market**:
- **potato oaten, praity-oaten, pirrie-oaten, etc.** griddle bread made of potatoes and oatmeal.
- **potato onion 1** a wild flower: Babington's leek *Allium babingtonii*. **2** in *plural* spring onions.
[In Standard English, the *potato onion* is a perennial variety.]
- **potato-peel** a potato-peeling.
- **potato-pot**:
- **potato set** a small potato, or part of a potato, used as seed.
- **potato-sheugh** a potato-drill; *see sheugh*.
- **praties and dab at the stool** a meal of potatoes and salt, the salt being on the stool in the centre.
- **taste like a salt potato** taste good.
- **taties-and-dab** potatoes eaten with salt; *see dab*².
- **tattie-bogle** a scarecrow.
- **tattie-fiel', tatie-patch** a potato-field.
- **tattie hoker** a migrant worker who went over the Irish Sea for the potato harvest; *see hoke*.
- **the finest o' the male an the coorsest of the prittaes**
[Hiberno-English forms *pratie, praitie, etc.*; Scots forms *pitatie, tattie, tottie*; Southern English form *tater*.]

poteen, potyeen, potsheen *noun* illegally-distilled whiskey.

- **a double potsheen twang, a hell of a lie**
- **poteen-twang 1** a lie. **2** the ability to lie convincingly.
[Hiberno-English *poteen*, Irish (*uisce*) *póitín* literally "little-pot (whiskey)". *See also wee*.]

pottock *see pot*.

pou *see pull*.

poucaun *see pooka*.

pouce *see pouce*.

pouk *see pook*¹.

poullie *see pullet*.

poulter *see polter*.

poultice, powltice *noun 1* a poultice. **2** a troublesome person who attaches himself or herself to another person, a **plaster**. **3** a "pickle", a state of difficulties.

- **poulticer** *jocular* an upholsterer.

pound¹, **pun'**, **poon'**, *plural pound*, *noun* a pound.

- **if he gets a pound-note, he will soon put win' under it** he is a spendthrift.
- **pound-note**:

[Scots and Northern English form *pun(d)*, rarely *poon(d)*; from Old English *pund*, plural *pund*.]

pound²: **pounder** *historical* a person who sold pounded freestone.

- **poundies** mashed potatoes with butter, onions and milk, *etc.*

pound³ *verb* brew (tea).

[*Cf. pound* *noun*, English dialectal form of *pond* "a pool".]

pouse, pouce *noun* dust.

- **poused up, pousted up** wheezing with bronchitis.
- **poust** a severe cold.
- **pousy 1** dusty. **2** dirty, untidy. **3** wheezy from the effects of inhaling flax-dust.
[*Pouse* in Standard English is applied to flax-dust. From French *pousse* "dust".]

pouss *see* poss.

pout *verb*, of a child cry.

- **in the pout(s)** in the sulks.

pouted *adjective* choked (with dust *etc.*).

pouter, pouter *see* polter.

pouter *see* powder.

povel *verb* pick at your food.

[Origin unknown.]

poverty: poverty-struck poor-looking.

pow *see* poll.

powder, powdher, pouter, poother, powther *noun* powder.

- ◆ *verb* work hard, do anything vigorously, *frequently* **powder away**
- **by the powthers, by the powdherers o war, be the powdherers o delf, in the name of powder** *exclamation* *s*; *cf.* power.
- **powder-away** *nickname* applied to an old beggar.
[Scots and Northern English form *poother*.]

power, pooer *noun* power.

- **(be the) powers o war** *exclamation* *s*; *see also* powder.
- **have power of the tongue**
- **powerful, powerfu', parful**, *adjective* **1** of quantity "powerful", considerable; extensive *e.g.* a *powerful lot* a large number. **2** wonderful. **3** of a person remarkable.
- ◆ *adverb* "powerful", very, extremely. *See full*.
[Scots and Northern English form *pooer*.]

power cod *noun* a fish: the poor-cod *Trisopterus minutus*.

[English dialectal form.]

powl *noun* a pole.

- ◆ *verb* **1** pole; *specifically* hold back corn with a pole while it is cut with a scythe. **2** *also* **powl on** hurry, walk or move rapidly.
- **as tall as a May-powl**
[Scots and English dialectal form.]

powl¹ *verb* walk slowly as if searching for something.

powlther *see* polter.

powltice *see* poultice.

powny *noun* a pony.

- **pony wheels** small front wheels in an early type of train wheel arrangement.

[Older form, originally Scots. Standard English has altered this to *pony*.]

powr *see* poor².

powt *noun* an unfledged bird.

[Scots form of Standard English *poult* "a young fowl".]

powter, powther *see* polter.

powther *see* powder.

pox *noun*, *specifically* smallpox [this disease has now been eliminated worldwide].

poyshin *see* poison.

pra *see* proo.

prab *verb* shoot (a marble).

pracas, prackus, prockus *noun* **1** a poor dinner. **2** a mess. **3** a disorderly, dirty heap of things. **4** oats and barley grown together for making whiskey. **5** inferior grain. **6** an annoying person. **7** a troublesome situation. **8** a large number or quantity. **9** a bargain, *frequently ironic* a prize, a fortune. **10** a troublesome task, a carry-on.

[Irish *prácás* "a hotch-potch".]

prache *see* preach.

prae *see* potato.

praich, praicher *see* preach.

praiseach, prashagh, prasha, prassia, preshagh, presha, preshaw, preshag *noun* a wild flower: (a) charlock *Sinapis arvensis*; (b) rape

Brassica napus; (**c**) wild turnip *Brassica rapa*.

[Hiberno-English *prashagh(-wee)*, from Irish *praiseach bhui* "charlock, rape" literally "yellow brassica".]

praisteal *noun* potatoes cooked under a smouldering turf fire.

praitie *see* potato.

prank *verb* amuse yourself.

pranny *noun* a frolic; a prank, a trick.

□ **take the prannies** *of a horse* rear up.

[Origin unknown.]

prasha, prashagh *see* praiseeach.

prashlach *noun* odds and ends; rubbish, *e.g.* small sticks and stones *Co.*

Donegal.

[Origin unknown.]

praskeen, praskin *noun* an apron; *specifically* a large, coarse sackcloth apron.

[Hiberno-English *prashkeen*, from Irish *práiscín* "an apron".]

prassia *see* praiseeach.

prata, prater, pratie *see* potato.

pration *noun, derogatory* a fellow.

pravins *noun* the province.

prawg *see* prog.

preach, praich, prache *verb* preach.

□ **praicher** a preacher.

□ **preachin** a religious service.

[Older form in Scots and English *praich*.]

preahin *noun* an annoying person.

precarious *adjective* cautious, careful.

precious *adjective* very good-natured.

pree¹ *verb* taste; partake of.

□ **preein** a taste; a small amount.

[Scots; from *prieve* "prove, try out", itself a Scots and Northern English form of *prove*, but from a different part of the Old French verb.]

pree², pre-pre *exclamation* a call to a cow.

[Probably onomatopoeic. *Cf.* *proo*.]

preen *noun* a pin.

◆ *verb, of water* reach the boiling point and start to sputter.

[Scots, from Old English *prēon* "a pin".]

preghan *noun* a bird: (**a**) the crow. (**b**) the rook.

prence *noun* a prince.

□ **prencess** a princess.

prent *see* print.

prentice *noun, verb* apprentice.

□ **Apprentice Boys, Prentice Boys** the Apprentice Boys.

□ **prenticeship** apprenticeship.

[Shortened form, archaic in Standard English (latterly English dialectal).]

prepare *noun* a structure or thing that has been prepared.

□ **preparation: Preparation Day** *Protestant* the Sunday before Communion.

pre-pre *see* pree².

Presbyterialist *noun* Presbyterian plus Congregationalist.

Presbyterian, Prisbytairin, Pressbitelearian *noun* a Presbyterian.

□ **presbyterialist** combination of Presbyterian and Congregationalist.

□ **Presbyterian-looking** *Presbyterian, of a house, etc.* neat and clean; *cf.* Protestant.

present: at the present time now.

presenter *noun* a precentor.

[Scots form.]

preserve: preserve me! expressing surprise, fear *etc.*

presha, preshag, preshagh, preshaw *see* praiseach.

pres'ner *noun* a prisoner.

press *noun* a large cupboard [in Standard English applied only to a book cupboard or occasionally one for clothes].

□ **hot press** a heated airing cupboard.

□ **press-bed** a bed that opened downward from the wall and was closed up when not in use. The base doubled as a press.

Pressbitelearian *see* Presbyterian.

pretend, purlend *verb* pretend.

□ **make pretend** pretend, make pretence.

pretty, prutty, pirty, purty *adjective* **1** pretty. **2** handsome, good-looking [archaic in Standard English]. **3** graceful, accomplished [archaic in Standard English].

□ **pretty Betsy** a wild flower: the red valerian *Centranthus ruber*.

□ **pretty little girl of mine** a children's singing-game.

□ **purty well I thank you** tipsy.

[English dialectal forms *prutty, pirty*; Hiberno-English and English dialectal *purty*.]

price: it was just the price of him he got what he deserved.

prick: prick-at-the-loop, prig-at-the-loop a swindling game formerly played at fairs: fast-and-loose.

□ **prickle, also in plural** a prickling sensation, gooseflesh.

pride: prideful full of pride.

□ **pride out of** take pride in, boast of.

priest *noun* a short baton for killing fish [from the idea of administering the last rites].

prig *verb* **1** haggle. **2 prig down** beat down in price. **3** importune, ask continuously (for something).

◆ *noun* a pestering person, someone who is always looking for a favour. [Scots "haggle, beat down in price", possibly from Dutch *prigen* "strive".]

prig¹ *noun* **1** a miserly person. **2** an arrogant, stand-offish person.

prig² *verb* pilfer.

prime *adjective* excellent *e.g. prime sport. also, ironic e.g. a prime blackguard.*

priminary: never out of priminary *jocular* never out of trouble.

[Scots and English dialectal form of *præmunire* "a writ against a person who has appealed to a foreign or to Papal jurisdiction".]

primmerose *noun* a wild flower: the primrose *Primula vulgaris*.

[Older form (now Worcestershire).]

Primmer-Rock *noun* a breed of fowl: Plymouth Rock. [ILLUS: Primmer]

primpullawn *noun* a large type of black beetle.

print, prent *verb, noun* print.

□ **in print** in the newspapers.

□ **prented** printed.

[Scots and Northern English form *prent*.]

Prisbytairin *see* Presbyterian.

priser *see* prize.

prison: prison bars a game: prisoners' bars.

□ **prisoners' base** a boys' game.

pritta, pritty *see* potato.

private *adverb* privately, *thus live private* live on a private income.

prize *noun, also prizer, priser* an implement for prizing, a crowbar.

prockus *see* pracas.

Prod *see* Protestant.

prod *noun* a slight wound.

◆ *verb* prick (*e.g. your finger*); wound slightly.

□ **give a prod** "sting", cheat in the sale of something.

□ **like a prodded cat under a bed** *of a person's eyes* indicating a state of

astonishment.

□ **proddle 1** prod repeatedly, goad. **2** poke about. **3** poke (a fire).

Prodestin, Prodisan *see* Protestant.

proffer *verb* tender.

profligate *noun* a person who has fallen into poverty, not necessarily through his or her own fault [in Standard English, "a reckless, dissolute person"].

prog, prawg *noun 1* a bradawl. **2** profit in a bargain. **3** booty; goods obtained without payment.

◆ *verb 1* poke. **2** poke about for whatever can be laid hold of; *specifically* forage for food. **3** pilfer, steal (*e.g.* apples from a tree). **4** *only* **progging** getting something for nothing.

□ **on the prog** looking around for something, *especially* something to eat.

□ **progger** a scrounger.

□ **proggle, progle** *verb* poke or prod repeatedly.

◆ *noun* one of the spines of a hedgehog.

[English dialectal and Scots *prog* "a piercing instrument", possibly a form of **brog**. English slang "food; a hoard of money" may be the same word, from the idea of "poking around".]

proghog *see* prough².

progie *see* proo.

proke *verb* poke; *specifically* poke about in a nosy way.

□ **as still as a proker**

□ **proker 1** a person who **prokes**. **2** a person who doesn't know his or her job, a bad workman. **3** a poker for a fire.

[English dialectal and Southern Scots; Middle English *prokien*, origin unknown.]

promise *verb 1* *frequently, ironic* assure, *especially* of punishment *e.g.* *You'll get it (a beating), I promise you.* **2** betroth. *usually* **promised:** *e.g.* *We're promised to wan another, she said.*

prong *noun, specifically 1* a dung-fork. **2** a forked hazel stick used for water divining. **3** a forked stick used for making a catapult.

□ **pronged** forked stick (*e.g.* for making a catapult).

proo, pru *exclamation 1* *also* **pra** a call to a horse to stop. **2** *also* **prooshy, proogy, progie, pruggie, puggy** a call to a cow or calf.

[Scots *proo, proochy* "a call to a horse to stop; a call to a calf or cow"; possibly from Scottish Gaelic *pruidh*, or both may be independent onomatopoeic formations. *See also* **pee-yo, pirr-pirr, pree².**]

prood *see* proud.

prop¹ *noun* the leg.

□ **on your props** up, out of bed.

prop² *verb* butt.

proper *adjective* well-developed, sturdy; handsome [archaic in Standard English].

◆ *adverb* thoroughly, very.

□ **and proper** at the end of a sentence "and then some" *e.g.* *He'll do a thing and proper.*

□ **properly** thoroughly, completely.

propose *verb* assert, state positively *e.g.* *She'll propose lees and whatever she'll propose she'll swear til.*

pross *noun, law* a process, a summons.

◆ *verb* bring a legal action against.

□ **pross-sarver** a process-server, a bailiff.

Protestant, Prodestin, Prodisan; *also, derogatory* **Prod;** *childish, abusive* **Proddy-dog;** *noun* a Protestant; *specifically* an Anglican.

◆ *adjective* Protestant.

□ **as good a Protestant as ever drowned a lily** *i.e.* drank to the memory of King William with an orange lily thrown in the glass.

□ **Protestant-looking 1** *Protestant, of a house, etc.* neat and clean,

respectable-looking; *cf.* **Presbyterian**. **2** *Roman Catholic* out of place, awkward, wrongly done. *See also* **Catholic**.

proud, prood *adjective* **1** pleased, elated. **2** *of a haystack or peat stack* projecting.

[Scots and Northern English form *prood*.]

prough¹, prugh, pruck *noun* **1** material possessions, *especially* illegally acquired, or viewed as potential pickings. **2** free gifts.

◆ *verb* **1** poke around for whatever can be laid hold of. **2** take something not your own.

[Ayrshire *pruch* "perks; be on the look-out for what you can pick up"; origin unknown, *cf.* **prog**.]

prough² *noun*, *also* **prughy, proghog** a very small dwelling.

[Irish *prochóg*, **pruchach* "a hovel".]

proughe *verb* move about awkwardly; *cf.* **sprakle**.

prove *verb* **1** examine (a fishing-net) to see whether any fish have been caught. **2** *of a farm animal* turn out to be with young.

□ **proven** proved, attested.

See also **pree¹**.

proverbs *noun plural* a guessing game. One person goes out of the room, and the others select a proverb; when the guesser returns he asks each person in order any trivial question that occurs to him, such as "Why are you not eating onions?"; the players must reply in a short sentence in which is a word of the proverb. When all the players have been each asked a question the proverb should be complete and the guesser should have guessed it.

pruck *see* **prough¹**.

pruggie *see* **proo**.

prugh *see* **prough¹**.

prughy *see* **prough²**.

pruh *verb* cough.

pruta *see* **potato**.

prutty *see* **pretty**.

psalms: **another of the same, like the psalms of David**

pteop *noun* a turkey.

ptlogten *noun* phlegm.

puca and daltog *noun* a game: hide and seek.

puck *see* **pook¹**.

puck, pock *verb*, *of an animal* butt with the horns.

◆ *noun* **1** a blow; a kick. **2** a stroke in the game of hurling.

[Hiberno-English; from Irish *poc*, *puic* "a stroke in games; a prod from an animal's horn", itself apparently from English *poke* (*see* **poke²**).]

púck¹ *verb* cough.

puckan, puckawn *noun* **1** a sack. **2** a small parcel.

□ **puckan-sulla** a basket made of straw rope with a two-and-a-half bushel (90.92 litres) capacity, used for holding seed potatoes.

puckaun, puckawn, puckan *noun* **1** a billy goat. **2** *figuratively* a man who smells. **3** a mischievous child.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *pucán* "a small billy goat".]

pucker *noun* **1** a state of agitation. **2** a confused hurry.

pudderins *see* **pauderins**.

pudding, pudden *noun*, *in plural* **1** a pudding. **2** a kind of sausage. **3** the intestines, the entrails.

□ **black pudding** a kind of sausage made with blood.

[Scots and English dialectal form *pudden*.]

puddle: **puddle hoe** a muck-hoe. *Illustration see* **claut**.

puddock *see* **paddock**.

pudge: **pudget** a chubby little girl.

□ **pudyal** **1** something short and thick. **2** *also* **pudyan** a short, thick-set person.

See also podge.

pudyal, pudyan *see* podge.

pue *see* plough.

puff *noun* **1** breath. **2** *also* **puffing, puff-down** a down-draught in a chimney.

puffin *noun* a bird: **(a)** the guillemot *Uria aalge*; **(b)** the razorbill *Alca torda* [in Standard English, a different bird, *Fratercula arctica*].

Illustration see bridle.

pug *see* pogue.

pug *noun* **1** *also* **puggie** the hole aimed at in playing marbles. **2** the action of shooting a marble.

[Scots *puggie*; *cf.* Southern English *pug* "poke, thrust into a space", origin unknown.]

puggled, poggled *adjective* **1** crazy. **2** exhausted.

[Army slang "crazy; mad drunk", from Hindi *pāgal* "a madman, an idiot".]

puggy *see* proo.

puke¹ *noun* a picky eater.

□ **pukey** picky about food.

puke² *noun* a pimple.

[English dialectal, from Old English **pūc-*.]

pukeen *noun* a child.

pull, pou, poo *verb* **1** pull. **2** gather (fruit).

◆ *noun, angling* a bite.

□ **he couldn't pull a cat off a stool if her claws were clipped, that wake he couldn't pull a cat off a stool if her claws were clipped** *of a child.*

□ **he couldn't pull a cat with no claws aff a stut**

□ **pull along with** keep on good terms with (a person).

□ **pulled** arrested.

□ **pull foot** make haste.

□ **pull off you** undress.

□ **pull out** a command to workers to exert themselves.

□ **pull someone over the coals** being someone to account.

□ **pull-to** a fork with two prongs bent at right angles and a very long handle, used for gathering seaweed. [ILLUS: pull-to]

□ **pull up** take a seat at table.

□ **pull ends thegither** bring order and prosperity out of confusion.

[Scots and Northern English form *pou*, also Scots *pull* with vowel as in "cup".]

pullan *see* pollan.

pullet, poullie *noun* a pullet, a young hen.

[Scots pronunciation rhyming with "gullet". Also Scots form *poullie*, from the Modern French pronunciation.]

pulpit: exchange of pulpits an arrangement made by two clergymen for each to preach in the other's church.

pulse: pulse heater **1** *also* **pulse cuff** a knitted woollen cuff worn over the wrist. **2** *in plural, also* **pulse warmers** mittens. **3** *in plural* socks without feet, legwarmers.

□ **pulse of my heart** a term of endearment.

pumlican *noun* a publican.

pumpiture *noun, verb* puncture.

pun' *see* pound¹.

punch *noun* a plump little horse [in Standard English, applied to the Suffolk punch breed].

punch¹ *noun* the action of shooting a marble by flicking the thumb over the forefinger.

punchbowl *noun* a game.

puncheon *noun* a large barrel of whiskey.

puncture: **feel punctured** feel very tired.

□ **punctured:**

puncwill *adjective* punctilious, precise.

punt *verb* shoot (a marble) by flicking the thumb over the forefinger.

[Origin unknown.]

punt¹ *noun* the youngest of a brood.

puny *adjective* **1** *of a person's stomach* delicate, squeamish. **2** picky, finicky over food.

puo-puo *see* pee-yo.

pup *exclamation* a call to a dog.

puppy *noun* a wild flower: the poppy *Papaver spp.* *Illustration see* blind.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

purchase *verb* obtain, acquire.

pure: **as pure as rock-water**

purhaps *adverb* perhaps.

purley *see* purline.

purlie *noun* **1** a fir-cone; *cf.* peerie. **2** a heap of hay.

[Probably Scots *pir!* "a curl" + *-ie* diminutive ending; *cf.* pirlque.]

purline, purloin, purley *noun* a purlin (a supporting beam in the roof of a building).

[Older forms *purline, purloin.*]

purple: **purple man** a member of the Royal Arch Purple Chapter (a body existing within the Orange Order and open only to Orangemen).

□ **purple rocket** a flower, wild and cultivated: monk's-hood *Aconitum napellus*, also called blue rocket.

purr *see* pirr, pore.

purr: **purrin bird** a bird: the nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* [from its call].

purr-maw *see* pirr.

purses *noun plural* a seaweed: dabberlocks *Alaria esculenta*.

purta *see* potato.

purvend *see* pretend.

purty *see* potato, pretty.

purvent *see* porvent.

pus *see* puss¹.

push *see* puss².

push *noun* a scrape, a difficulty.

□ **pusheens** "pushers", slippers.

□ **pusher** a young woman (around 20).

□ **push for (e.g. home)** go, make your way (e.g. home).

□ **push on** continue on your way.

□ **push the road behind ye!** hurry! go quickly!

□ **push your fortune** seek your fortune.

□ **pussh-bike** a push-bike.

[Scots pronunciation with vowel as in "cup".]

pusheen *noun* a young cat.

◆ *exclamation* a call to a cat: pussy.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *puisín*, itself from puss² + Irish diminutive ending *-ín*.]

pushen *see* poison.

pushie *see* puss¹, puss².

pushlagh, pushla *noun* the dung of cows, horses, etc.; also **cow pushla** a cow-pat.

[Scots *pushlock*, origin unknown.]

pushy-wushy *see* puss².

puss¹, pus *noun* **1** also **auld puss** a tightening of the lips showing ill-temper; a sour expression; *see* old. **2** a sour face. **3** the face.

□ **have a puss on** be in the sulks.

□ **pushie** *nickname* someone who takes offence easily.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *pus* "the lip, the mouth"; also adopted in U.S.A., hence also British, slang.]

puss² [rhymes with "fuss" in Ulster Scots] *exclamation, also push, poosh, poosh-a-woosh, poosh-woosh-woosh* a call to a cat: puss.

□ **pooshy, pushie 1** *also pushy-wushy* a call to a cat: pussy. **2** a "pussy", an effeminate man.

□ **pussy-in-the-four-corners, pussy-wants-a-corner** a game: puss-in-the-corner.

See also piss, pusheen.

pussin *noun* **1** a pullet. **2** a young rooster.

[French *poussin* "a baby chicken", also in Standard English as a cookery term.]

put, putt, pit, pet *verb* **1** put. **2 (a)** escort, accompany (a person) *e.g. Put them a piece*; **(b)** take (a vehicle to a place where it is to be left) *e.g. He's away putting the train to the station*. **3** compel, set (a person to do something) *e.g. She put me to running*. **4** render, make *e.g. You had better drop your joking and not be putting us throughoother*. **5 (a)** send *e.g. They'd put twenty miles for it*; **(b)** send (a letter).

□ **a put off of a** "an apology for a".

□ **it's pittin it thegither** *of the weather* it is going to be a severe frost.

□ **it would put years on you** describing something boring, referring to uninteresting talk or activity.

□ **no' loathe to putt-till-her-hand**

□ **not put it past (someone)** think it not unlikely of (someone); not say (someone) was incapable of it *e.g. I wouldn't put it past him but he'd do it*.

□ **not put one foot past the other to oblige (a person), not put your heel where your toe should be to oblige (a person)** be disobliging.

□ **pit-aff** a put-off, an evasion.

□ **purrr** put it.

□ **put about** *verb* vex, upset, distress.

◆ *adjective* distressed.

□ **put (a) hand or hands to or on yourself** commit suicide.

□ **put a letter on someone** send someone a letter [translation of Irish *litir a chur ionsar dhuine*].

□ **put between people** cause ill-will between people.

□ **put by 1 put-by** a makeshift, a substitute. **2 also puttiby** a snack to tide you over until a meal.

□ **put-by 1** a makeshift, a substitute. **2 also puttiby** a snack to tide you over until a meal.

□ **put correction on** punish.

□ **put in** sow (a crop).

□ **put in a word for someone** say something favourable about someone.

□ **put my name in the pot** provide something for me.

□ **put off you 1** undress. **2** give vent to your anger.

□ **put on** *verb* **1** *also put on that* pretend (that). **2** *also put on you* dress yourself; *hence put-on-yous, put-on-mes* clothes. **3 put (hard, sore, etc.) on, put it hard on** be hard on (a person).

◆ *adjective (well, etc.) put on (well, etc.)* dressed.

□ **put on the pox** vaccinate.

□ **put-out 1** a witty saying. **2** a story.

□ **put past 1** put by, lay aside. **2 put something past you** discard something, throw something away.

□ **put questions on someone** put questions to someone [translation of Irish *ceist a chur ar dhuine* literally "put a question on someone"].

□ **put round** pass round (at a table).

□ **put someone to the bad** ruin someone.

□ **put someone to or til it** force, compel (someone); incite (someone).

□ **put (something) from you** refuse (something).

□ **put the bag on** take to begging.

- **put the heart or wits out of a person, put the heart across a person** give a person a sudden fright.
- **put through** examine; question.
- **put til yourself** do your utmost.
- **putting in my wee bit time or day** a reply by an old person to the question "How are you?".
- **put to rights** correct.
- **put up** vomit.
- **put word to** send for.
- **put your right fut foremost** "fall on your feet" (*i.e.* be fortunate).
[English dialectal form *putt*, from Old English form *putian*; Scots and Northern English form *pit*, from Old English form *pytan*.]
- puttiby** *see* put.
- putties, puttns** *noun plural* socks without feet, leg-warmers.
[Scots sense of *puttee*. The *puttns* form is perhaps influenced by Standard English *patten*.]
- puzion** *see* poison.
- puzzle: the puzzlin' walks** the labyrinth or maze at Ballynahinch.
- pwough** *see* pee-yo.
- pyet** *see* pyot.
- pyock** *verb* **pyock at** pick at (food).
◆ *noun* a picky eater.
[Irish *piocadh* "pick", itself a borrowing of *pick*¹.]
- pyoo** *see* plough.
- pyot, piet, pyet** *noun* **1** a bird: (a) the magpie *Pica pica*; (b) the oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. **2** *figuratively* (a) a chatterbox; (b) a forward child. [ILLUS: pyot]
[Scots and English dialectal "magpie"; from Middle English *piot*, a diminutive of *pie*, itself from Old French *pie* "magpie". *See also* pie, pienet, sand.]
- pyough** *see* pee-yo.
- quack-quack** *exclamation* a call to ducks.
- quake, quawk** *verb* **1** quake. **2** cause (a person) to quake.
□ **quaking: quaking ash, quakin ash** a tree: the aspen *Populus tremula*; *see also* aspy.
□ **quaking quaw** a quaking bog, a quagmire; *see* quaw.
□ **you're not a quaker** said in the course of bargaining, to a person who will not reduce the original price.
[Scots forms *quack, quawk*.]
- qualify: qualified:**
□ **qualified man** a professional vet.
- quality** *noun* **the quality** the upper classes, the gentry [archaic in Standard English].
- quarter** *noun, also quarter land* a division of land [*quarter* is a translation of Irish *ceathrú*. This was usually a quarter of a unit called a *baile biataigh* "land of a food-provider", and contained three or four townlands].
□ **quarter-evil, quarter-ill** a disease in cattle: black-legs.
- quaw, qua, also incorrectly quagh, noun** a quagmire, a quaking bog; a marsh; *see also* bog, quake.
[Scots, also Hiberno-English, *qua, quaw*; possibly onomatopoeic; *cf.* quake and Standard English *quagmire*.]
- quawk** *verb, of a bird* caw.
[English dialectal, onomatopoeic.]
- queef** *see* quiff.
- queen: not call the queen your aunt** be very satisfied; have the greatest happiness or distinction.
□ **Queen Anne** a type of gun: an eighteenth century musket.
□ **queen-of-the-meadow** a wild flower: the meadow-sweet *Spiraea*

ulmaria.

queer, quare, querr *adjective* **1** queer. **2** amusing, entertaining. **3** remarkable, excellent *e.g. He's got a quare wee wuman.* **4** of quantity considerable, great *e.g. a quare lot.*

◆ *adverb* **1** queerly. **2** very *e.g. a quare nice fellow.*

- **quare an saft** *ironic, of a person* not soft at all.
- **queeralities** *jocular* peculiarities.
- **queer and, quare an, quarn** very, exceptionally; *see and.*
- **queerly, quarely, querrly** considerably *e.g. She's quarely grown.*
[Hiberno-English, Wiltshire and Somerset form *quare.*]

quern *noun* a small stone hand-mill for grinding corn.

- **quern-stone** a fairly large round stone with a hole in the centre.

queskin, kestin *noun, verb* question *Mid Ulster.*

quest *see* crowner.

quest¹: **quest-party** a search-party.

quest² *noun, also wood-quest, woodquist* the woodpigeon *Columba palumbus.*

[Scots and English dialectal *quist*, Western English *quest*; forms of dialectal *cushat*, from Old English *cūscute*.]

quey, kwy, gwye, quoy, quee *noun, also quey-stirk* a heifer.

- **quey-calf** a female calf.

[Scots and Northern English *quey, quoy*; Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire also *quee*; from Old Norse *kviga*.]

quick¹ *adjective* **1** alive [archaic in Standard English]. **2** hot-tempered. **3** of a clock fast.

- **as quick as an eel**
- **quicken** of breast milk well up.
- **quick-man** a nurseryman who grows quicks (saplings) for hedging.
- **quick-set fence** a field boundary consisting of a **sheugh** (a trench) and a bank made of the soil dug out. The side of the bank facing the **sheugh** is faced with stone, and thorn bushes are planted between the stones.
- **quick-thorn** the hawthorn *Crataegus oxyacantha*.
- **quick time** Summer Time (as opposed to Greenwich Mean Time).

quick² *noun* a grass: (a) couch-grass *Elymus spp*; (b) false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*.

- **quicken, also quicken-grass 1 also quickens, quickenie** couch-grass. **2** loosely applied to other creeping weeds with long roots.

[Northern English *quick*; Scots and Northern English also *quicken(s)*, *quicken-grass*; from Old English *cwice* "couch-grass". Possibly the same word as **quick¹**, because of its vigour. *See also* couch-grass, **quitch**, **scutch¹**.]

quiet, quate *adjective* quiet.

- ◆ *adverb* quietly.
- **as quiet as a church mouse** very quiet.
- **quaten** quieten, pacify.
- **quatesome** quiet.
- **quiet-like, quate-like** quiet-looking.

[Scots form *quate*.]

quiff, queef *noun* **1** a trick; a dodge. **2** an artistic detail; a piece of skilful ornamentation. **3** in plural all the ins and outs of something.

◆ *verb, only in passive* **queefed** tricked, fooled.

quiff *noun* an unusual kink in the hair.

◆ *verb* groom (the hair).

[English dialectal and nautical slang *quiff* "a clever trick; to improvise", origin unknown; Scots form *queef*.]

quill, queel *noun* **1** a quill (*i.e.* a bobbin for thread); *cf.* illustration at **pirn**. **2** also **quill-rod, wheel-rod** a reed, *Phragmites australis*, formerly used for quills (*i.e.* bobbins for thread). **3** also **quill-rod** a bulrush *Typha spp.*

◆ *verb, historical* blow snuff through a quill up the nostrils of a woman

who has just given birth, to make her cough and thus expel the afterbirth.
 □ **quill-rod 1** *also wheel-rod* a reed, *Arundo phragmites*, formerly used for quills, i.e. spools for thread. **2** a bulrush.

[Galloway form *queel*.]

quilt *noun* **1** an abusive term for a man. **2** *specifically* a timid, effeminate man. **3** a cheeky child.

◆ *verb* beat up, thrash [originally *quilt someone's jacket*].

□ **quilting, quiltin 1** a beating, a thrashing. **2** a gathering of women and girls to make a bed-quilt, followed by a dance.

□ **the green quilt** the earth, the grassy sward *e.g. Before the green quilt was drawn over him in Frosses graveyard.*

quim *adjective* **1** affected, ostentatiously pleasant. **2** prim. **3** moving with ease and precision.

[Scots; altered form of Scots *queem* "pleasant; smoothly", from Old English *cwēman* "to please".]

quinch *verb* quench, extinguish a flame.

quind *noun* a chew of tobacco.

quirk *noun* **1** the curl on a pig's tail. **2** an untrustworthy fellow.

quirly *noun* the last sheaf cut in the harvest. *Illustration see churn².*

[Probably Scots form *quirl* of curl + *-ie* diminutive ending.]

quirren *noun* a small pot, *specifically* a small skillet.

quist *see* twist.

quit, quet, quat; past participle quat; verb 1 quit, stop [*quit* now mainly Ulster, Scotland and U.S.A.]. **2** **quit of** acquit of. **3** **quit a person of something** make (a person) desist from something *e.g. But I soon quet them o that.*

□ **quitting time** the time for ceasing work.

[Scots forms *quat, quet*; past tense and past participle *quat*. The present tense form *quat* comes from the past form.]

quitch *noun* **1** the wild oat *Avena fatua*. **2** *loosely* applied to other creeping weeds with long roots.

[Southern English form of quick² "couch-grass".]

quiz *verb* question in a prying way.

quo, co, qua, ca *verb, only in past tense* quoth, said, *usually* **quo he, quo she, etc.**

□ **quo-he, co-he, quo-she** *noun, nickname, frequently in plural* applied to people from various parts of Ulster supposedly characterised by the habit of saying **quo-he**, often implying that they are country bumpkins.

◆ *verb* say **quo-he** or **quo-she** *e.g. They're nothin but oul' gossips - quo-hein an quo-shein all nicht.*

[Hiberno-English, Scots and English dialectal forms *quo, co*.]

quoit *noun* a stone used in the game of quoits.

qur-qur *exclamation* a call to pigs.

ra¹ *adjective* raw, uncouth.

□ **raw head and bloody bones** a goblin, a bogey man.

[Scots and English dialectal form.]

ra², raw *noun* a row (of houses, etc.).

□ **not worth a row of pins** not worth a fig.

[Scots and Northern English, also Cornwall, form *raw*; Scots also *ra*.]

raakin *noun, derogatory 1* a scruffy person. **2** a worthless person.

Cf. rackan.

raave *noun* Canadian pondweed *Elodea canadensis*.

[*Cf. obsolete Standard English raff* "worthless trash", as in *riff-raff*. *See also rafaree*.]

Rab:

rab *verb* rob.

□ **Rab-run-i'-the-hedge** a wild flower: common cleavers *Galium aparine*; *see also* Robin.

[Scots, a diminutive of *Robert*.]

- **rabbit-catcher** *derogatory* a midwife.
- rabble** *verb* talk nonsensically.
- ◆ **noun 1** a crowd of people [only in a derogatory sense in Standard English]. **2** a hiring-fair *e.g. the Derry Rabble*.
- **rabblach 1** a rigmarole, a stream of nonsensical talk. **2** a gathering of people. **3** *derogatory* a rabble, a mob.
[*Rabble* + Scots ending *-ach* from Scottish Gaelic *-ach*.]
- **rabble-roit 1** a rabble-rout, a confused crowd of disorderly people.
2 the noise of a disorderly crowd; *cf. roit*.
- Rabirt, Rawbert, Rab** *proper noun* Robert, Bob.
- rablogh** *noun* coarse, bad quality yarn, flax etc.
- race** *noun* a journey *e.g. I'll take a race up to see you*.
- rachary** *noun* a large number *Co. Donegal*.
[Origin unknown. *Cf. rachtery*.]
- rachery** *see* raghery.
- rachle** *see* raughle.
- rachled** *adjective, of a face* wrinkled.
[*Cf. rare Scots form rachle of Scots raggle "to cut a groove in stone or wood", origin unknown.*]
- rachrie** *see* raghery.
- rachtery** *noun* riff-raff *Co. Antrim*.
[Origin unknown. *Cf. rachary*.]
- rack** *see* rick.
- rack¹** *noun, also rack-comb (a)* a horse-comb; **(b)** a large-toothed comb, used to untangle hair.
- rack²** *verb* throb with pain *e.g. My head's rackin*.
- rack³** *noun* a neck (of mutton); a breast of mutton.
- rack⁴** *noun* the foam of the sea.
- rackan, racken** *noun 1* a tall, thin fellow. **2** a very thin person or animal.
3 *also fir racken* a root of bog-fir; *cf. illustration at moss*.
[*Cf. Irish racán "a rake (the garden implement)"*.]
- racken** *noun* a large metal hook on a long pole, used for lifting the tail of a full eel net *Lower River Bann*.
[*Cf. Northern English "an apparatus for hanging pots, etc. over an open fire", from Old English racente "a chain"*.] [ILLUS: racken]
- racketty** *adjective* rickety, unsteady.
- rackle** *see* raughle.
- rackle** *adjective* strong, sturdy.
- **rachlie** dirty.
[Northern Scots; from Scots *rauchle* "rough; bold", origin unknown.]
- rackless** *adjective* reckless.
[Scots and Northern English form.]
- raddle** *noun* reddle: the red ochre with which door-steps are coved.
- rae** *noun* a moor.
[Irish *ré* "a stretch of ground", *ré shléibhe* "a stretch of moor".]
- rafaree** *noun* rubbish; *cf. raave*.
- raffle** *noun 1* an entertainment during which a raffle is held. **2** a card-party where prizes are given.
- raft** *noun* a long, thin person.
- **as thin as a raft**
[Shetland, either Norn (*cf. Norwegian dialectal raft* "a lath, a thin stick") or archaic Standard English *raft* "a rafter" (likewise of Scandinavian origin).]
- rag, reg** *noun* a rag.
- **a rag on every bush** a young man who is caught by, and courts, many girls but never proposes.
- **boiled to rags** *of food* very much overdone.
- **get someone's rag out 1** provoke, enrage (a person). **2 get your rag out, git yur rag up, have your rag out (a)** be enraged. **(b)** muster some

courage.

- **ragabrash, raggiebrash 1** rubbish; leftovers. **2** riff-raff.
- **rag-man** a pedlar who buys rags.
- **ragnail, also ragged nail, rag-skin** an agnail (a piece of cuticle turned back around the fingernail).
- **rags and jags** shreds and tatters.
- **rag-tailed** ragged.
- **you never put your washin' on a hedge, you have a rag for every bush**

[Northern English form *reg.*]

raghery, rachery, rachrie *noun* **1** a small, sturdy breed of horse, pony. **2** a breed of black-faced mountain sheep. **3** an uncouth fellow.

[From *Raghery*, the local name of Rathlin Island. *Reachraidh* is the local form of the Irish name *Reachrainn*.]

raglar *see* regular.

raich, retch *verb, noun* reach.

[Older form in Scots and English *raich*, old form (now English dialectal, also Shetland) also *retch*.]

raid *noun* a snowdrift.

raidyekut *noun* a wild flower: bog-myrtle *Myrica gale*.

rail *noun* a load (of peat, logs *etc.*).

rain *see* rawny.

rain, rine *verb* rain.

- **as sure as God made rain** very surely, certain.
- **happy the corpse the rain rains on**
- **rainbird** the curlew *Numenius arquata*.
- **rain bullock stirks** rain torrentially.

[Southern English form *rine*.]

rainch *see* rinsh.

rainpike *see* rampike.

raip *see* rope.

rairin *see* rear².

raise; *past tense and past participle* **riz, ruz**; *verb* **1** *knitting* pick up (stitches). **2** *also* **raise up** rear, bring up (a child). **3** excite. **4** enrage, madden. **5** awaken (someone), get (someone) up [archaic in Standard English]. **6** **raise a person a sum of money** increase a person's wages by a sum of money. **7** dig up (potatoes).

- **raise a tune** start or lead a tune.
- **raised, riz, ruz 1** excited. **2** enraged.

[Past tense and past participle forms transferred from *rise*.]

raison *see* reason.

raisonable *adjective* reasonable; *see also* reason.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

raivel *see* ravel².

rake¹ *verb* bank up a fire with ashes to keep it alight overnight.

- **raked of a building** newly pointed with lime and mortar.
- **rake-fire** a visitor who stays too long.
- **rake-teeth** widely-spaced teeth.
- **rake up** cast up, bring up old grievances.
- **rakings** a banked-up fire.

rake² *verb* **1** *also* **rake about** gad about. **2** stay out late at night; *specifically* pay a friendly visit to a neighbour's house in the evening.

- ◆ *noun* **1** a gang of water, two pailfuls carried together. **2** a large quantity. **3** an idle person, someone who wanders about aimlessly. **4** *also* **raker** a vagabond. **5** an outing.
- **raking 1** gadding about. **2** evening visiting.

rale *see* real.

rallagh *Co. Armagh, verb* laugh loudly.

- ◆ *noun* a horse-laugh.

[Cf. Northern English *rallack* "to romp", form of *rollick*.]

ralliaghan *noun* an ungainly youth *Co. Antrim*.

[Irish **railleachán*, cf. *rallianach*.]

rallianach *noun* a hot-tempered, rough fellow.

[Irish *railiúnach* "a strong, clumsy fellow". See also *ralliaghan*.]

rallion see *rullion*¹.

rally *noun* **1** the sound of someone falling. **2 fall a rally** fall heavily.

[Northern English, also Orkney and Shetland, "a sudden rush; a lurch"; of Scandinavian origin, cf. Norwegian dialectal *ralla* "to tumble; to walk unsteadily".]

ram¹ *noun*, also **battering ram** a post rammer, an implement for firming the earth around fence-posts, etc. *Illustration see stake*.

□ **ram-dash** *adverb* ram-stam, headlong.

□ **ram-race** a headlong rush.

□ **ram-stam, ram-stan** *adverb* headlong, recklessly.

◆ *adjective* headlong, impetuous, reckless.

◆ *verb* rush thoughtlessly into anything.

◆ *noun* a headlong dash.

ram² *exclamation* a disguised oath: "damn".

□ **rammed** "damned".

[Obsolete and rare Standard English (still Hiberno-English and Kent) *rammee* "damn me".]

ramas, ramish, ramesh *noun* nonsense, nonsensical talk; a rigmarole.

[Northern English and Welsh English, from French *ramas* "a heap, a collection". Also in Donegal Irish as *ráiméis*, hence the forms *ramish, ramesh*.]

ramatracks: on your ramatracks on your travels, wandering aimlessly *Co. Fermanagh*.

[Nonce word.]

ramble, ramble *verb* **1 ramble**, wander, rake. **2 ramble**, talk incoherently.

◆ *noun* a friendly visit.

[Scots and Northern English form *ramble*.]

rambunkshus *adjective* impudent, bold; troublesome.

ram-dash see *ram*¹.

ramganch *noun* **1** an awkward, rough person. **2** a hog-fish.

[Possibly *ram-* (as in *ramguntchagh*) + *gansh*.]

ramguntchagh *adjective* reckless and coarse.

◆ *noun* a reckless, coarse fellow.

[Scots *ramgunshoch* "surly", prefix *ram-* (mainly Scots; origin unknown, but possibly the same word as *ram*¹) + an unidentified second element, cf. *gansh*. See also *ramganch*.]

ramish see *ramas*.

ram-lam *ram*.

ramlet see *remlet*.

ramble see *ramble*.

rammlegarry see *rummlegarey*.

ramp¹ *noun* a meadow.

[Origin unknown.]

ramp² *adjective* **1** also **rampy** rank, rancid, having a strong, disagreeable smell or taste. **2** full of health and spirits.

□ **rampy** *of milk and butter*.

[South-Western Scots, alteration of *rank*.]

ramp³ *verb* romp, play.

[Scots and English dialectal form.]

ramp⁴ *verb* stamp about, rage violently.

rampage *verb* **1** run riot. **2** rage, storm, create a disturbance. **3** romp, frolic.

rampar, ramper *noun* **1** a rampart, a river embankment. **2** a raised road through a peat-bog.

[Older forms (still English dialectal) of archaic Standard English *rampire*; from obsolete French *rampar* (a variant of *rempart*, which gives *rampart*).]

rampart *noun* a raised road through a peat-bog.

See also *rampar*.

ramper-eel *noun* a fish: the sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*.

[Scots form of Scots and English dialectal *lamper-eel*, itself a form of *lamprey* + *eel*.]

rampike, rampick, ranpik, rainpik *noun* **1** a tree beginning to decay at the top from age. **2** a rotten branch of a tree.

□ **ranpiked** affected in this way.

[Hiberno-English, West Midland and North American *rampike*; obsolete Standard English *rampick*, *ranpik* (*ranpik* still Warwickshire); Cheshire also *reenpik*; origin unknown. The second element is possibly *pike*².]

ramps *noun* a wild flower: ramsons *Allium ursinum*.

[Scots and Northern English form of obsolete Standard English *rams*, from Old English *hrams*. Standard English *ramsons* is a double plural, with *-n* as in *oxen* and also *-s*.]

ramscooter, ramscootry *verb* **1** beat up, thrash. **2** defeat (someone) completely in an argument.

[Scots. The first element is *ram-* as in *ramguntchagh*. The second is unidentified.]

ramshackle *adjective* disorderly, wild.

◆ *verb* ransack.

ram-stam, ram-stan see *ram*¹.

ran see *rawny*.

□ **as runchy as Kate Stock**

ran-dan: on the ran-dan on the spree.

randle, rannle *verb, obsolete schoolboy slang* punish a boy by pulling his hair or ears.

[Hiberno-English and English dialectal *randle*, origin unknown.]

randle-tree, rannle-tree, rattle-tree *noun* **1** a crane, the arm across an open fire on which the *crook* is hung. **2** the cross-beam in a byre to which the vertical stakes are fastened. **3** *figuratively* a tall, thin person; *especially* a tall, bony woman. [ILLUS: *randle-t*]

[Scots and Northern English *randle-tree*, *rannle-tree*; Scots also *rattle-tree*; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *randa-tre* "the bar across a chimney".]

randy *noun* **1** a scold, a virago. **2** a coarse, romping woman. **3** an immoral woman. **4** a wild, noisy, reckless fellow. **5** a noisy merrymaking; a drunken carousal.

◆ *adjective* **1** wild, rash, riotous. **2** lustful [also adopted in Standard English].

[Hiberno-English; possibly rare Standard English *rand* "to rant" (from obsolete Flemish *randen*, related to obsolete Dutch *ranten*, which gives *rant*) + *-y*. See also *ranner*, *rawny*.]

randyvoo, randyboo, randyboose, randybooze, randyboise *noun* **1** a social gathering. **2** a noisy, disorderly place or gathering. **3** a noise, an uproar.

[Devon, also Scots, *randyvoo* form of *rendezvous*; South-Western English also *randivoose*; Devon also *randibew*; English dialectal also *randybow*. English dialectal sense "an uproar, a disturbance", *cf.* *randy*.]

rang de voo *noun* a *rendezvous*.

range see *rinsh*.

rangy *adjective* supple, lithe.

rann, raun *noun* a verse *e.g.* *The Divil posed him with old pagan ranns, tryin for to trip him.*

[Irish *rann* "a verse".]

ranner *noun* **1** a person who talks nonsense. **2** a wild, indistinct dream.

◆ *verb* ramble, talk incoherently.

[Probably from obsolete and rare Standard English *rand* "to rant" (*see* *randy*); but *cf.* *rann*.]

rannle *see* *randle*.

rannle-tree *see* *randle-tree*.

ranny *see* *rawny*.

ranny *noun* **1** a stunted and emaciated person or animal. **2** a thin, delicate, sneaky-looking cat, cow or girl. **3** the youngest of a brood.

[Origin unknown, also in Irish as *ránai*.]

ranpike, ranpiked *see* *rampike*.

ranshy *see* *runchy*.

ransom: **at a ransom** for an exorbitant price.

rant *verb* talk loudly, *especially* when angry and abusing someone.

rantered *adjective*, also **rantered up** dishevelled, untidy in dress.

[Scots *ranter* "to darn; to work in a hurried careless way", from French *rentraire* "to darn".]

ranther *noun* a ranter, a Primitive Methodist.

ranti-tiree *noun* potatoes mashed with oatmeal gruel *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

rantle-tree *see* *randle-tree*.

ranty *see* *rowan*.

ranty-berry *see* *rowan*.

rap¹ *noun, historical* a counterfeit copper coin in use as a halfpenny in the eighteenth century.

[Hiberno-English, also in Standard English in the phrase *not care a rap*.]

rap²: **have a rap at** have a go at.

rap³: **rap and run (with)** **1** seize with violence *e.g.* *She'll take all she can rap and run with*. **2** get by any means, scrape together somehow.

[Obsolete Standard English (still English dialectal) *rap* "to seize", from Middle Low German *rappen*.]

rape *see* *rope*.

rape *verb* reap.

[Scots and English dialectal form.]

rapeen *noun* a strip of uncultivated ground round an arable field.

[Apparently Southern English, also Orkney, *rap* "a strip of land" (origin unknown) + Irish diminutive ending *-ín*.]

raploch *noun* coarse, undyed, homespun woollen cloth.

□ **as coarse as raploch** *of grass*.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

rappan *noun* a seaweed: **(a)** *dulse* *Rhodomenia palmata*; **(b)** the fronds of sea belt *Laminaria saccharina*.

[Irish *rapán* "a coarse type of edible seaweed".]

rapparee *noun* **1** *historical* **(a)** an Irish pikeman, an irregular soldier during the war of 1688-92; **(b)** *hence* an Irish bandit. **2** a ruffian.

[Irish *rapaire*, **rapairi*.]

rapscallion *noun* a rascal.

rare *see* *rear¹*, *rear²*.

rare¹

□ **in a rare pass** in a mess.

□ **in rare fettle** in excellent spirits.

□ **rare-overs for meddlers, and crutches for lame ducks** lay-overs for meddlers, and crutches for lame ducks; an answer to over-curious children.

rarin *see* *rear²*.

rarr *see* *rather*.

rascal *noun* a rogue, a thief (male or female).

rash:

rash *see* *rush¹*.

□ **nothing rash** nothing exciting.

rasp *see* rauspberry.

rasp *verb* cough; *see also* raspers.

- **rasper** **1** a sharp-tongued person. **2** a sharp phrase.

raspers *adjective* energetic.

- ◆ *adverb* energetically.

[*Cf.* English slang *rasper* "anything extraordinary", from *rasp* "to scrape" (the same word as **rasp**) + *-er*.]

rat, rawt *verb* scratch.

- ◆ *noun* a scratch, a scrape.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

rat¹ *noun*: **1** A rat is believed to be man's greatest enemy. If a person is going anywhere and a rat crosses his path he must immediately turn back or he is sure to find bad luck at the end of his journey. He may go tomorrow **2** the word is avoided by fishermen for some superstitious reason

rate: at the rate of a hunt

rates: take a little off the rates *jocular, of a cow or sheep graze on roadside grass.*

rath *noun* an ancient monument roughly circular in form; *specifically* an ancient fort.

[Irish *ráth*.] [ILLUS: rath]

rather, rether, rarr *adverb* rather.

- ◆ *noun* a wish, a desire, an inclination (to do something); an affection (for someone).

- **ratherly, retherly** rather *e.g.* *I ratherly think so.*

- **Whether wud ye redher, redher wud ye be / Legs tae the oxter or belly tae the knee?** would you rather be the tongs or the bellows?

- **would rather** had rather *e.g.* *I would rather her stories than my father's.*

[Scots, also Leicestershire and Warwickshire, form *rether*.]

ratterbrash *adjective* vulgar; *cf.* ragabrash.

rattle *verb* work or do anything with energy and speed.

- ◆ *noun* **1** a blow. **2** a heavy fall.

- **get someone's rattlie up** rouse someone's anger.

- **rattle-can** a noisy child.

- **rattle-skull** a lively, thoughtless person.

- **rattle wing** a bird: the golden eye duck.

- **rattlie, rattly** **1** a child's rattle; *hence* **(a) I'll buy ye a rattly** *sarcastic* meaning that you are being childish; **(b) get someone's rattlie up** rouse someone's anger. **2** *in plural* broken pieces of china that girls play shops with.

- **rattling's housekeeping**

ratton *noun* a rat.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and Northern English), from Old French *raton*.]

raughle, rauchle, rachle, rackle *noun* a rough heap of stones; a loosely built dry-stone wall.

- **raughle o bones** a thin person.

[Scots *raughle, rauchle, rachle*; Northumberland and Cumberland *rackle*; forms of rickle.]

raun *see* rann.

rauspberry *noun, also rasp, rausp* a raspberry; the raspberry bush.

[*Rasp* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal).]

rauve *see* rove.

ravel¹, **revel** *verb* **1** entangle (yarn, *etc.*); *also figuratively*. **2** ravel, unravel yarn from a piece of knitting, *etc.* **3** ramble in speech; talk childishly, talk nonsense.

- ◆ *noun* a ravel, a tangle (of knitting wool, *etc.*).

- **ravelled: ravelled hasp, also ravelled hank** a difficult task; an intricate piece of business; *see* hasp¹.

[Leicestershire and Warwickshire, also Scots, form *revel*.]

ravel², **revel**, **raivel** *noun* **1** a rail, a railing. **2** *also* **ravel-tree**, **revel-tree**, **raivel-tree** the cross-beam in a byre to which the vertical stakes are fastened. **3** a tall, thin person.

[Scots; possibly of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Danish dialectal *revel* "a strake of a boat" and Swedish dialectal *rävel* "a joist".]

ravish *verb* ravage, destroy.

□ **ravished** highly delighted.

[Latterly Yorkshire, replaced in Standard English by the related word *ravage* in this sense.]

raw *see* *ra*².

□ **raw-nail** a loose piece of skin below or at the side of a fingernail.

raw¹: adjective used with verb to be - to turn (something) upside down

rawkit, **ricket** *noun* a racket, a loud, continuous noise.

rawn *see* *rone*.

rawny, **ranny** *adjective*, *also* **rawn**, **rain**, **ran** large and bony; rough.

[Scots, Cheshire and Shropshire *rawny*; a form of *randy*.]

rawsiner *see* *rosin*.

rawt *see* *rat*.

ray: **ray of life** the life-force; the point within the body where it is supposed to be situated.

rayconcile *verb* reconcile.

razhure, **reeziour** *noun* a razor.

[Old form *razhure*.]

'**re** *see* *be*.

reach *verb* retch; vomit.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and Northern English), from Old English *hr*□*can* "to spit".]

read *see* *redd*¹.

read *noun* an act of reading *e.g.* *I would like a read of that book.*

□ **read from a height** broadcast loudly *e.g.* *Don't tell her anything confidential; it'll be read from a height.*

□ **reading**: **reading-made-easy**, **readin-med-aisy**, **reddamadeasy**, **riddamadeasy** a child's first reading book [apparently altered on the model of words containing the syllable *-ma-*, such as *whigmaleerie*]; *see* *ease*.

□ **read the cups** foretell by means of the formation of tea-leaves in an empty tea-cup.

□ **read the riot act**

ready, **riddy** *adjective* **1** ready. **2** friendly, affable.

◆ *verb* **1** make ready, ready (yourself). **2** get (food) ready. **3** **ready up**, **ready out** *redd*, clean up or out *e.g.* *Lend me a knife till I ready out my pipe.*

□ **as ready as a pocket**

□ **ready for the hills** at wit's end, approaching breaking point.

□ **R.M.D.** *abbreviation, slang* ready money down.

[Durham, Yorkshire and East Anglia form *riddy*.]

real, **rale** *adjective* real.

◆ *adverb* really, very.

□ **rale McKay** the best.

□ **real wigeon** a bird: the wigeon.

[Older form in Scots and English *rale*.]

ream *verb* **1** foam, froth, bubble. **2** **ream ower** overflow.

□ **reaming** extremely, very *e.g.* *He keeps his land reaming clean.*

[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *rēam* "cream".]

rean *noun* a strip of uncultivated ground round an arable field.

[English dialectal, from Old Norse *rein* "a balk".]

reap, **rip** *noun* **1** a handful of unthreshed corn. **2** a sheaf of corn hung from the roof of a sheep-house as fodder. **3** *weaving* a handful of weft thread.

[Scots form *rip*, apparently influenced by *rip*¹.]

rear¹, **rare** *noun* **1** the rear. **2** the remainder *e.g. We'll dig the rear of the potatoes the morrow.* **3** the end (of the month, week, *etc.*).

- **at or in the rear** in the end, finally.
 - **the rear of your days** the end of your days.
- [Older form in Scots and English *rare*.]

rear², **rare** *verb* rear, bring up.

- **rared on oatmale an' the Shorter Catechism**
- **rarin, rairin** **1** frequently **the rairin** rearing *e.g. That pup's not worth the rairin.* **2** frequently, sarcastic a child being reared *e.g. That's the bright rarin.*
- **rear up** **1** become angry. **2 rear up on (a person)** "rear up", become angry with someone, abuse someone verbally.

[Older form in Scots and English *rare*.]

rearin *e.g. Yer a rearin i.e. badly reared boy.*

reason, raison *noun* reason.

- **as stan's t' razon** as is clear.
 - **out of all reason** absurd, incredible.
 - **there's razon in roastin' eggs**
- [Older form in Scots and English *raison*. See also *reasonable*.]

reastie *noun* a big, rough, bullying person.

[English dialectal "bad-tempered", origin unknown.]

reave, reeve, reef *verb* **1** rive, rend, split asunder; frequently figuratively, thus **my head's reavin** **2** rend, tear [*reave* archaic in Standard English].

- ◆ **noun** **1** a rift, a rent, a tear. **2** something torn.
 - **reever, reefer** a thump, a heavy blow.
- [Altered form of *rive*.]

rebbit *noun* a rabbit.

reception *noun* a reception.

receive, resaive, resave *verb* **1** receive. **2** in oaths *e.g. The sorra resaive the one of them.*

[Older form in Scots and English *resaive, resave*.]

reck *noun* a hay-rack. *Illustration see loft.*

[Older form of *rack*.]

reckon *verb* **reckon to** expect to; intend to.

- **reckoning** arithmetic.
- **short reckonings makes long friends**

recruit *verb* recuperate.

red *see* redd¹, redd², ride.

red¹, **rid, reid, rud** *adjective* red.

- **as red as the lobster's claw that a chile cuts its teeth wi'**
 - **red-avised** **1** having a ruddy complexion, and usually also red hair. **2** having red hair.
- [*Red* + *-avised* (*see black*).]
- **red-bee** a wild bee.
 - **redbelly** a fish: the char *Salvelinus alpinus*.
 - **redberry** a rosehip.
 - **red bird** the puffin.
 - **red bog** a lowland bog.
 - **red breast** the robin.
 - **redcap** **1** a bird: the goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*. **2 red-cap** a bogle, a hobgoblin.
 - **red clock** an insect: a ladybird; *see clock*².
 - **red-coat** a soldier.
 - **red den** light (*e.g. a pipe, a fire*) [translation of Irish *deargadh*].
 - **reddener** an embarrassment that gives a person a red face.
 - **redfish** *noun, also two-spout redfish* a shellfish: the file shell *Lima hians*.
 - **red head** a bird: the pochard *Aythya ferina*.

- **red-headed wigeon, red-headed widgeon, red-headed pochard, red widgeon** a bird: the pochard *Fuligula ferina*.
- **Red head, fiery skull, Every hair in your head/ Wud tether a bull rhyme**
- **Red head, fiery skull, Every hair in your head would tether a bull** a taunt directed at someone with red hair.
- **red-hoop** a bird: the bullfinch *Pyrrhula Europaea*.
- **red hot** eager, anxious.
- **red in the comb, rid in the comb** angry.
- **redleg** a bird: the redshank *Tringa totanus*.
- **red-legged jackdaw** a bird: the chough *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax*, also known as the red-legged crow.
- **red-legged puffin** a bird: the black guillemot *Cepphus grylle*.
- **red line** an Irish Dispensary Ticket.
- **red loanin or roddin** the "red lane", the throat; *see* loan², rodding.
- **red neb** a bird: the puffin *Fratercula arctica*; *see* neb. *Illustration see* bridle.
- **redshank 1** *historical, derogatory* a bare-legged Highlander or Irishman. **2** a wild flower: purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*. *Illustration see* fox. **3** a bird: **(a)** the chough *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax*; **(b)** the oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. *Illustration see* pyot.
[In Standard English, a different bird, *Tringa totanus*]; *see* redleg. *See* shank.
- **red soldier** an insect: a ladybird.
- **red water** a disease of cattle.
- **red wigeon** a bird: the pochard *Aythya ferina*, also known as the red-headed wigeon.
- **ridden** redden.
[Scots, also Dorset and Isle of Wight, form *rid*; Scots and Northern English also *reid*; Scots also *rud*.]
- red²** *adjective* free, generous; liberal, open-handed.
[Scots "willing; skilful", from Old English *hræd* and Old Norse *hraðr* "quick, agile".]
- redd¹, red, also incorrectly read, verb 1 redd from** free from *e.g. redd a sheep from briers*. **2** clear; tidy up; *specifically (a) redd the table* clear away (the dishes, *etc.* after a meal); **(b) redd the fire** clear the ashes from the hearth. **3 frequently redd out (a)** clear out, clean out; **(b) specifically** clear out (a tobacco pipe). **4 frequently redd up** clear up, set in order; tidy, clean up [*redd up* also adopted in Standard English]. **5 redd (a person) out or up** give a thorough account of a person's faults; give a person a dressing-down. **6** disentangle: **(a)** unravel (*e.g.* yarn); **(b)** comb (the hair); **(c)** separate (people who are fighting); settle (a quarrel); **(d)** *figuratively* explain (a dream).
◆ **noun 1 also redd-up** the act of tidying or cleaning up; *also make a redd 2* anything used as a pipecleaner. **3** something to be got rid of or removed. **4** the soil stripped off the surface before quarrying rock.
- **redd, red 1 also redd up** set in order, tidied; cleaned. **2 redd of** rid of *e.g. I've got redd of that horse*. **3** finished with work *e.g. What time will you get red?* **4 of a cup, etc.** emptied.
- **reddance** riddance, a clearance.
- **redd (a person) up for three generations, read (a person) up from ass-hole ti' breakfast-time** sum up someone's faults, criticise someone.
- **redder 1** anything used as a pipe cleaner. **2** a redding-comb.
- **reddin, also reddin out** a clearance, an act of clearing out.
- **redding-blow, redder's blow** a blow that falls on a person who interferes in a quarrel or tries to separate combatants.
- **redding-comb, reddin-kaim 1** a large-toothed comb, used to untangle hair. **2** a fine hair-comb. *See* comb.
- **reddins** debris from tidying up.

- **reddin-up** a scolding.
- **two to fight and one to redd** said to constitute the ideal family.
[Scots and Northern English; partly from Old English *hreddan* "to rescue", partly from Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *reddan* "to tidy up, to put in order; to settle a dispute", partly from Old English *rēdan* "to put in order; to comb (the hair); to clear away; to clean up, to clean out".]
- redd², red** *noun* spawn.
[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]
- reddamadeasy** *see* read.
- reddle** *noun* a riddle (a coarse-meshed sieve).
[Lancashire form.]
- ree¹** *adjective* **1** **ree for** eager for. **2** enraged. **3** *of a person's character* unsteady, wild; wanton. **4** drunk. **5** *of a horse* spirited, frisky; restive, unmanageable.
[Scots; possibly from Old English *hrēoh* "fierce; disturbed in mind", except that this word is not recorded between the thirteenth and eighteenth centuries.]
- ree²** *verb* riddle (corn, *etc.*) with a circular motion.
◆ *noun* a riddle for corn, *etc.*
[General dialectal and Scots, origin unknown.] [ILLUS: ree]
- ree³** *exclamation* a call to a horse to go to the right.
- reebin** *see* ribbon.
- ree-bo** *noun* an episode of noisy, rowdy mirth.
- reed** *noun* **1** the cleavage of stone. **2** the grain in wood.
[The same word as Standard English *reed* "a cleavage in a bed of coal", origin unknown.]
- reed¹**: **reed sparrow** a bird: the reed bunting.
□ **take in your reed and gears** die.
- reed²**: **you could put out your reed for some people an they'd never say thanks**
- reef¹** *noun*, *in plural* a good deal (as applied to inseparable things like snow or hay).
- reefing** *noun* the act of tying ropes over old thatch.
- reehan** *noun* a tether for fastening cows in a cow-house.
- reek** *see* rick.
- reek** *noun* **1** smoke [also adopted in Standard English for "dense or oily smoke"]. **2** a smoke; the act of smoking. **3** fog, mist. **4** a down-draught in a chimney.
◆ *verb* smoke (a pipe).
□ **get the peat-reek blown aff you**
□ **reeky** *verb* make smoky, give a smoky flavour to.
[Mainly Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *reykr*.]
- reeker** *noun* a heavy blow *Co. Antrim*.
[Origin unknown.]
- reekher** *noun* a **reekher oa** a fire a big, flaming fire.
- reel¹** *noun* **1** a type of dance; the music for such a dance [also adopted in Standard English]. **2** a joke, a trick. **3** a yarn, a story, *especially* an amusing one. **4** a fool, an idiot.
◆ *verb* **1** make fun of, tease; mock (someone). **2** play a trick on, scare (someone).
□ **dance the reel of Bogie**
□ **in or on the reel-rall(s)** **1** on the spree, on a drinking bout.
2 *figuratively* suffering a fit (*e.g.* an epileptic fit).
□ **in the heel of the reel** at last, in the end.
□ **no thicker than reelers** *of legs* very thin.
□ **off the reel** odd, eccentric.
□ **play someone a reel, play a reel on someone, take a reel out of someone** play a trick on someone, take a hand out of someone.

- **reeler** a bird: the nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*.
- **reel-footed** club-footed; hence **reel** of the feet deformed.
- **reeling** of the weather gusty, windy.
- **reel o Bogie, reels o Bogie 1** an uproar, a row. **2** a state of uproar.
[The Bogie is a river in Aberdeenshire.]
- **reel off** tell a story or recite a poem fluently; say something at once, like a child with its lesson.
- **reel on** chatter away.
- **reel-rall, reel-rawl, reel-raal, ree-raw, ree-raa** *noun 1* a state of confusion. **2** a rage, bad temper. **3** a babble of noise. **4** a drinking-bout, a spree; hence **in or on the reel-rall(s) (a)** on the spree, on a drinking bout; **(b)** figuratively suffering a fit (e.g. an epileptic fit). **5** an untidy person.
- ◆ *adjective* in confusion, topsy-turvy.
[The second element of *reel-rall* is unidentified.]
- **reel-stool** a three-legged stool.
- **reely** fond of playing tricks on people.
- **right off the reel 1** also **straight off the reel** immediately, at once.
- 2** on the spur of the moment.
[Originally Scots, probably the same word as English *reel* "a rotary instrument on which thread is wound; to whirl".]
- reel²** *noun* a stone-breaker's hammer.
[Scots, origin unknown.]
- reel³**: adjective used with verb to be to mean to turn (something) upside down
- reel-raal, reel-rall, reel-rawl, reely** see reel¹.
- reenge** *verb* **reenge yerself oot** dissipate your energy.
 - **reenged** dissipated-looking.
[Scots form of English *range*.]
- ree-raa, ree-raw** see reel¹.
- reesht** see reest¹.
- reesk** *noun* waste or swampy ground where only rushes grow.
- reest¹, reesht, rist** *noun* a block attached to a plough to act as a second mouldboard, pushing up loose earth when making drills.
 - **double reested** of a plough having two reests. [ILLUS: reest]
[Scots and English dialectal *reest*, Southern English form also *rist*; from Old English *rēost* "a ploughshare".]
- reest²** *verb*, of a horse be restive; refuse to go forward.
 - ◆ *noun* restiveness or stubbornness in horses, especially **take the reest** take a fit of stubbornness.
 - **reesty** unwilling to go forward.
[Scots and Northern English form of obsolete Standard English *rest*, itself a shortened form of *arrest*.]
- reeve** see reave, roove.
- reever** see reave.
- reevogue: reevogue days** the borrowing days [Irish *laethe na riabhóige* literally "the days of the brindled cow"].
- reeziour** see razhure.
- refuse** *noun* the refusal (the chance of refusing something before it is offered to others) e.g. *He promised me the first refuse o that bit o ground*.
- reg** see rag.
- regard, regaird** *noun, verb* regard.
 - **in regard (of)** considering e.g. *in regard I have to go to the market tomorrow*.
 - **regairdless** reckless, regardless of consequences.
[Scots form *regaird*.]
- regimental** *adjective* proper, correct, according to regulation.
- regular, reglar, raglar** *adjective* regular.
 - ◆ *adverb* regularly.
 - **as reg'lar as a clock**

- **as reg'lar as the sun sets** very punctually and regularly.
[General dialectal and Scots form *reglar*.]
- reid** *see* red¹.
- relatives** *noun plural* friends.
- releigious** *adjective* religious.
[Scots form.]
- relex** *verb* relax.
- relieve** *verb* save, rescue *e.g.* *I relieved a duck from the dog.*
- remeid, remeed** *noun* a remedy.
[Scots; from Old French *remede*, an altered form of which gives Standard English *remedy*.]
- remember** *verb* **1 remember (someone) of or about** remind (someone) of or about (something) [archaic in Standard English]. **2 remember something to someone** bear in mind to repay someone; *literally* remind someone of something; pay someone back for an injury.
□ **remembry** memory [a blend of *remember* and *memory*].
- remlet, ramlet** *noun* a remnant.
[English dialectal form *remlet*.]
- remove** *noun* the re-shoeing of a horse with the existing shoe *e.g.* *one new shoe and one remove.*
- rench** *see* rinsh.
- render** *verb, also render down* liquefy by heat; melt fat, *especially* bacon fat in the process of making lard.
□ **rendered fat** dripping, melted fat.
- rendering** *noun* a coating of mortar on the underside of a roof to keep the slates firm.
- rendiculous** *see* ridiculous.
- renegade, runagate** *noun* a reprobate; an unsettled, restless, ne'er-do-well.
[Obsolete Standard English (still Northern English) *renegade* "a renegade, a deserter", from Medieval Latin *renegātus*. (*Renegade* is from the Spanish form of this, *renegado*.) The *runagate* form, also obsolete in Standard English (still general dialectal and Scots), is altered as if it was run + a³ + gate.]
- renegue, renege** *verb* **1 deny** [archaic in Standard English]. **2 refuse to follow suit in cards.** **3 jilt (a person).** **4 stop visiting, break off with (an acquaintance).** **5 play truant from school.**
◆ *noun* a failure to follow suit in cards.
- reng** *see* rinsh.
- renlet** *see* runlet.
- rensh** *see* rinsh.
- rent¹, rint** *noun* **1 rent.** **2 historical** money subscribed to carry on the battle for repeal of the Union of Great Britain and Ireland.
□ **rint payers** *jocular* pigs.
- rent²** *verb* vomit.
□ **a voice that would rent rocks**
[Also found in Glasgow in this sense; Scots and English dialectal form of *rend*.]
- ren-ten** *noun, in playing marbles* the game of five-ten.
- repeal** *verb* appeal.
- replenish** *verb* cleanse anew.
- requiscetion** *noun* a requirement *e.g.* *I won't use it till there's a requiscetion for it.*
- resaive** *see* receive.
- resate** *noun* a receipt.
[Older form in Scots and English.]
- resave** *see* receive.
- resemble** *verb* compare *e.g.* *He resembled him to everything he could think of.*
- residenter 1** a resident, *especially* someone who has resided for a long

time in a locality, an old inhabitant, *usually old resider* **2** *figuratively* applied to inanimate objects that have become landmarks.

reskort *verb* escort.

resolve: **resolve someone something** resolve something for someone, settle a dispute or argument *e.g. I cannot resolve you that.*

resort: **have resort of a girl** be fond of men's company.

resp *see* risp.

respect, respect: **my respects to you** a salutation; my kind regards.

responsible *adjective, of persons* of good standing.

result *noun* cause *e.g. A carpenter, being asked to find out the cause of a window not opening, after investigating for some time, said, "I have at last foun' the result of it".*

ret, rett 1 spread (flax) after taking it from the lint dam. **2** rot (flax) by steeping.

□ **retted** of flax rotted *e.g. To beat the retted stalk out of the fibre.*

□ **retting** the partial rotting caused by steeping flax.

□ **retting-ground** the field where flax is spread after steeping.

retan *noun* a tawse.

retch *see* raich, reach.

rether, retherly *see* rather.

return *noun, also back return* an extension to a building [*return* more commonly used than in England or Scotland].

returney *noun* an attorney.

reuch *see* rough.

revel *see* ravel¹, ravel².

reverence, riverince, rivrance *noun your reverence, his reverence* a title of respect for a minister or priest.

[Hiberno-English forms *riverince, rivrance*.]

rex *verb 1* stretch. **2 rex over** stretch for and hand over (something out of reach).

[Scots and Northern English *rax*, from Old English *raxan*.]

rheumatisms, rheumatiz, roomytics *noun plural* rheumatism, "rheumatics".

[General dialectal and Scots form *rheumatiz*.]

rhuburb *noun* rhubarb.

rhyme, rime *verb 1* of a child ask persistently, clamour. **2** complain, grumble.

ri *noun* couch-grass.

rib¹ *noun* a single hair.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *ribe*.]

rib² *noun 1* also **ribberie** a roof rafter. **2** a purlin in a roof.

◆ *verb, ploughing* cut a very shallow furrow for sowing seed, then use the plough to cover the seed.

□ **ribbing 1** the furrows made by the plough on first ploughing. **2** this method of ploughing.

ribber *see* rub¹.

ribbon, reebin *noun* a ribbon.

□ **ribbonism** the principles and practices of the Ribbon Society.

□ **Ribbon man** a member of the Ribbon Society.

□ **Ribbon Society** a Roman Catholic secret society formed in Ulster in the nineteenth century, and associated with rural unrest.

ribe *noun, also ribiather* a very thin person or animal; an animal in poor condition.

□ **ribed: ribed-top** a potato stalk that does not grow properly.

□ **ribish** of a pig, sometimes of a person thin.

□ **riby 1** of a pullet thin, stringy. **2** of a person tall and thin.

[South-Western Scots *ribe* "a tall, straggling cabbage plant; a long-legged thin person", origin unknown.]

ribelly *adjective* rebelly, rebellious.

rice, rise *noun* a twig.

[Scots and English dialectal, from Old English *hr̥ts* "twigs collectively".]

richt, rightly *see* right.

rick, rack, reek *noun* **1** a rick, a usually rectangular stack of corn or hay.

2 *rare* a medium-sized heap of hay.

□ **rickshifter** a low vehicle for moving hay. *Illustration see bogie.*

□ **rickstand** the base of a haystack.

□ **rickyard** a stackyard.

[Hiberno-English and Southern English form *reek*. *See also* ruck.]

rick¹ *verb* sprain, strain, wrench (a part of the body).

□ **rikil** sprain (a muscle, the ankle *etc.*).

rickety *noun* a ratchet brace for boring holes in metal *Co. Antrim, Co.*

Down.

rickle, ruckle *noun* **1** a loose heap of anything. **2** *specifically* a small stack of dried peat, long and narrow in shape and built in such a way as to allow air to circulate. **3** a large quantity (of stones, *etc.*). **4** *rare* a haystack.

5 *also* **rickle of bones, ruggle of bones, rickle of wrinkles** a very thin person or animal, a "skeleton". **6** a frame.

◆ *verb* build a rickle of peat.

□ **rickle-ban'** describing the structure of an old wall whose mortar has perished; *see* band.

[Scots and Northern English *rickle, ruckle*; probably of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *rygla* "a small loose heap". *See also* raughle.]

rickle¹ *verb* do something in a hurry *e.g. Rickle it up, boys.*

rickmatic, ricmatic, rickmetack *noun* **1** a concern, an affair. **2** a collection, a lot; a crowd; *frequently* **the whole rickmatick**

[Scots, altered form of *arithmetic*.]

ricksty *see* ruction.

ricmatic *see* rickmatick.

Rid *proper noun* Reid.

rid *see* red¹.

rid *see* ride.

rid *verb* **1** *also* **rid up** set in order, tidy, clean up. **2** separate (people who are fighting).

□ **be rids with** be quit of any further dealing with (a person).

[Apparently influenced in sense by redd¹.]

riddamadeasy *see* read.

ridden *see* red¹.

riddle *verb*: *e.g. She cud riddle her descent from one of the oul' Irish kings.*

riddlin an act of puzzling someone *e.g. She give him the quare riddlin.*

riddy *see* ready.

ride; *past tense and past participle* **rid, red**

□ **ride on the beetle** go on foot along with a party on horseback.

□ **ride on the goat** initiation into the Orange Order.

□ **rider: unknown rider** a stranger.

□ **ride the stang** *historical, of a man* suffer a punishment for wife-battering. The man was made to ride a pole through the village, accompanied by hoots, horns and tin-cans [Scots and mainly Northern English *stang* "a pole", from Old Norse *stang-*].

□ **ye can't ride two horses, you can't run wi' the hare an' hunt wi' the houn's**

[Past tense: *rid* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal); Scots and Northern English also *red*. Past participle: *rid* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal); Orkney and Shetland also *red*.]

ridge *noun* **1** a furrow. **2** a lazy-bed.

□ **ridge-pipe** a gutter along the edge of a roof.

ridiculous, rendiculous *adjective* **1** ridiculous. **2** scandalous, shameful.

ridyick *adjective* left-handed.

riesel *noun* a riesel of a man a large man.

riff-raff *noun* anything worthless.

riff¹ *verb* **1** quarrel. **2** rift apart of friends drift apart.

riff² *noun, verb* belch, burp.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *rypta* "to belch".]

rig¹ *noun, also rigley, riglin* a partly-castrated animal; a male animal with imperfectly-developed testes or only one testicle; also **rig horse, rig pig, rig bull, rig lamb** [also adopted in Standard English].

[Probably the same word as **rig**⁴, the undescended testicle being supposed to be attached to the ridge of the back.]

rig² *verb* tease, hoax (a person).

□ **go the rigs, run your rig 1** "run the rigs", "run your rig", behave recklessly. **2** insist on having your own way. **3** do a thing quickly and energetically.

□ **lead someone a rig, run or take a rig on someone, take a rig out of someone** play a trick on someone, take a hand out of someone.

□ **run a rig, run the rigs 1** play pranks. **2** run wild; go on a spree.

□ **run the rigs, run the rig on someone 1** ridicule someone. **2** scold, find fault with someone. **3** bully someone. **4** take advantage of someone.

[English slang *rig* "banter; a prank"; origin unknown.]

rig³ *verb* **rig up** rig yourself, dress up.

□ **rigged** dressed, especially well-dressed.

rig⁴ *noun* **1** a ridge. **2** a raised road. **3** *ploughing (a)* the raised parts between furrows; *(b)* the headland, the strip at the end of the field where the horses or tractor turn. *Illustration see hind.* **4** a drill in which potatoes, turnips, etc. are planted. **5** a lazy-bed, a potato-ridge. [ILLUS: rig]

□ **rig-and-fur** *noun* **1** the ridge and furrow of a ploughed field. **2** the ploughed field itself. **3** *knitting* rib, the rib; also **rig-and-fur socks**

◆ *verb* plough in ridge and furrow. *See fur.*

□ **rig-balk, also riggin-balk** the ridge-beam of a roof.

□ **riggie** a cow with a white stripe along her back.

□ **riggin-baulk** the ridge-beam of a roof.

□ **rigging, riggin** *noun* **1** the ridge of a roof; the ridge-pole. **2** the rafters forming a roof. **3** *loosely* a roof. **4** *ploughing* the headland, the strip at the end of the field where the horses or tractor turn. *Illustration see hind.*

□ **rigging-rib** *see rib*².

□ **rig-head** *ploughing* the end of a ridge.

□ **rig-tree** the ridge-beam of a roof.

□ **you may love the kirk, but no' ride the riggin' o't** said to a person always talking of one subject.

[Scots and Northern English; from Old Norse *hrygr*, corresponding to Old English *hrycg*, which gives *ridge*. *See also rig*¹.]

rig⁵ *noun* the smallest of a litter.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

riggie *see rig*⁴.

rihrua *noun* a bird: the chaffinch.

right, richt *adjective* **1** right. **2** good, valuable *e.g. He's a right wee fellow* [more commonly used than in Standard English]. **3** **not right** not normal (said *e.g.* of a person with an unusual ability such as second sight).

◆ *adverb* **1** right, completely, directly. **2** very, extremely *e.g. You're a right bad boy* [archaic in Standard English except U.S.A.].

◆ *noun* **right to** an obligation, a duty to (do something).

□ **all right** quite sober.

□ **right ahead** straight ahead.

□ **right as ninepence** quite right, quite safe.

□ **right as rain** quite right, quite safe.

□ **right as the mail** quite right, quite safe.

□ **right away 1** immediately; from that time forth. **2** the entire distance

e.g. He went right away to Belfast.

- right forenungst** over against.
- rightly, richtly** *adverb* well, satisfactorily.
- ◆ **adjective 1** well, in good health. **2 rightly on**, drunk.
- rightly on** well advanced in a state of drunkenness.
- right now** just now.
- right o** *emphatic* yes.
- right off** immediately.
- right-of-way** a cart-path or pad.
- right or wrong 1** earnestly *e.g. He pressed me right or wrong to do it.*
- 2** willy-nilly *e.g. Right or wrong he wud have him to go with him.*
- right out** outright, completely.
- right, reason or none** regardless of any consideration *e.g. He was determined to go, right, reason or none.*
- right wrongs nobody**
- right ye** a command to a cow to stand in a suitable position for milking.
[Scots form *richt*.]

rightify *verb 1* rectify, put right. **2** verify, confirm.

[Hiberno-English, influenced by right.]

rigley, riglin *see* rig¹.

rigmarowl *noun* a rigmarole, an inconsequential story.

[*Rigmarole* is originally *Ragman roll*: for the form *-rowl*, see roll.]

rim: break the rim of your belly or stomach rupture the peritoneum.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and Northern English); from Old English *réoma* "a membrane", influenced in form by *rim* "an edge, a border".]

rime *see* rhyme.

rin, rinaboot *see* run.

rinch *see* rinsh.

rind *noun* rime, hoar-frost.

[Scots and Northern English, altered form.]

rind¹ *noun* the bark of a tree.

rine *see* rain.

rines *noun plural* reins.

[Scots form.]

ring¹, *past participle* **rung**, *noun* the hole aimed at in playing marbles.

- dance rings round someone** run rings round, surpass someone.
- far away ring, near hand storm** said when seeing a halo round the moon. It is a common belief that she is going to be a bad moon if there is a ring round her. We may look out for rain and storms until she changes at the quarter
- have too many rings on your horn** *of a person* be too old.
- not ring someone's mill** not be sufficient for someone.
- ringed dotterel** a bird: the ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*.
- ringle-eyed** wall-eyed, having eyes with very light-coloured irises; *hence ringly-een* eyes of this kind; *see eye*.
- ring o day** the dawn, sunrise [translation of Irish *fáinne an lae*].
- ring rash** a bird: an unidentified bunting.
- ring rasher** a bird: the reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*; *cf. rush¹*.

Illustration see black.

- ring rush** a bird: the ring ouzel *Turdus torquatus*, also known as the ring thrush [perhaps influenced by ring rasher].
- ring tail** a bird: the female hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*.
- rung: screechin' like a rung pig**
- vomit, sleep, fight or eat rings (a)round you** vomit, *etc.* a great deal.
[Past participle: old form *rung*, influenced by ring³.]

ring² *noun* a row; a violent dispute.

[*Cf. Scots ring* "to rant; to domineer", form of *reign*.]

ring³ *verb* **ring the ears** pull the ears of a person.

ringe *see* rinsh.

ringer *noun* a heavy blow.

ringlet *noun, nickname* a tall, thin person in poor physical condition *Co. Antrim*.

[*Cf.* Irish *reanglamán, reanglach*.]

- **ringly-een** eyes of this kind; *see* eye.

rinlet *see* runlet.

rinsh, rinch, rensh, rench, ringe, renge, range, rainch *noun, verb* rinse.

[Old forms *rinsh, rinch* (still Northern English), *rensh, rench* (still English dialectal); Scots *ringe, range*.]

rint *see* rent¹.

riotery *noun* noisy pigs and geese in a farmyard *e.g.* *You shudda heard the riotery. It was worse than a disco.*

rip¹: **rippin, rippin 1** *of the weather* sharp, cutting. **2** very angry.

rip² *noun* a rough, abusive woman [in colloquial Standard English, applied only to a man].

- **rippin mad** very angry.

ripe *verb* clear out, clean (a pipe, hole, *etc.*).

- **riper** anything used to clean out a pipe, hole, *etc.*

[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *rypan* "to plunder".]

rippet *noun 1* an uproar, a commotion, *frequently* **kick** or **stir up a rippet 2** a romp, a frolic.

[Scots, possibly onomatopoeic.]

ripple *verb* take the seed off (flax) with a special comb.

- **rippler** someone who ripples flax.
- **rippling** the process of taking off the flax seeds.

ripple-grass *noun* a wild plant: the ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*. *Illustration see* cock¹.

[Scots; from Northern English *ripple* "a scratch", itself of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian *ripla* "to scratch". The leaves were traditionally used as a remedy for scratches.]

rise *see* rice.

rise; *past tense and past participle* **riz, ruz**; *verb 1* rise. **2** gain the top of (a hill or slope) *e.g.* *They were risin the brae when I saw them.* **3** also **riz** raise; *specifically* (**a**) lift (potatoes, *etc.*); (**b**) raise (the price, rent, *etc.*) [rare in Standard English]; (**c**) raise (money); (**d**) raise (the dead). **4** **rise the psalm** or **tune of a precentor** begin the unaccompanied singing of a psalm. **5** **rise up** rouse, cause to rise.

- **a rise in the stern** a kick in the behind.
- **be** or **get (a bit) risen** become angry.
- **risen** enraged.
- **rise out** go out, travel around [translation of Irish *éiri amach*].
- **riser 1** a rise in the stern. **2** *police* a night-shift; *also* **early riser, late riser**.

- **rising** *in reference to age* approaching *e.g.* *He's rising ten.*

- **rising time** when you get up.

- **wud ye rise with me?** an invitation to dance.

[Past tense: old form (still general dialectal and Scots) *riz*,

Hiberno-English also *ruz*. Past participle: old form (still general dialectal and Scots) *riz*. *See also* raise.]

risom, rissom, risson *noun* a small piece.

[Scots and Northern English; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Swedish dialectal *ressma* "an ear of corn".]

risp, resp *verb* rasp, make a hard, grating sound.

- ◆ *noun* a rasp, a file.

[Scots *risp*, North-Eastern Scots also *resp*; from Old Norse *rispa* "to scratch".]

rissom, risson *see* risom.

rist *see* reest¹.

rit *verb*, *peat-cutting* mark a line with a spade on the surface before cutting.

- **rit-land** arable land.
 - **ritting** the act of marking turf with a spade before cutting.
- [Scots and Northern English, from Old English **rittan* "to cut, to slit".]

rit¹ *noun* **rit of the sky** the horizon.

rive *verb* **rive from** wrench away from [archaic in Standard English].

river *noun* **The River** Lough Foyle.

riverince, **rivrance** *see* reverence.

riz *see* raise, rise.

R.M.D. *see* ready.

roach *noun* a fish: the rudd *Scardinius erythrophthalmus* [in Standard English, a different fish, *Rutilus rutilus*].

roach-lime *noun* roche-lime, lime from the kiln before it is slaked.

road *verb* direct (someone), show (someone) the way.

- **aw roads** in all directions; *see* all.
- **in the road** in the way.
- **no road** in no way *e.g.* *They can do it no road.*
- **not lie your road** not be your business.
- **not see someone in your road 1** not regard someone as any competition. **2 I wouldn't see him or her in my road** I could do (a particular task) much better than him or her, implying that the person's slow and clumsy efforts to do the task result in his or her being "in the road".
- **out of the road** out of the way.
- **road-end** the end of a road where it reaches a junction or crossroads.

roan *see* rone, rowan.

roan¹ *noun*, *also* **roany** a roan-coloured cow or other animal.

roan² *noun* a thicket of bushes, ferns, *etc.*

[Scots and Northern English; probably of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Old Norse *runr*.]

roanyin *see* runion.

roar *verb* **1** *of a bull* bellow [rare in Standard English, where the word is usually applied to lions, tigers, *etc.*]. **2** *of a cow* moo.

- **roarer** a broken-winded horse.
- **roarin** the mooing of cows.

roast *verb* fry.

- **roasted cheese** toasted cheese.
- **roaster**, *also* **roast pan** a gridiron (an implement with bars for cooking over an open fire). *Illustration see* griddle.
- **roasties** roast potatoes.

Robin:

robin *noun* a robin on a thorn-bush is a sign of good weather.

- **a robin that's rared among robins won't live among crows**
- **Robin-run-the-hedge** a wild flower: (a) common cleavers *Galium aparine*; *see also* Rab; (b) hedge bindweed *Calystegia sepium*.
- **the robin and the wren are God Almighty's cock and hen** *rhyme*

robust: **robustious** robust, vigorous [archaic in Standard English].

roch *see* rough.

rochet *noun* a child's frock.

[Obsolete in Standard English (latterly English dialectal), from Old French *rochet* "an outer garment in the form of a smock or mantle".]

rochness *see* rough.

rock *see* ruck.

rock¹ *plural* **rockses**

- **rock-dulse** dulse growing on rocks (as opposed to shells).
- **rock-fish** the coalfish *Pollachius virens*, when about one year old.
- **rock lark** a bird: the rock pipit *Anthus petrosus*.
- **Rock of Cairn** *place-name* Carndonough.
- **rock ouzel** a bird: the oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*.

Illustration see pyot.

- **rock pigeon** a bird: the rock dove.
- **rock-rue** a wild flower: (a) eyebright *Euphrasia officinalis*; (b) slender St. John's-wort *Hypericum pulchrum*.

rock² *noun* a gait of a horse in which it moves the feet on both sides simultaneously instead of off fore-foot with on hind-foot.

- **racking** the pace of the American trotters.

rock³

- **the rock of an old spinning-wheel, and a switch or two of lint, grown yellow with age** a wish.
- **too much tow to your rock** "too many irons in the fire".

rock⁴ *noun* a town square, a market-place.

rocket *noun* the plume of a hearse *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*.

rocket¹: blue rocket a flower: aconite, used with orange lilies to make arches on the 12th of July.

rockses *see* rock¹.

rocky *adjective* direct *e.g. the rocky road to Dublin*.

rod *verb* **1** beat. **2** *gardening* support (peas) with stakes. **3** hold back (corn) with a rod to make it easier for a person reaping to cut it with a scythe.

- **rod liagh** a seaweed: tangle *Laminaria digitata* [*rod* + *liagh*].
- **rod the pays** quarrel.

rodding, roddin, roddeen, roddy *noun* a grass-grown lane, a narrow track; *specifically* (a) across a field; (b) leading to a peat-bog.

[Scots *roddin(g)*, origin unknown. The form *roddeen* is apparently influenced by the Irish diminutive ending *-ín*.]

rog *noun* a seaweed: long tangle *Chorda filum*.

[Origin unknown.]

rog *see* rough.

rogue

- **when rogues falls out or disagrees, honest men gets or falls into their own**

roil *verb, originally* stir up water or liquor and make it turbid by moving the sediment.

- **ril'd** irritated.

roit *noun* a riot.

[*Cf.* Scots *royet* "wild, unruly", Renfrewshire also "an uproar"; origin unknown.]

roitery, rytery *noun* **1** useless rubbish. **2** also applied to animals, fowls, *etc.*

- **the oul' roitery** the usual state of affairs.

[*Cf.* *roit*; or else Yorkshire *royther* "to make noise and confusion", origin unknown.]

roll, rowl, row *verb* roll.

◆ *noun* a roll; *specifically* (a) a bread roll; (b) *also* **rowings** a roll of fibre drawn out and twisted with the fingers, to be fed into the spinning-wheel.

[ILLUS: roll]

- **rowler** a roller.
- **rowl the teeth out of a carpenter's saw** *e.g. Them motor-boats would rowl the teeth out of a carpenter's saw.*

□ **rowly:**

□ **rowly-powly** a kind of dance: a roly-poly.

[Old form (still general dialectal and Scots) *rowl*, Scots also *row*. *See also* *rigmarowl*.]

rollyan *noun* roundstone.

Roman broth *noun* very thin oatmeal porridge with a lump of butter and an onion.

rompus *noun* a rumpus, a row.

[Old form.]

rone, roan, rawn *noun* a gutter along the edge of a roof.

- **rone-pipe** a drainpipe.

[Scots *rone, roan*; Ayrshire also *ronn*; origin unknown.]

rong *see* rung.

ronian *see* runion.

roo¹: **down the roo** down the current, with the tide *Malin Head, Co.*

Donegal.

[*Cf.* Scots (mainly Shetland) *roost* "a strong current", from Old Norse *rōst*.]

roo² *noun* the extreme point of a headland.

[*Cf.* Scottish Gaelic *rudha* "a headland" (corresponding to Irish *rubha*).]

rood *noun* a measure of length: variously seven or eight yards (6.40 metres or 7.32 metres) [in Standard English, now only used as a square measure, not as a linear measure].

roof: **roof-cast** erect a false roofing.

□ **roof-tree** *figuratively* a house *e.g.* *Rested beneath his parents' roof-tree.*

rook *noun* **1** a bird: the jackdaw *Corvus monedula* [in Standard English, a different bird, *Corvus frugilegus*, *cf.* **crow**]. **2** a big, rough fellow; a cantankerous fellow.

rookied *adjective* wrecked.

roolie-boolie, roolyie-boolyie *noun* confusion, uproar; an uproar, a disturbance.

[Irish *ruaille buaille*.]

room *noun, usually the room* in a two-roomed house, the room other than the kitchen; the best room in a small house, the parlour; *also the good*

room, the sitting room

□ **in room of** instead of.

□ **room-door** the door of a room.

See also sum.

roomytics *see* rheumatisms.

roon' *see* round.

roopy, roupy *adjective* hoarse.

[Scots and English dialectal, either onomatopoeic or from Dutch *roepen* "to cry out".]

roosel, roozel *noun* **1** oatmeal mixed with water. **2** *also roozel dunt*

potato bread made with oatmeal.

[*Cf.* Scots *rouse* "to stir up, to rouse", from *roose* (Scots form of *rouse*) + *-le*.]

Rooshia *noun* Russia.

□ **Rooshian** Russian.

roost *see* rusty.

roost¹ *noun, verb* rust.

□ **roosted** *adjective* rusted.

□ **rooster** a good fighting man.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

roost²: **rooster** a cock.

roost³ *noun* the least amount, *thus not a roost Co. Antrim*

[Origin unknown.]

roost⁴ *noun* a contest (*e.g.* at wrestling).

roosty *see* rusty.

root¹, **rit** *noun, verb* root.

□ **root an crap** root and branch, wholly, completely; *see* **crop**.

□ **rooter** *handball* a ball that strikes the base of the wall and does not rebound.

[Scots form *rit*.]

root² *verb, figuratively* rummage about looking for something.

roove, reeve *noun, boatbuilding* a rove (a burr for a rivet).

[Scots forms.]

roozel *see* roosel.

rope, rape, raip *noun* rope, a rope.

□ **roped cock** the penultimate hay-heap.

- **the end of a rope** a flogging.

[Scots and Northern English form *rape*, *raip*.]

ropian, **roping**: **the roping world** *lit* the European world; civilisation
e.g. the best landlord in the roping world.

rose: **rose-linnet** a bird: the linnet *Carduelis cannabina* in its summer plumage.

- **rose-noble** a wild flower: (a) figwort *Scrophularia spp*; (b)

houndstongue *Cynoglossum officinale*.

- **rose of Sharon** a garden variety of St. John's wort *Hypericum calycinum*.

- **rose without a thorn** a cultivated shrub: *Kerria japonica*.

- **rosy**:

- **rosy grey** a bird: the redpoll *Carduelis flammea*. *Illustration see thorn.*

roset *see* rosin.

rosiedandrum, **rosy-dandheraun** *noun* a cultivated shrub: the rhododendron.

[Scots *rosiedandrum*, altered form influenced by **rose**.]

rosin, **rosit**, **roset**, **rozet** *noun* rosin, resin.

- **rosin-end** a shoemaker's waxed thread.

- **rosiner**, **rawsiner** **1** a large glass of whiskey. **2** a thump, a heavy blow.

- **rosin-slut**, **rosit-slut** a rag dipped in resin, used as a substitute for a candle; *see* slut.

[Scots forms *rosit*, *roset*, *rozet*.]

rosperous *adjective* **1** rough in behaviour, boisterous. **2** angry.

[Nonce word.]

rosy-dandheraun *see* rosiedandrum.

rot *noun* potato blight.

- **rot-gut** any bad, thin liquor.

- **rot-heap** a heap of hay: the first small heap, usually about three feet high, made by haymakers.

- **rotten**: **rotten teeth** back tooth.

- **rotten wi money** "stinking rich".

rotation placed orderly in a row, ranged in straight lines.

rough, **rouch**, **rug**, **rog**, **roch**, **reuch** *adjective* **1** rough. **2** plentiful, abundant; well-furnished; well-off. **3** *of grass* luxuriant but of poor quality.

- ◆ *verb* shoe (a horse) with frost-nails (pieces of iron inserted in a horseshoe to give extra traction).

- **in the rough** **1** in disorder. **2** *of linen in the process of manufacture* rough-washed.

- **may yer male barrel niver run empy and may yer bread foriver be rough-casted wi' butther**

- **rough and ready** **1** *of a person* kind-natured but unpolished in manners. **2** *of food* plentiful but served without ceremony.

- **Rough and ready/ Clean and plenty/ Is the best** *saying*

- **roughcast**, **roughcasted** dashed, covered with a thrown coat of lime mortar [in Standard English, the mortar includes gravel].

- **rough cock** heap of hay: the first small heap, usually about three feet high, made by haymakers.

- **rough-heads** the surface sods of peat, with grass and heather on them, burned only when supplies of better fuel have been used up.

- **rough-hewn** *of a person* rude, ill-mannered.

- **roughie** a bully.

- **roughness**, **rochness** **1** roughness. **2** abundance in a rough and ready way. **3** a margin, some money left over for contingencies.

- **rough side** *or* **edge of the tongue** abusive or scolding speech.

- **rough-spun** rough in manner or speech, unpolished.

- **rough-washed** *of linen* unfinished.

- **rough-weed** a wild flower: the marsh woundwort *Stachys palustris*.

- **take it rough** amiss *e.g. Ye needn't take it rough*; take it amiss.

[Scots forms *rouch, rugh, rogh, roch, reuch*.]

round *see* rown.

round, roun', roon' *adjective* round.

◆ *noun* **1** a course at a meal. **2** *ploughing, also round ridge* the headland, the place where the horses or tractor turn, afterwards ploughed at right angles. *Illustration see* hind.

◆ *preposition* round, around.

□ **as roun as an O, as roun as a hoop**

□ **be put to the rounds** be driven to extremities.

□ **get roun'** recover, improve in health.

□ **give someone the rounds o' the kitchen** give someone a good beating.

□ **in the round-up** in the end, at last.

□ **roon-shoothered** round-shouldered; *see* shoulder.

□ **round cock** the medial hay-heap.

□ **rounderies** a children's game: rounders.

□ **round O** a stupid fellow, a silly fellow; a 'softy'.

□ **round up** *figuratively* collect together (inanimate objects) *e.g.* *Round up those shovels.*

□ **round-up:**

□ **with a round cast** a 'throw' in sowing grain.

[South of England, also Scots, form *roun'*; Scots also *roon'*.]

roup *noun* a sale by auction.

□ **roup of the pews** *Presbyterian*

[Scots and Northern English; from Old English *hrōpan* "to cry out", influenced in form by Old Norse *raupa* "to boast".]

roupy *see* roopy.

rousing *adjective* excellent *e.g.* *I had rousing sport, a rousing time.*

rout *see* rowt.

routh, rowth *noun, also in plural* plenty, abundance.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

rove, rauve *verb* rave, be delirious.

◆ *noun* a dream.

[The same word as Standard English *rove* "to ramble", not related to Standard English *rave*.]

row *see* roll.

row: **row-pins** rowlocks.

rowan *see* rown.

rowan, roan *noun, also rowan-tree, rowan-bush* the mountain ash *Sorbus aucuparia*.

□ **ranty** the rowan tree, the mountain ash; *also ranty-berry*

[contracted form of *rowan tree*]

□ **rowan-berry** the fruit of the mountain ash.

[Scots and Northern English; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *raun*. The usual word in Scotland, where it is pronounced with "ow" as in "clown". The form *roan* corresponds to the pronunciation in the North of England.]

rowboat *noun* a robot.

rowl, rowler, rowly-powly *see* roll.

rown, rowan *noun, usually plural* **1** *also round* the roe of fish; *see also* melt. **2** the fry of the minnow.

[Scots and Northern English *rown, rowan*; Northern English also mistakenly "corrected" form *round*; from Old Norse *hrogn*, itself related to the source of English *roe*.]

rowt, rout *verb, of cattle* bellow; low loudly; moo.

◆ *noun* **1** a bellow; a lowing. **2** the bray of a donkey.

□ **routing, routin** *noun* lowing.

□ **routing-wheel, routing rocks** a whirlpool at the entrance to Strangford Lough which makes a noise at certain states of the tide.

[Scots; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *ruta* (of the sea, *etc.*) "to roar". Scots and English dialectal, from Old Norse *rauta* "to bellow".]

rowth *see* routh.

royal *noun* a bird: the black-headed gull.

roystering *adjective* hearty, swaggering.

rozet *see* rosin.

rub¹: **not have one happenny to rub on the other** indicating poverty.

- rub along** manage to live.
- rubber, ribber, also rubber-apron** an apron made from coarse material such as an old sack, worn when doing farmwork.
- rubbin away** a reply to the question, "How are you?"
- rubbing**:
- rubbing-bottle** a bottle of liniment.
- rubbing-post, rubbing-stump** a post set up for cattle to rub themselves against.
- rubbing-stone** a stone for cattle to rub themselves against.
- rub-over** a tidying up.
- rub someone agin the grain**
- rub someone the wrong way, rub someone the wrong way round**

rub² *verb* rob.

[Scots form.]

rubbidge, rubbitch *noun* rubbish.

[Scots and English dialectal form *rubbidge*; North-West Midland, also Scots, form *rubbitch*.]

ruck, rock, also hayruck *noun* **1** a small haystack made temporarily in the fields. **2** *rare* a round haystack. **3** *rare* a small heap of hay.

◆ *verb* heap up (hay). [ILLUS: ruck]

rucklifter, also ruckshifter a low vehicle for moving hay. *Illustration see bogie.*

[Scots and Northern English; from a variant **hruka* of Old Norse *hraukr* (itself corresponding to Old English *hrēac*, which gives rick).]

ruck¹ *verb, usually ruck up* wrinkle, crease, crumple.

rucket *adjective* curled *e.g.* *A low, broad man, with a rucket head and bull neck.*

ruckle *see* rickle.

rucksing *see* ruxing.

rucksty *see* ruction.

ruccion *noun* **1** *also rucksty, ricksty* a riot, an uproar; a disturbance, a row, *frequently raise a ruccion, also make a ruccion **2** **the Ruccion** the insurrection of 1798.*

have a ricksty quarrel.

raise a ruccion, raise ruccions, make a ruccion cause an uproar.

[General dialectal and Scots, also colloquial, *ruccion*; origin unknown, possibly an alteration of *insurrection*.]

rud *see* red¹.

ruddy *noun* a donkey.

rudyin: **a rudyin o' claes** a shred of clothing.

[Possibly Irish *ruidín* "a little thing; a small amount".]

rue *verb* change your mind, go back upon your word.

- better rue and flit than rue and sit** said of a man running away rather than go through with a marriage.
- rue-bargain** a bargain repented of.
- rue every hair of your head** regret seriously.
- rue-rub** a sore on the heel, caused by chafing or scratching.
- take the rue** regret an engagement or promise.

rue¹: **They say rue an' thyme won't grow in the one garden,/ Rue without time is not worth a farden**

rug¹ *verb* pull, tug (*especially* hair); pull about roughly, *frequently rug and*

rive.

□ **rugging** *of pain* gnawing.

[Scots and Northern English; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian *rugga* "to swing back and forwards".]

rug² *noun* tow (the shorter, poor quality fibre produced in scutching flax).

rugged *adjective* healthy, strong.

ruggle *see* rickle.

rough *see* rough.

rugous *adjective* meaning unknown *e.g.* *A man ... rugous and big-boned.*

ruinate *verb* ruin, destroy (*especially* a person's moral character and reputation) [archaic in Standard English].

□ **ruination** ruin, destruction.

ruined *adjective* drenched, soaked with rain.

rule: by the rule of the contrary

□ **don't rule by me** don't follow my example.

rullion¹, rallion *noun* a lout; a big, rough, dirty person or animal.

[Scots, literally "a rough shoe made of untanned hide"; from Old Norse *hriflingr* "a rawhide shoe".]

rullion², rulyon *noun* a wheel for winding yarn, usually made from an old spinning-wheel.

[Irish *roithleán*.] [ILLUS: rullion]

rumberella *see* umbrell.

rumble, rumble *verb* **1** rumble. **2** shake about; mix by stirring. **3** wash roughly; *specifically* (a) wash (clothes); (b) wash (potatoes) by stirring them about in water; (c) wash (your hands). **4 fishing** stir up (the water).

◆ *noun* a quick shake in water.

□ **put that in yer jug and rumble it!** "put that in your pipe and smoke it", ponder that!

□ **rumlty-thump, rumplety thump** **1** at random. **2** in disorder.

□ **rummler** a stick used for stirring potatoes to wash them.

□ **rummler-basket** a basket with wooden rails, used for rummling potatoes.

□ **rummly** *of a crowd of people* rowdy, not respectable.

[Scots and Northern English form *rummle*. *See also* rummelgumption, rummlegarey.]

rumdinger *noun* a "humdinger", anything exceptionally good of its kind *Co. Donegal*.

rumlty-thump *see* rumble.

rummelgumption *noun* an imaginary illness.

[Scots "commonsense", in plural "flatulence"; Scots and Northern English *rumgumption* (intensifying prefix *ram-*, *rum-* as in *ramguntchagh*) + *gumption* "commonsense", influenced in form and sense by rumble.]

rummle *see* rumble.

rummlegarey, rammlagarry *noun* **1** an unsettled, restless person. **2** a long, nonsensical story. **3** a person who talks nonsense.

[Scots *rummlegarey, ramblegarey* "a reckless person"; probably rumble + an unidentified second element.]

rummler, rummly *see* rumble.

rump: rump and stump "root and branch", entirely, completely.

rumplety thump *see* rumble.

run, rin; past tense run; past participle rin; verb **1** run. **2** chase, run (a person) off a property. **3** gad about.

◆ *noun* a run.

□ **get the run** be dismissed.

□ **give someone the run** dismiss someone.

□ **on the run** "on one's keeping".

□ **rin aff your feet** overworked.

□ **run-about, rinaboot** **1** a run-about, a restless person who is always

travelling. **2** a gossip. *See* *about*¹.

- **run across someone** cross someone, incur someone's anger.
- **run again 1** "run (up) against", meet by chance. **2 run again yourself** act against your own advantage. *See* *again*.
- **run agen** meet by chance.
- **run a reel of business affairs** go wrong, get into confusion; *see* *reel*¹.
- **runaway historical** a gathering to settle arrangements for the marriage of a couple who had "run away" for one night in order to overcome parental opposition.
- **run between you and your wit** allow something to upset you; dwell on something.
- **rundale, also runrig, run ridge historical 1** the joint holding of land, with each field divided into small portions which were swapped round annually so as to allow a fair distribution of each type of land; *see also* *changedale*. **2 latterly** the joint holding of rough grazing only. **3 worked in rundale of a farm** farmed by the rundale system. *See* *rig*⁴.
- **runner 1** a pig old enough to walk to market. **2** a small channel for water.
- **run out** exhaust or impoverish (land).
- **run-out bog** former bog that has been exhausted and is now cultivated.
- **run-the-country** a wild young fellow who is never at home.
- **run thegither** be companions; *see* *thegither*.
- **run up of stockings** ladder.
- **run your own convoy** manage your own affairs.
- **worked in rundale of a farm** farmed by the rundale system.

[Scots and Northern English form *rin*; from rare Old English *rinnan*, reinforced by Old Norse *rinna*. The form *run* was originally a past tense form in Old English. Past tense: *run* obsolete in Standard English, still Scots and English dialectal. Past participle: Roxburghshire form *rin*.]

run¹ noun the rim of the wheel in a spinning-wheel.

runagate *see* *renegade*.

runchy, ranshy adjective, of vegetables hard or stringy and tasteless.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

rung *see* *ring*¹.

rung, rong noun 1 a rung. **2** a cudgel; a staff. **3** a tall, strong man or boy.

4 derogatory an old person, *especially* an old woman.

[Southern English form *rong*.]

rungy [*g* as in "rangy"] **adjective, of a person** strong, although not muscular or well-built *Co. Armagh*.

[Possibly an altered form of *rangy*.]

runiel noun a very thin cow *Co. Antrim*.

[Origin unknown.]

runion, ronian, roanyin noun 1 a rag. **2** a stitch, *frequently without a ronian on*; *cf.* *rudyin, doll*.

- **not have a runion to your name** be penniless.

runkle verb wrinkle, crease.

- ◆ **noun** a wrinkle.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

runlet, rundlet, rinlet, renlet noun, historical a small barrel holding ten or twelve gallons (45.46 or 54.53 litres), used for buttermilk, *etc.*

[*Rundlet* obsolete in Standard English (latterly English dialectal), from Old French *rondelet*. *Runlet* archaic in Standard English.]

runnion noun a small wheel for spinning or winding yarn.

runrig *see* *run*.

runt noun 1 a stump (of a tree). **2** the dry stalk of a cabbage-plant. **3** wood used for kindling a fire. **4** the smallest pig in a litter [in Standard English, any small, weakly piglet]. **5** an old cow or ox. **6** a wizened old woman.

7 a miserly person.

- **as ignorant as a kail runt**

- **runty** of heather woody.
- rush¹, rash** *noun* a type of plant: a rush.
 - **as straight as a rush** erect, straight. *also, figuratively*
 - **rush-ban** a rush band for tying a beat of flax.
 - **rush-bush** a clump of rushes.
 - **rush-candle** a rushlight.
 - **rush light** a cruise.
 - **rush sparrow** a bird: the reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, also known as the reed sparrow. *Illustration see black.*
[Scots and Northern English form *rash*.]
- rush²** *noun* a rash (on the skin).
[Scots, also Kent, form.]
- rush³** *noun* an assembly of people.
- russet** *noun* a bird-trap in the form of a square box made of rods.
[Origin unknown.]
- Russia: Russian curlew** a bird: the bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica* [this bird is a winter visitor from the Arctic circle].
- rusticoat** *noun* a variety of apple.
- rusty, roosty** *adjective* of a horse stubborn.
 - **cut up rusty** of a person be awkward to deal with.
 - **rust, roost 1** of a horse, **also be roosted** refuse to work or go forward; be restive or stubborn. **2** of a person be in the huff, sulk.
 - **ruster** an obstinate horse.
 - **take the rust** of a horse refuse to work.
[*Rusty* obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal), Scots and Northern English form *roosty*; alteration of *resty* (itself an altered form of *restive*), influenced by English *rust*.]
- rut¹** *noun* an insult *Co. Donegal*.
[Origin unknown.]
- rut²** *noun* the weakest in a litter.
[Hiberno-English, also Leicestershire, form of English dialectal *rit(ling)*; origin unknown.]
- ruteen, roothen** *noun* the ankle.
- ruxing, rucksing** *noun* the act of tousling (someone's hair or clothing).
[Isle of Man *rux* "to tousle", origin unknown.]
- ruz** *see* raise, rise.
- rytery** *see* roitery.
- 's** *see* be, ye.
- saa** *see* sow.
- saalt** *see* salt.
- saaser** *noun* a saucer.
[South of England form.]
- saat** *see* salt.
- sab** *see* sap².
- sab** *noun, verb* sob.
[Scots, also Hiberno-English, form.]
- sack: one sack, one sample, as the Tinker said** said by a seller to someone who takes too many samples when buying something.
 - **sack full** completely full, satiated.
 - **sack thick** to the utmost, superlatively.
- sacking** *noun* a defeat in a contest of wits [also adopted generally in English slang, but now obsolete or rare].
- sacrament** *noun* an oath *e.g. I'll take my sacrament on it.*
 - **sacrament-time** the season at which the sacrament is administered in Presbyterian churches.
- sad** *see* sow.
- sad** *adjective* **1** of porridge stodgy. **2** of cooked potatoes soapy, waxy.
 - **sad as lead**
 - **sit over your sads** brood regretfully over something you have done.

saddle: **saddleback** the greater black-backed gull.

- **saddle-backed** having a low back; StE of horses.

sae *see* sea, so.

safe: **as safe as in God's own pocket** a pious saying.

- **as safe as male in a chist**
- **safe home!** said to someone leaving: goodbye.
- **safety** [old pronunciation with three syllables]

saft, saftie *see* soft.

sag, seg *verb* **1** sag, droop. **2** of a top-heavy load tilt to one side. **3** bulge, belly out. **4** of a person be depressed.

- **sagged** bent double *e.g.* *I'm fairly sagged with rheumatism.*
- **sagging, also a saggin in your stomach** a queasy feeling caused by hunger.

[Scots and English dialectal form *seg*.]

saggan *see* seggan.

saibith *noun* the sabbath *Co. Antrim*.

saidle *noun, verb* saddle.

[Scots form.]

sail *noun* **1** an oil-cloth used to cover a load of corn or a cornstack. **2** a ride in a cart or passenger vehicle.

- ◆ *verb, also set sail* ride in a cart or passenger vehicle.

sailor: **sailor's grip** a way of holding hands by hooking the fingers.

saim *see* seam.

sain *verb* **1** bless. **2** make the sign of the cross upon (yourself or another person) [archaic in Standard English].

- **sain the bairn!** said when a child sneezes; *see* bairn.

saint, sent, saunt *noun* a saint.

- **St. Bride's bird** the oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*; *see also* breedyeen. *Illustration see* pyot.
- **St. John's Eve fire** a midsummer bonfire.

[Old form *sent*, Scots form *saunt*.]

sair *see* sarve, sore.

saison *see* season.

saithe *noun* young cod.

saiven *see* seven.

sake: **dear sakes, good sakes, my sakes, sakes alive** *exclamation s*

- **for any sake, for dear sakes, for all sakes, for all sakes in the world** by all means.

saklers *adjective* innocent.

sale: **sale-rife** saleable, ready for sale [*sale* + Scots ending *-rife* as in *cauld-rife* (*see* cold)].

sallagh *noun* the willow.

sally *noun* a tree: the willow.

- **sally** a bird: the dipper.
- **sally-picker** a bird: **(a)** the chiff-chaff *Phylloscopus collybita*; **(b)** the willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*; **(c)** the sedge warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.
- **sally rod** a willow rod.
- **sally skep** a large basket made of willow rods; *see* skep.
- **sally wren** a bird: **(a)** the willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*; **(b)** the chiff-chaff *Phylloscopus collybita*.

[Hiberno-English and Southern English form of *sallow* "a species of willow that is low-growing and shrubby", from Anglian Old English *salh*. *See also* saugh.]

Sally: **Sally Walker:**

- **sally wattle** a willow wand; *see* wattle.

salt, saut, saut, saalt *noun* **1** salt. **2** salt to salt for (food).

- ◆ *adjective* salt, salty.
- ◆ *verb* **1** salt. **2** take revenge on (a person); snub (a person).

- **as salt as Lot's wife**
- **earn salt to your stirabout, arn salt till your praties** earn a living; earn your living; *see* stir.
- **get salt to your porridge** make a good or sufficient livelihood.
- **go to the salt-water, drink or try the salt-watther** go to the seaside.
- **have salt to your kail** have the necessaries of life.
- **he or she'll die with salt in his or her stomach** he or she is a Roman Catholic.
- **not worth salt to a potato** utterly worthless.
- **not worth your salt** worthless.
- **put salt on someone's tail, lay salt on someone's tail 1** catch someone. **2** cajole someone. **3** take advantage of someone, get the better of someone.
- **saaty** salty.
- **you will shed a tear for every grain of salt you waste**
[Scots and Northern English form *saut*, Scots also *saat*.]

salvage *adjective* savage.

[Archaic in Standard English, from Old French *salvage*. *Savage* is from a different Old French form, *sauvage*.]

salve: **put the saft salve on (someone)** flatter, cajole (someone).

Sam: **upon my Sam!** a disguised oath: upon my soul!

same: **he or she is always the same when ye meet him or her** said of an even-tempered person.

- **the same as if** exactly as if *e.g.* *She said it to me the same as if she knew* [rare in Standard English].
- **the same of** the same as *e.g.* *I want one the same of that*.
- **the same's he** *emphatic*

samed *adjective, of a person's skin* seamed, wrinkled.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

sand, san' *noun* sand.

- **san' bag, also sandy bag** the gizzard of a fowl.
- **sandlark** a bird: any one of various species of sandpiper; *specifically* (a) the dunlin *Calidris alpina*; (b) the sand martin *Riparia riparia*; (c) the redshank *Tringa totanus*; (d) the knot *Calidris canutus*; (e) the common sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*. *Illustration see sea. Cf. sea.*
- **sandpie** a bird: the oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*; *cf. pyot. Illustration see pyot.*
- **sandpiper** a bird: (a) the dunlin. (b) any small wader. (c) the turnstone. (d) the ringed plover.
- **sand plover, sand stepper** a bird: the ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*.
- **sand swallow** a bird: the sand martin *Riparia riparia*.
- **sand tripper** a bird: the ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*.
- **sandy, sanny** *adjective* sandy.
- ◆ *noun* a variety of oats.
- **sandy lark** a bird: a small wader; *specifically* (a) the sanderling *Calidris alba*; (b) *also sandy picker* the ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*; (c) the dunlin *Calidris alpina*; (d) *generally* a small sandpiper.
- **sandy-scad** *of hair* sandy coloured; *see scad*.
[Scots form *san'*.]

sandwich: **a few sandwiches short of a picnic** not entirely sane, slightly retarded.

sane *see soon*.

sang¹, seng, also incorrectly song, noun, literally blood: in oaths, *thus by my sang, my sang, by sang, sang, in sang, 'pon my sang, 'pon my sangs*

- **sanged**: *e.g. Weel! I'm sanged if I will dae it.*

[Scots and Northern English *sang*, from French *sang* "blood". The form *song* is by confusion with *sang²*.]

sang² *noun* a song.

- **make a song about** boast about.
[Scots and Northern English form.]

sannies, sonties: **by my sannies, upon my sonties** *exclamation* s a disguised oath; *cf.* saint, sang¹.

sansy *see* sonse.

santer *verb*, also **santer on** chatter, talk volubly about very little.

[Possibly the same word as *saunter*, of which *santer* is an old form.]

sap¹ *noun* juice of any kind.

- **sappy** **1** juicy. **2** *sarcastic* mean, niggardly in giving. **3** *of the weather* soaking wet. **4** pallid, sickly.
- **there's not much sap about him or her** said of a person who is reluctant to part with money.

sap², **sab** *noun* **1** *eel-fishing* a bait consisting of a number of worms threaded on a wire or a length of yarn which is then tangled so that it will catch in an eel's teeth. **2** **sab** a tug at a fishing line.

[Scots, also Kent, *sap*; possibly the same word as military English *sap* "a stealthy method of attack", from French *sappe* "spadework".]

sap³ *noun* a simpleton.

sape *see* soap¹.

sapple *verb* **1** soak (something) in liquid. **2** steep or wash (something) in soap-suds.

- ◆ *noun*, also in plural soap-suds.

[Scots, from Scots *sap* form of *sop*.]

sarch *see* search.

sarcumspect *adjective* circumspect.

sark *noun* **1** a shirt. **2** a man's or woman's vest. **3** a slip, an underskirt. **4** a nightdress.

- **sarking, sarkin** **1** a coarse kind of linen used for shirts. **2** a sheeting of wood under the slates of a roof. [ILLUS: sarking]
[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *serkr*.]

sarmin, sarmint *noun* a sermon.

[Old form (not in Scots) *sarmin*, obsolete English dialectal also *sarmint*.]

sarra *see* sorrow.

sarsapy *noun* a fizzy drink made from sarsaparilla *Co. Donegal*.

sarten, sartenly *see* certain.

sarve, sair *verb* serve.

- **weel-saired** *literally* well served: fed well.
[Old form (not in Scots) *sarve*, Scots forms *sair*, *ser*. *See also* ill.]

sass *see* sauce.

sassenach, sassenagh *noun*, usually derogatory an English person.

[Hiberno-English; from Irish *Sasanach* originally "a Saxon"; also Scots from Scottish Gaelic *Sasunach*.]

sate *noun* a seat.

- **a low seat makes high warming** an unpretentious person succeeds where an over-bearing person fails.
[Older form in Scots and English, still usual Scots form.]

satish *noun* a type of tune: a schottische *Co. Donegal*.

- **a Saturday's moon goes three times mad**
- **Saturday's a bad day for flittin' or for washin' or for marryin'**

sauce *noun* **1** kitchen, something eaten with potatoes. **2** also **sass** impudence, insolent language.

sauce *verb* cause a heavy body to fall with violence to the ground.

- **knock the saucepans out of someone, knock saucepans out of someone** *euphemism* give someone a severe beating.
- **sauce-head** *slang* an alcoholic *e.g.* a wild sauce-head.
- **saucepan**:

[English dialectal form *sass*.]

saugh *noun* a tree: the willow.

[Scots and Northern English form of **sally**, from inflected forms of the Old English noun, such as (plural) *salzas*.]

saul *see* soul.

saunt *see* saint.

sauny *see* sawney.

sausenger *noun* a sausage.

[Northern and Western English dialectal, extended form.]

saut *see* after, salt.

save: God save us, Lord save us, save us, save us all *exclamation* *s* expressing surprise, fear *etc.*

□ **save-penny** a pinchpenny, a miser.

□ **saving your favour, saving your presence** an apology for introducing a word or topic to which the hearer might take exception.

savendible *see* sevendible.

savvy *verb* understand, know.

◆ *noun* common-sense.

savy *noun* high tea.

saw *see* SOW.

saw: saw-bill, saw-billed duck (a) the goosander *Mergus merganser*. (b) the red-breasted merganser. (c) the smew.

□ **sawcoom** sawdust; *see* COOM.

sawder, sawdher *noun, usually soft sawder* flattery, "soft soap".

◆ *verb* **sawder up** flatter, cajole.

sawney, sawnie, sauny *noun* a young herring gull *Larus argentatus*.

□ **sauny-go-softly** a "sawney", a fool.

sawyer *noun, literally* a fallen tree floating downstream: a snag, an obstacle.

sax *see* six.

say *see* sea.

say; present tense; sez, siz; past tense and past participle sayed, unstressed, sid; verb **1 be said** be advised, be guided *e.g. They won't be said by anyone.* **2 forbid** *e.g. If Goodness hasn't said it.* **3 I wouldn't say but** *or if* I wouldn't deny that (something is the case).

◆ *noun* a saying, a proverb.

□ **A'm sayin'**

□ **I say says I, says I, says I to myself, says I to myself, says I** introduced into narrative through habit and to help the speaker to collect his *or* her thoughts.

□ **say away** say on, continue with what you were saying.

□ **say-so** a hearsay, a doubtful report.

□ **say something off** repeat something carefully until another person understands.

□ **Says she to me/Is that you/Says I who/Says she you/Says I me/Says she aye/Says I no** Ulster rhyme.

[Present tense: English dialectal form *sez*. Past tense and past participle: Scots and Northern English form *sayed*; Leicestershire and Warwickshire, also Western Scots, form *sid*.]

saycret *noun, adjective* secret.

[Scots form.]

saygull *see* sea.

say ho *noun* a party and dance.

sayney *see* seney.

sayon *noun* the coalfish *Pollachius virens*, when full-grown *south Down*; *cf.* seehan.

sayrious *adjective* serious.

[Scots form.]

saysade: saysadher a seceder, an adherent of one of the Presbyterian churches that broke with the Church of Scotland in the eighteenth century.

□ **saysadin** *of a Presbyterian minister* seceding, adhering to one of the

churches that broke with the Church of Scotland.

[Scots form.]

sayse *verb* seize.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

sca *noun* a scum of dirt.

scaald *see* scald.

scab *noun* a pimple.

scace, scacely *see* scarce.

scad *see* scald.

scad *noun* **1** a faint trace of colour or gleam of light. **2** a dash, a small quantity *also figuratively*. **a scad o sense** **3** a glimpse. **4** a brief shower.

□ **scad-o'-daylight** just before dark.

[Scots, possibly the same word as scald.]

scad¹ *noun* a fish: the horse mackerel *Trachurus trachurus*.

scadan *noun* a herring; herring collectively.

scaddie *see* scaldie.

scaddle *verb* skedaddle, make yourself scarce.

[*Cf.* Nottinghamshire "to run off in fright"; from English dialectal adjective "timid", itself from Old Norse **skǫþill* "harmful".]

scadin, scadyin *see* scideen.

scah *noun* modesty.

scairt: scairt of laughter a peal of laughter.

[Either Scots form of **scrat¹**, in the sense "a rasping noise", or Irish *scairt* "a shout".]

scaith *see* scathe.

scalahan *noun* an unfledged bird.

scalan *noun* a three-sided shed used for Mass during Penal times.

scald, scaald, scaud, scad *verb* **1** scald. **2** *specifically* make (tea). **3** *of a wound* be inflamed. **4** *figuratively* trouble, torment, upset *e.g.* *My very heart's scalded with sorra*; *see also* heart. **5** *of rain* destroy sprouting corn.

◆ *noun* **1** a warm at a fire. **2 a cup or drop of scald** a cup of tea.

3 *figuratively* heart-scald, trouble, vexation. **4 a heart-scald**, a person who is a source of trouble. **5 scad, also skull** a scold.

◆ *adjective, of meat* underdone, rare.

□ **don't scald yer lips in other people's broth** don't poke your nose into other people's business.

□ **scad-the-beggars** **1** mealy-creashy, fried oatmeal. **2** fried leeks.

□ **scalded** redness of skin usually around thighs and buttocks of children.

□ **scalder, sculder** *noun* a jelly-fish.

◆ *verb* burn, blister.

□ **scald head** a person's head scabbed by eczema or ringworm.

[Scots and Northern English forms *scaud, scad*; South-Western English *scaal*. *See also* scad, scowder.]

scald-crow, scall crow, also scaldy *noun* the hooded crow *Corvus corone cornix*.

[Hiberno-English *scald-crow, scall crow*. The first element is possibly the same as *scald-* in scaldie.]

scaldie, scauldy, scaddie *noun* **1** *also* **skalley-baulcher,**

skalley-baulchin [*ch* as in *catch*] an unfledged bird, a nestling.

2 *figuratively* an under-sized child. **3** *derogatory* an unpleasant young person. **4** a person with very little hair, or with the hair cut very short. **5** a short hair cut.

◆ *adjective* **1** small, thin. **2** *also* **scauldy-lukkin** having had the hair cut short; *see* look.

[From obsolete Standard English *scalled, scald* (still English dialectal), Scots form *scad*, "scabby"; probably from Old Norse *skalle* "a bald head". Oxfordshire form *skalley* "an unfledged bird". The element *baulcher, baulchin* is Midland English, from Midland English *balch* "bald" (origin

unknown). *See also* scald-crow, scaulthogue.]

scaldy *see* scald-crow.

scale *see* skale.

scale¹: **buy off the scale** get all your food in the shops, as opposed to growing your own.

scale²: **scale-drake** a bird: (a) the male shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, also known as the shell-drake; (b) *also* **scaler**, **scaler duck** the male merganser *Mergus serrator*.

□ **scale-duck** (a) the shelduck; (b) the red-breasted merganser; *see also* herring.

[Scots form. *See also* skeel.]

scalf *see* skelf.

scallawaug *noun* a scallywag, a rascal *Co. Antrim*.

scall crow *see* scald-crow.

scallem *noun*, *basket-weaving* a rod forming a side post.

scallion *noun* **1** the shallot *Allium ascalonicum*. **2** the spring onion.

3 *figuratively* a small person.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal), from Anglo-French *scaloun*.]

scallop *see* scolb, scollop.

scalp *see* skelb.

scalp, **scaup**, **scap** *noun* **1** the scalp. **2** *usually derogatory* the head. **3** a poor patch of land.

□ **scawpy** bald.

[Scots and Northern English form *scaup*, Scots *also* *scap*.]

scalpy *noun* a clump of tangled bushes, *usually* one associated with the fairies.

[*Cf.* Irish *scealpaigh* "a rock crevice" (similarly associated with the fairies).]

scalteen, **scolteen** *noun* **1** a drink made with eggs, sugar, milk and whiskey. **2** hot whiskey with sugar and butter.

[Hiberno-English *scalteen*; from Irish *scailtín*, *scoiltín*.]

scaly *adjective*, *of ground* slaty, stony, gravelly.

scam, **scame**, **scaum** *verb* **1** singe, scorch. **2** toast lightly.

◆ *noun* the mark of a burn.

[Scots and Northern English *scaum*, Scots *also* *scam*, Northern English *also* *scame*; probably of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Swedish *skämma* "to disfigure" (from Old Norse *skam* "shame, injury").]

scamler, **scanler** *noun* a bird: (a) the red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator*; (b) the shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*.

[Origin unknown.]

Scammel *noun* any large articulated lorry.

scamp *verb* do (work) badly.

scance *noun* **1** a quick look, a glance. **2** a glimpse.

[Scots; from forms such as the past participle, *scansum*, of Latin *scandere* (which gives Standard English *scan*).]

scanler *see* scamler.

scanlin *noun*, *ironic* a gentleman *e.g. as rough a scanlin' as cud be foun' in a counthryside*.

scant *adjective* mean, stingy.

scantling, **scantlin** *noun* **1** the scantling (the thickness and breadth) of timbers; also applied to lengths of iron. **2** the make, build or breed of anything. **3** a thin slice of bread. **4** *in plural* scraps of food.

scap *see* scalp.

scap, **scape** *see* skep.

scar *see* skir².

scar, **skar**, **skyar**, **scaur**, **skaur**, **skeer** *verb* **1** scare, frighten. **2** *of a horse* take fright.

◆ *noun* a scare, a fright.

- **her looks would scar the French** she is very plain-looking.
- **no scars** "no fear", "no chance"!
- **scarcrow, scarcrow** a scarecrow; *see* CROW.
- **scare the devil out of** frighten (someone).
- **scarify** scare, terrify.
- **scarin** sudden fright.
- **scarish** timid.
- **scarred** scared.
- **scarred stiff** sudden fright.
- **scarsome** scary, frightening.
[Older form *scar* (still English dialectal), Scots and Northern English also *scaur*, Scots and English dialectal also *skeer*.]

scarce, sace *adjective* scarce.

- **scacely** scarcely.
- **scarcen** make scarce, reduce in number.
- **scarce of** short of (something).
[Old form *scace*; from *escas* form of Old Northern French *escars, scars*, which gives Standard English *scarce*.]

scarf, skarf, scart, skart *noun* a bird: **(a)** the cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. *Illustration see* black; **(b)** the shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.
Illustration see black.

[Orkney, Shetland and Northern Scots *scarf*; otherwise altered in Scots to *scart*; from Old Norse *skarf*.]

scarlet: scarlet runner a summons to a Dispensary doctor, obliging him to see an urgent call.

scart *see* scrat¹.

scart *noun, abusive* **1** an insignificant person. **2** a villain. **3** a fool.

[Scots, form of scrat².]

scathe, scaith, skaith, scath *noun* damage; injury, hurt [*scathe* archaic in Standard English].

◆ *verb* damage [*scathe* archaic in Standard English].

- **(the) scathe and (the) scorn** insult and injury.

[Northern English form *scath*.]

scatted:

scatter *verb* knock down (a single individual) in a fight.

- **scatter-eyed, scatter-ened** a person with a squint; *see* eye.
- **scatterin** a small amount.
- **scatterment** a scattering, a dispersal; a rout.

scaud *see* scald.

scaughey *see* stughie.

scauldy *see* scaldie.

scaulthogue *noun* an unfledged bird, a nestling.

[Irish *scalltán*, **scalltóg*; itself probably from Old Norse *skalla* (*see* scaldie).]

scaum *see* scam.

scaup *see* scalp.

scaur *see* scar.

scaur *noun* a scar; a reef of rocks; a steep rock; a bare rock face on a hill-side.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

scaveling hammer *noun* a scabbling hammer (a large hammer for chipping stone).

[*Cf.* Cheshire and Derbyshire *scafflings* "chippings of stone", altered form of *scabbling*.]

scawee, skiwee, scrawee *noun* **1** a seaweed: tangle *Laminaria digitata*, specifically when thrown ashore by storms in May. **2** hence the kelp harvest.

[Irish *scaith bhúí* (*see* scraw¹).]

scawpy *see* scalp.

sceamhlaigh *noun* squealing.

scenery *noun* a scene, an exhibition of feeling, *thus* **make a scenery**

sceón *noun* a sudden fright.

scheme, schame, skame *noun* a scheme.

◆ *verb* avoid something by false pretences; *specifically* dodge work; play truant from (school).

□ **schamer** a schemer; *specifically* a shirker.

[Scots, also Midland English, form *schame, skame*.]

scholar, scholar *noun* **1** a scholar. **2** *historical* any literate person.

□ **I'm no scholar** apology made by a person who cannot write, when asked to sign something.

□ **Poor Scholar** someone who travelled the country challenging schoolmasters to literary contests, in pursuit of an ambition to be a schoolmaster himself.

[General dialectal and Scots form *scholar*, Scots also *scholar*.]

schone, skhone, sthone *noun* an old tale; a droll story with a touch of jibing.

school, skail, skil *noun, verb* school.

□ **schooling, schoolin'** education.

□ **school-wean** a school-child.

[Scots and Northern English form *skail*, Scots also *skil*.]

schule, schull, scull *noun* a school (of fish, *etc.*).

[Scots form *skule*, old form (latterly Scots, also Hampshire) *skull*.]

schul-hus *noun* a schoolhouse.

scideen, skideen, skeedeen, skeedin, skeedyin, skeegeen, scadin,

scadyin *also, incorrectly* **skeeding** *noun* **1** anything very small and insignificant. **2** *specifically* a very small potato.

[Irish *scidin*.]

sciog, skiog *noun* a hawthorn bush; *specifically* a solitary hawthorn, often regarded as a fairy thorn.

[East Ulster Irish *sgeitheog*, from *sceach* (see *skeagh*¹) + diminutive ending *-eog*.]

sclaffer *noun* a thin slice.

[Western Scots, from Scots *sclaff* "to strike with the open hand; a thin slice", onomatopoeic. See also *sclaffert*.]

sclaffert *noun* a blow on the head with the open hand.

[Scots, from *sclaff* (see *sclaffer*).]

sclate *see* slate.

scobe¹, **scob** *noun* **1** a rod of hazel or other tough wood; *specifically* a rod sharpened at both ends, used for fastening down thatch, a **scolb**. **2** a length of fresh bramble used for fastening down thatch. **3** the rib of a basket. **4** a willow or hazel sapling. **5** *figuratively* a tall, thin person.

◆ *verb* **1** pin down thatch with **scobes**. **2** bend (rods).

□ **scobe thatching** thatching with **scobes** as opposed to ropes. [ILLUS: scobe/th/P]

[Scots; from Scottish Gaelic *sgolb*, corresponding to Irish *scolb* (see *scolb*).]

scobe² *verb* **1** scoop out, hollow out. **2** *in eating something solid, e.g. a raw turnip* scoop out mouthfuls with the front teeth. **3** eat with gusto.

◆ *noun* a bite.

□ **I'll cut skobes oot o' ye if ye dinny behave yersel**

□ **scobie** a turnip.

[Scots; origin unknown, also in Scottish Gaelic as *sgob*.]

scobe³ *noun* a shrub: the broom *Cytisus scoparius*.

[*Cf.* Irish *scuab* "brushwood". There may be some confusion with English *broom* "a sweeping brush", as the basic meaning of *scuab* is "a sweeping brush".]

scobe⁴ *noun* an onion sown late in the year for use in the spring.

□ **scobe-scallion** a very large **scallion**, produced by planting out onions

raised from seed the previous year.

[Scots *scob*, altered form of Standard English *cob* "a round lump" (as in *cob loaf*, etc.).]

scoff¹ *verb* eat greedily.

[Scots and English dialectal, also adopted generally in English slang; possibly the same word as Scots *scaff* "to scrounge (food)", itself possibly from Middle Dutch *schæven* "to beg importunately".]

scoff²: **scoff valentine** a mocking valentine.

scog *noun* an offensive or mocking valentine.

[West Midland English *get the scog of (a person)* "be able to crow over (a person)"; cf. obsolete Standard English *scogger* "buffoonery; scurrility", from the name of John Scoggin, court jester to Edward IV.]

scoge *noun* a wayward young woman.

[Scots "a drudge, a kitchen girl", origin unknown.]

scogger *noun* a footless stocking.

[Northern English and Scots; strengthened form of Northern English *cogger*, from Old English *cocer* "a quiver (for arrows)".]

scoilteen *noun* a potato cut for seed.

scolb, **scollop**, **scallop** *noun* **1** a rod used for fastening down thatch; hence **scollop thatch**; cf **scobe**¹. *Illustration see scobe¹. **2** a thin person with poor physique.*

◆ *verb* beat with a rod.

[Hiberno-English *scollop*, from Irish *scolb*. See also **scobe**¹.]

scoldragged *adjective* exhausted and bedraggled *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

scollop *see scolb*.

scollop, **scallop** *noun* **1** a "dollop", a large lump. **2** a roughly-cut chunk (of bread, meat, etc.). Cf. *collop*.

scollop¹ *noun* a notch.

scolteen *see scalteen*.

scon *see scone*.

sconce¹, **sconse** *noun* **1** a person who is known for his or her ability to poke fun at others. **2** a worthless fellow.

◆ *verb* **1** take part in good-humoured banter. **2** mock, taunt, ridicule, jeer at (someone); make fun of (someone); annoy (a person) by praising him or her in his or her presence.

[Possibly the same word as **sconce**⁵ or **sconce**², but cf. archaic Standard English *sconce* "the head; sense, wit" (origin unknown).]

sconce², **sconse**, **squance** *verb* **1** shirk, avoid work; specifically malingering, pretend to be sick to avoid work. **2** play truant from school.

3 pretend to work.

◆ *noun* **1** a lazy person. **2** a person only pretending to do something.

□ **sconcer** a malingerer.

[Northern English *sconce*, *sconse* "a trick, a deception"; origin unknown. See also **sconce**¹.]

sconce³, **squance** *noun* a simple oil lamp.

[The same word as Standard English *sconce* "a bracket candlestick".]

sconce⁴, **sconse** *noun* **1** a shelter built of stones on the beach. **2** a hide from which to shoot wild fowl.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and Northern English) "a protective shelter", from Dutch *schans*.]

sconce⁵, **sconse** *noun* the skull.

[Archaic in Standard English, origin unknown.]

sconce⁶, **sconse** *noun* Irish stew.

sconder *see scunner*.

scone, **scon** *noun* **1** a flat, round loaf made of flour, barley-meal, etc., baked on a griddle, usually cut into four pieces [*scone* also adopted in Standard English]. **2** a piece of oatcake. **3** figuratively the head.

[Scots and Northern English, possibly from Middle Dutch *schoonbrot*

"fine bread".]

sconfia *adverb* hastily *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

sconner *see* scunner.

sconse *see* sconce¹, sconce², sconce⁴, sconce⁵.

scool *noun, verb* scowl.

□ **scooly** a cow whose horns turn downwards.

□ **scooly-luckin** scowling; *see* look.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

scoop *noun* **1** a ladle. **2** the peak of a cap.

□ **scooped cap** a soft-peaked cap.

scoor *see* scour.

scoosh *noun* a jet, a gush (of liquid).

◆ *verb* **1** squirt (water). **2** squirt (someone with water).

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

scoot¹, scout *verb* **1** squirt, gush out. **2** squirt (liquid). **3** shoot (a marble) by flicking the thumb over the forefinger. **4** run, go quickly [also colloquial in U.S.A., hence also in British English].

◆ *noun* **1** a jet of water. **2** diarrhoea. **3** the excrement of fowls; *see also*

scoot². **4** *also* **scoot-gun** a kind of water-pistol made from the hollow stem of a plant such as cow parsley or wild angelica. **5** *hence* wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*. **6** a small amount of liquid. **7** an undersized, insignificant person or thing. **8** an outing, a trip.

□ **scooter** **1** **scouter** a small amount of liquid. **2** a tourist.

□ **scoot-hole** **1** a rat-hole. **2** a concealed exit from a rabbit warren. **3** *also*

scootie hole an avenue of escape, *e.g.* a gap in a hedge or fence.

[General dialectal and Scots; probably from Old Norse *skjóta*, **skúta*, corresponding to Old English *scēotan*, which gives **shoot¹**.]

scoot² *noun* a bird: the razorbill *Alca torda*. *Illustration see* bridle.

[Scots and Northern English, perhaps the same word as **scoot¹**, with reference to their excrement.]

scooth, scouth *noun* liberty of grazing; extent of pasture land.

[Scots, possibly an altered form of Scots *scoup* form of **scope**.]

scoother *see* scowder.

scope *noun* an extent of land *e.g.* *He owns a large scope of mountain*.

See also scooth.

scope¹ *noun* a large amount.

□ **scope-full** a small amount.

score *noun* **1** a furrow in ploughing. **2** a ridge in ploughing.

scorn *noun* blame, reproach.

scorrick *noun* **1** *in plural* odds and ends in a pocket. **2** the fag-end of a cigarette.

[Northern English and Scots, origin unknown.]

Scotch: Scotch convoy the act of walking back with a person who has just walked you home.

□ **Scotch heather** *Erica cinerea*.

□ **Scotchie** the act of giving someone a lift up.

□ **Scotch lick** a cat-lick, a slight wash.

□ **Scotchman** *shipbuilding* a right-angled piece of metal used in aligning metal edges.

□ **Scotch mice** *in a flax-scutching mill* a mechanism that removes the shows.

□ **Scotch penny** *historical* a large copper penny of 1797.

□ **Scotch rose** a wild flower: the Burnet rose *Rosa spinosissima*.

□ **Scotch thistle** a wild flower: the spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare* [in Standard English, a different thistle, *Onopordum acanthium*].

□ **Scottish mist** a Scotch mist.

scotch: scotch-hop, *also* **scotch** a game: hop-scotch.

Scottish: Scottish perch a measure: the Cunningham perch.

scouching *adjective* very severe and unpleasant *e.g.* *That's a scouching cold wind.*

scouder *see* scowder.

scour, scoor *verb* **1** scour; *specifically* clear out (a sheugh). **2** weed (drills of turnips or potatoes).

◆ *noun* **1** diarrhoea in calves. **2** a thick drizzle of rain.

□ **scoured worms** worms stored in moss to make them red and stiff on the hook and better for fishing.

□ **scour-of-the-guts** diarrhoea.

[Scots form *scoor*.]

scourge *verb* **1** whip (a top) so as to make it spin. **2** bowl (a hoop).

□ **scourger** *noun, in plural, also pair of scourgers* a whip composed of strips of leather, used for spinning a top.

scout *see* scoot¹.

south *see* scooth.

souther *see* scowder.

scow, skow [rhymes with "cow"] *noun* a large, flat-bottomed boat.

scowder, scowdher, scouder, scouther, scoother *noun* **1** a slight, flying shower. **2** half-baked or hastily made griddle bread or oatcake. **3** a piece of cookery done in haste. **4** half-cooked food. **5** scraps of bread and potatoes fed to pigs or dogs. **6** a baking sheet used for baking soda bread. **7** *figuratively* a half-educated person. **8** *figuratively* badly-done work.

◆ *verb* **1** cook imperfectly and in haste; half-bake; *specifically* burn (*e.g.* an oatcake) on the outside before it has cooked through. **2** scorch, singe.

3 *figuratively* do anything hastily and incompletely.

□ **scowdered, scouthered: scowdered bread** previously-cooked oatcake browned at the fire.

[Scots and Northern English *scowder*; Scots also *scouder, scouther, scoother*; apparently an altered form of *scald* (*see* scald).]

scowld, scowl *verb* scold.

□ **scoulding** scolding.

[Old form (not Scots except Orkney, Shetland and Caithness) *scowld*.]

scra *see* scraw¹, scraw².

scraa *noun* a crowd (of people).

[*Cf.* Scots and Northern English *scrow*, Orkney and Shetland form *scrae*; forms of English *scroll*.]

scrab, scrob *verb* **1** scratch, scrape, claw. **2** gather potatoes turned up by ploughing.

◆ *noun* a scratch.

[Northern English *scrab*; from Dutch *schrabben*, corresponding to *scrape*. Also found in Argyllshire.]

scrabble *verb* **1** scratch; make clutching movements with the hands.

2 scramble, climb awkwardly.

scrabby *noun* something unusually small.

scraddie *noun* an excited rush *Co. Antrim*.

[Origin unknown.]

scradeen, scraddin, scradysin, skrawdyin, scraggin *noun* **1** *usually*

plural undersized eggs, potatoes, fruit or vegetables. **2** *in plural* tiny scraps. **3** a small or undersized child, adult, or pig. **4** anything small and worthless.

[Irish *scraidín*. *See also* scraw¹.]

scrag *noun* a useless or inferior thing.

◆ *adjective* useless, inferior.

□ **scrag-end** **1** the hind-part. **2** the worst part of anything.

scraggin *see* scradeen.

scraghy *adjective* sparse.

scraich, scraigh, scraik *see* screek.

scraigh *see* screek of day.

scralung, scrawlung *noun* a quagmire; a patch of sphagnum moss on a

mountain side.

scram *noun* a crowd of people.

- **scramble-ha'penny** money scattered for children to scramble for.

scrammle *verb, noun* scramble.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

scran¹ *verb* be able to move, *especially* after a severe illness *e.g. I'm just scranin along; Co. Donegal.*

[Origin unknown.]

scran² *noun* **1** food, provisions, *especially* inferior food, scraps [also adopted in English slang]. **2** the scant remains of anything. **3** "pickings", profit.

- **bad scran to, also bad scrand to, bad scrant to** bad luck to (a person).

[General dialectal and Scots *scran*, origin unknown.]

scranch, scraunch *verb* crunch.

[*Scranch* obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal), English dialectal form also *scraunch*; onomatopoeic.]

scrape, scrip *verb* **1** of a hen scratch. **2** graze (the skin). **3** scrape money together, save money by pinching.

- **away to scrapings, gone to scrapins** having become very thin.
- **git yur pot scripped** go to confession.
- **it's a poor hen can't scrape for two (etc.) chickens** said of a mother who complains of having insufficient money to bring up two (etc.) children.
- **scrape of the pen, also scrape** a hasty scribble.
- **scraper** a slate pencil.
- **scraping:**
- **scrippin** *noun* **1** a scratching sound. **2** in plural scrapings, leftovers.
- **the scrapings of the bag** the weakling of a litter.

See also scrab.

scrappy *adjective* poor, not worth much.

scrat¹, scart *verb* scratch; make a scratching noise.

◆ *noun* **1** a scratch; a rasping noise; *see also* scairt. **2** a stroke of the bow on a violin. **3** anything very small and insignificant; the smallest coin. **4** a miser. **5** a thrifty, industrious person.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), Scots and Northern English form also *scart*; either from Old French *esgrater* "to scratch", or a strengthened form of **cratte* (*cf.* Modern Swedish *kratta* "to scratch").]

scrat² *noun* **1** an undersized person or animal. **2** a small potato.

[Scots "a stunted person", from Old Norse *skratte* "a goblin". *See also* scart.]

scratch, scretch *noun* **1** a scratch. **2** a mischievous or cantankerous person or animal.

- ◆ *verb* scrape (money) together.

scratch¹: he'll never scratch a grey hair, never scart an auld head

euphemism a prediction that a child will die young.

- **make someone scratch where he's not itchy** beat, thrash someone.
- **scratch of a pen** a promise in writing.

scrauchle *verb* scramble along; creep along.

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

scraunch *see* scranch.

scraw¹, scra *noun* **1** the sod, a sod. This is the usual term, turf being used only in the sense of "peat". **2** *specifically* a thin strip of sward, used to line a thatched roof. **3** the sward *e.g. She's under the green scraw these thirty years, may God give her rest.*

- ◆ *verb* **1** cover (a lawn or a grave) with sods. **2** strip sods from the surface of the ground. **3** scrape. [ILLUS: scraw]
- **scrawdeen** a small scraw; *cf.* scradeen.

- **scraw-spade** a spade for cutting **scraws**.
[Hiberno-English *scraw*, from Irish *scra(i)th*.]
- scraw², scra** *noun* the throat.
[Possibly a strengthened form of *crawl*.]
- scraw³, scra** *noun* a morass.
- scrawdeen** *see* **scraw¹**.
- scrawee** *see* **scawee**.
- scrawl** *verb* crawl.
[Obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal), strengthened form of *crawl*.]
- scrawley** *noun* a lead pencil.
- scrawn** *noun, verb* scrawl, scribble *Co. Donegal*.
[Origin unknown.]
- screacan aittinn** *noun, literally* squaller of the gorse; a bird.
- screak** *see* **screek**.
- scred** *noun* sour, poor-quality buttermilk.
- scree** *noun* a rough, stony place.
- screeb** *verb* scrape.
♦ *noun* a mark, a stroke of the pen.
[*Cf.* Irish *scriobadh* "to scrape" and *screeve*.]
- screech: screech-cock, screechy cock, screech thrush** a bird: the mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*; *see also* **shriek**. *Illustration see* **shriek**.
- screed** *noun* **1** a fragment, a torn-off piece. **2** a shred (of clothing). **3** a tear in clothes. **4** the sound made by tearing cloth. **5** a sound like that of cloth tearing, *especially* **a screed of or on the fiddle**
♦ *verb* **1** tear a piece off something. **2** rip cloth or paper. **3** make a grating, jarring noise. **4** grind (the teeth). **5** **screed it out** write fluently.
□ **a screed of lies** a list or catalogue of lies.
□ **screeding 1** *historical* a narrow border, *especially* on a cap.
2 *historical* net for edging caps. **3** a paper edging.
□ **screedle** play the fiddle badly.
□ **screed of sense** *usually in negative* not the least bit of sense.
- screek, screek, skreek, screegh, skreegh, screigh, skree, scraigh, scraich, scraik, skrake, scregh** *noun* **1** a shriek, a screech. **2** the shrill cry of a bird. **3** an urgent cry; a loud outcry. **4** a harsh, grating noise. **5** the sound of cloth being ripped.
♦ *verb* **1** screech; shriek, scream; *of a bird* cry. **2** make a grating noise.
□ **screagh-feathers** reprimanded.
□ **screakin' hyena** a laughing idiot.
□ **skraighan: skreeghin'**:
[Scots and Northern English *screek*; Scots also *screegh, scraigh, scraik, scregh*; onomatopoeic, *cf. also* Irish *scréach*.]
- screen** *noun* a temporary planting of hardy bushes to protect more valuable trees.
- screenge** *see* **scringe¹, scringe², scringe⁴**.
- screeve, scribe, scrive** *noun* **1** a screed, a tear in clothes. **2** a screed, the sound made by tearing cloth. **3** a screed on the fiddle.
♦ *verb* **1** scrape. **2** make a noise that sets the teeth on edge. **3** **scrive of the wind** tear at (sails, *etc.*). **4** steal. **5** **screeve** beat vigorously with a rod.
□ **screevin** the sound made by new leather shoes.
[Scots *screeve, scribe*; apparently an altered form of **screed**, under the influence of English slang and Scots *screeve* "to write", itself ultimately from Latin *scribere*, possibly through Italian *scrivere*. Scots and Northern English form also *scrive*. *See also* **screeb**.]
- scregh, screigh** *see* **screek**.
- screigh** *see* **skreek** of day.
- sretch** *see* **scratch**.
- screw** *noun, also* **screw-mouse** the shrew [the only species found in Ireland is the pygmy shrew *Sorex minutus*].

[Scots, also South-Western English, form.] [ILLUS: screw]

screw¹ *noun* **1** a piece of paper for holding groceries, *etc.* **2** a wage.

◆ *adjective* niggardly, stingy.

□ **screw an twine** squirm about.

□ **screw-driver** a corkscrew.

□ **screwy** foolish.

scribber *noun* the gizzard (of a fowl).

[Origin unknown.]

scribble *verb* sip *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

scribe¹ *noun* a mark, a stroke, *especially* a **scribe of the pen**

[The same word as technical English *scribe* "a tool used to score wood, metal, bricks, *etc.*".]

scribe², **skribe** *noun* **1** a crab-apple. **2** a small potato or apple.

[Western Scots form of Scots *scrab*; itself of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Swedish dialectal *skrabba* "a shrivelled apple".]

scrieve *see* screeve.

scriff *noun* a scrum.

[*Cf.* Cornwall verb "to huddle together", origin unknown.]

scriggle *verb* squeeze/wriggle into clothes.

scrimmage, **scrummage** *noun* **1** a noisy, fussy search through the house.

2 kick up *or* rise a **scrimmage** kick up a row; *see* rise.

scrimp: **scrimpit** scanty; short.

□ **scrimpy** miserly.

scrimshank *verb* walk about rather aimlessly but energetically.

scringe¹, **screege** *verb* **1** fish with a scringe net (a kind of seine net).

2 rummage; search frantically. **3** search carefully; pry about. **4** **screege up** rummage out, discover.

◆ *noun* **1** *also* **screeger** a person who pries about; a child or animal that searches out things not intended for it. **2** a mean, miserly person.

3 someone who is always on the lookout for a bargain or opportunity. **4** a person or animal that looks starved and in poor condition.

□ **screege (a place) with a herrin' net**

[Scots form *screege*. Possibly the same word as **scringe**⁴, from the idea of lashing the water with a net.]

scringe², **screege** *verb* **1** creak; *specifically, of new shoes* **2** *of the teeth* be put on edge. **3** grind (the teeth).

◆ *noun* **1** a squeaking noise. **2** a type of leather that creaked when new.

[Northern English, onomatopoeic.]

scringe³ *verb* cringe.

[English dialectal and Southern Scots, strengthened form of *cringe*.]

scringe⁴, **screege** *verb* flog.

◆ *noun* a lash, a blow with a whip or tawse.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

scrip, **scrippin** *see* scrape.

scrive *see* screeve.

scrob *see* scrab.

scroff *see* scruff.

scrog, **scrug** *noun* **1** a stunted or crooked tree or bush. **2** *also* **scrogger** a clump of stunted bushes, *especially* hazel bushes. **3** scrub, a low growth of brambles, furze, *etc.* **4** *in plural* land covered with scrub.

◆ *verb* clear (land) of bushes.

□ **scroggy**, **shroggy** **1** *of bushes* stunted. **2** *of land (a)* covered with stunted bushes; **(b)** rough, broken, rocky.

[Scots and Northern English *scrog*, Scots also *scrug*, Northern English also *shrog*; origin unknown, possibly related to **scrag**.]

scrogoe *noun* a flaughter. *Illustration see* flaughter.

[*Cf.* Irish *scrogóg* "a long, thin neck".]

scrooble *verb, in the game of hurling* struggle over the ball at the goals.

◆ *noun* a scrimmage at the goals.

[*Cf.* Scots and Northern English *scrubble* "to struggle", origin unknown.]

scroof *see* scruff.

scroof *noun*, also **scruffin** the scruff, the nape of the neck.

[Occasional form in English dialects and Scots for "the scruff of the neck", by confusion with **scruff**.]

scroofy *see* scruff.

scrouge, **scrooge** *verb* "scrouge", squeeze, crush, crowd together.

◆ *noun* a "scrouge", a crush, pressure in a crowd.

□ **scrouger** a tight-fisted person, a miser.

[Old form (still English dialectal) *scrooge*.]

scrounge: **on the scrounge** borrowing, seeking to obtain something for nothing [also adopted generally in colloquial English].

scrow scroll.

scrub *noun* **1** a shrub. **2** a small bunch of heather used to scour wooden utensils.

□ **scrubby**, **shrubby** **1** scrubby, shabby, ragged. **2** mean, miserly.

3 scrubby mean, shabby *e.g.* a *scrubby* trick.

[Standard English *scrub* and *shrub* are forms of the same word.]

scrub¹ *noun* a drudge.

□ **no' the size o' two scrubbers**

□ **scrubber** a small bundle of turfs or heather, sold from door to door and used for cleaning pots and pans.

scruff, **scroff**, **scroof** *noun* **1** scruff, scurf, dandruff. **2** a rough, flaky surface. **3** a thin crust, *e.g.* on a loaf of bread; a superficial layer *e.g.* a *scruff of weeds*. **4** "scruff", worthless people.

□ **scroofy** suffering from scurf.

□ **scrufey** an old bony cow.

□ **scruffer** building material such as burnt stone, used in the construction of wells.

□ **scruffery** a piece of waste ground where cattle are occasionally grazed.

□ **scruffy beef** poor quality beef.

[Northern English form *scroof*. *See also* *scur*¹.]

scruffin *see* scroof.

scrug *see* scrog.

scrummage *see* scrimmage.

scrump *verb* pilfer (apples), raid (an orchard for apples).

scrunch *verb* crunch.

◆ *noun* a crush, a squeeze.

scrunge *adjective* niggardly, stingy.

scrunt, **skrunt** *noun* **1** a small, mean person. **2** a miser. **3** the weakling of a litter. **4** the heel of a loaf.

□ **scrunted** stunted, dwarfed.

□ **scruntly** *adjective* **1** miserly, stingy; grasping. **2** small; dwarfish.

◆ *noun* **1** a miser. **2** a small, worthless thing. **3** an undersized fruit. **4** an undersized animal.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

scrunt¹ *verb* skim (a wood floor).

scud *see* scuddy.

scud *verb* **1** smack, *especially* on the bare buttocks with the open hand.

2 apply lime mortar roughly to a wall.

◆ *noun* **1** a blow, *especially* a smack with the open hand. **2** a thump, a heavy blow. **3** a stroke with a whip, rod, *tawse*, *etc.* **4** a curse, a jinx. **5** a children's chasing game. **6** a small quantity (of manure) scattered over the ground. **7** a thrown coat of lime mortar to prepare a wall for plastering.

□ **have a great scud with** or **on you** be going at speed.

□ **hot scud** "hot foot", as fast as possible.

□ **scudding**, **scuddin** **1** a smacking, *especially* on the bare buttocks with the open hand. **2** a stroke with the *tawse*. **3** the application of a thrown

coat of lime mortar.

- **scuddin' loofs an' buyin'** shaking (or striking) hands over a bargain.
- **scuddyloop** a children's pastime: two children lay their hands alternately on top of each other, and pull out the bottom hand, placing it on top, as fast as possible.

scud³ *noun* a nestling.

scuddler *noun* a young servant-boy.

- **scuddle 1** dabble in water. **2** wash clothes. **3** potter about in the kitchen; *see also* skiddlety.

[Scots "a kitchen boy"; from Old French *escuelier*, **escudeler*.]

scuddy *adjective*, *also in your (bare) scud* stark naked.

[Scots; origin unknown, possibly related to *scaldie*.]

scuff *verb* **1** strike with the open hand. **2** thresh (corn) by hand. **3** wear out (clothes).

- ◆ *noun* **1** a light blow. **2** a puff of wind.

- **scuffed** *of a man* a bit worn.

[General dialectal and Scots, also adopted in Standard English in the sense "to shuffle; to scrape the ground, *etc.*"; onomatopoeic. *See also* skift.]

scuffle¹ *noun* **1** a Dutch hoe (an implement for weeding). **2** the part of the blade of a Dutch hoe that is turned downwards.

- ◆ *verb* use a Dutch hoe.

- **scufflings** weeds that have been **scuffed** with a Dutch hoe.

[General dialectal and Scots, from Dutch *schoffel*, corresponding to *shovel*.]

scuffle² *verb* batter; *of the rain* damage (crops).

- **scuffling** a battering.

sculder *see* scald.

scull *see* schule.

scullabogue *verb* murder barbarously.

scum *noun* a slight film (of frost).

- ◆ *verb* skim.

scunge, skunge *verb* **1** scrounge. **2 3** explore, wander about in (the countryside). **4** wander the countryside. **5** play truant. **6** malingering, pretend to be ill to avoid work or school.

- ◆ *noun* **1** someone who idles away his time going about the countryside.

2 a loafer, a lazy, useless fellow. **3** a scrounger [also adopted generally in colloquial English]. **4** a nosy, acquisitive person.

- **scunger 1** a loafer. **2** a malingerer.

[Scots; origin unknown, possibly an altered form of *scrounge*, influenced by *sconce*².]

scunner, skunner, scunder, sconner, sconder *verb* **1** feel disgust.

2 **scunner at** shudder with repugnance at. **3** **scunner at** regard with disgust. **4** cause disgust to, nauseate (someone). **5** *loosely* annoy.

- ◆ *noun* **1** dislike, loathing, disgust. **2** *frequently* **the scunners** a feeling of repugnance or dislike. **3** something that causes disgust.

- **it wud scunner a pig**

- **scundersome** repulsive.

- **scunnered 1** disgusted. **2** tired of a particular kind of food.

- **take a scunner at** develop an aversion to.

[Scots and Northern English *scunner*, *sconner*; origin unknown.

Scunder and *sconder* are mistakenly "corrected" forms, *cf.* **thunder**, *etc.*]

scuon *see* skwon.

scur¹ *noun* a skin on the surface of milk.

[*Cf.* Scots *scur* "a scab"; origin unknown, possibly a form of *scurf* (*see* *scruff*).]

scur² *noun* **1** applied to a variety of small creatures found in fresh water, such as: **(a)** the raft spider *Dolomedes fimbriatus*; **(b)** a water louse, *Asellus aquaticus*. **2** *abusive* an undersized person. **3** *abusive* a rascal.

[Scots "a fresh water shrimp", origin unknown.]

scurlines *noun plural* a type of seaweed.

scurravogue *noun, of a child* a rascal.

[Scots *scurryvaig*, origin unknown. Latin *scurra vagus* "a wandering buffoon" has been suggested.]

scurry: **full scurry** at full speed.

scurse *exclamation* a disguised oath: God's curse.

[Cumberland.]

scurvy *adjective* mean.

◆ *noun* chaps (sore places on hands).

□ **scurvily** meanly.

scut *noun, abusive* applied to a girl or, more rarely, a woman.

scutch¹, switch, switch *noun, also scutch-grass, switch-grass* a grass:

(a) couch-grass *Elymus repens*; (b) false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*;

(c) crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*.

[Southern English form *scutch*, English dialectal also *switch*; see quick².]

scutch² *verb* beat (someone or something); smack (a child).

◆ *noun* **1** a thump, a heavy blow. **2** rate, speed *e.g. She came at a good scutch.* **3** distance to travel *e.g. It's a good scutch to thon place.*

□ **scutcher** someone who scutches flax.

□ **scutching, scutchin** **1** a gathering of young girls to scutch flax. **2** a way of reaping corn using only one hand to slap at it with a sickle.

□ **scutch-mill** a water-powered mill in which flax is scutched.

□ **scutch-tow, scutching-tow** the rough tow that is left after scutching flax.

scutch⁴ *verb* confiscate.

scye *see sey.*

scythe: **scythe-stitch** a pain from using a scythe continuously.

□ **scythe-stone** a whetstone used for sharpening a scythe. **scythe-stane** a scythe-stone.

□ **scythe-sweep** the width mown by one sweep of a scythe.

sea, sae, say *noun* the sea, a sea.

□ **saygull** a seagull.

□ **sea-bent** bent grass growing by the sea.

□ **sea-boot** a large boot worn by fishermen.

□ **sea-lark** applied to various shore birds, *specifically*: (a) the ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*; (b) the dunlin *Calidris alpina*. *Cf. sand.*

□ **sea-lightning** phosphorescence on the sea.

□ **sea magpie** a bird: the oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*; *see also*

sea-pyot. *Illustration see pyot.*

□ **sea-maiden** a shellfish: a large whelk.

□ **sea-manure** seaweed used as manure.

□ **sea-mer, seamers** a seagull.

□ **seamew** a seagull.

□ **sea-ore** seaweed; *specifically* seaweed cast on the shore and gathered for manure [*sea* + Southern English *ore*, from Old English *wār* "seaweed"].

□ **sea-parrot** a bird: (a) the puffin *Fratercula artica*; (b) the razorbill.

□ **sea pheasant** a bird: the pintail.

□ **sea-pig** the porpoise *Phocena communis*.

□ **sea-pigeon** a bird: (a) the guillemot *Uria aalge*; (b) the black guillemot *Cephus grylle*.

□ **sea-pink** a wild flower: thrift *Armeria maritima*.

□ **sea-pyot** a bird: the oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, also known as the sea-pie; *see pyot*; *see also sea magpie*. *Illustration see pyot.*

□ **sea-snipe** applied to various sandpipers. [ILLUS: sea-snipe]

□ **sea-swallow** a bird: (a) the tern. (b) *specifically* the lesser tern. (c) the common tern. (d) the little tern.

- **sea-thistle** a wild flower: sea-holly *Eryngium maritimum*.
- **sea-wrack** a seaweed: grass-wrack *Zostera marina*.
- **there's as good fish in the say as iver were ketched**
[Older form in Scots and English *sae, say*.]

seal¹:

seal¹ *noun* a bird: the grey heron *Ardea cinerea*, *Co. Donegal*.
[Origin unknown.]

seal², selch, sealch *noun* a seal.

- **seal-snot** a large jellyfish; *cf* **cowan**.
[Scots forms *selch, sealch*; from Old English *seolh*. Standard English *seal* is from the Old English plural *seolas*.]
- **put the seal on someone** silence someone.

sealbhán *noun* a band of workmen.

seam, saim *noun* lard, *especially* goose lard; *also* **goose-seam**

[*Seam* obsolete in Standard English, older form in Scots and English *saim*; from Old French *saim*.]

sean, seine *noun* **1** a large fishing-net. **2** a boat carrying a **sean**.

search, sarch *verb* **1** search. **2** cross-examine (a person).

[Old form (not in Scots) *sarch*.]

searkin *noun* the primrose.

seascan *noun* a marshy place.

season, saison *verb* **1** season. **2** **season out** spread (newly-cut peat) to begin drying.

◆ *noun* a season.

- **saisoned** seasoned.
[Older form in Scots and English *saison*.]

seath *noun* the coalfish *Pollachius virens*.

[Scots *saithe*, rarely *seeth*; from Old Norse *seiðr*.]

sec *see* **sect**.

secaid *noun* not too well cooked food.

sech *see* **such**.

seck *noun* a sack.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

second, secon' *verb* second (a motion), *usually* **I secon's that**

- **second calver** **1** a cow after her second calf. **2** a cow after her first calf if in calf again.
- **second-crap** hay from the aftermath.
- **second-sight** a return of clearness of sight experienced by some old people.

secret: the secret works the factory at Buncrana where iodine was made from kelp.

sect, sec *noun* sex, gender.

[The same word as Standard English *sect* "a separately organised religious body", from the earlier meaning "a class of persons"; Worcestershire form *sec*.]

see: past tense and past participle seed, past tense also seen

- **have seen** *or* **saw yourself** *or* **someone else doing something** remember yourself or someone else doing something.
- **it's well seen** it is evident.
- **see after** attend to.
- **see out** outlive.
- **see that bump? I got that fallin out the cradle rockin to Status Quo** man to teenager who had just 'discovered' Status Quo.
- **see til** care for, attend to.
- **went to America etc. to see what o'clock it was** made a very short visit to America *etc*.

[Past tense: English dialectal and Scots *seed*; Hiberno-English, English dialectal and Western Scots *seen*. Past participle: English dialectal *seed*.]

seean *see* **seehan**.

seed *noun in plural* oatmeal husks.

- **good seed** a dependable, trustworthy person.
- **he or she is good seed, he or she will come again** he or she will not be disheartened because of failure, he or she will try again.
- **seed, breed and generation** all the ancestors, family and relatives [*seed* rare in Standard English except in Biblical references].
- **seedin** *of a cow* having a swollen udder, a sign that she is about to calve.
- **seed physic** herbal medicine.
- **seed rib** apparently a type of riddle which lets the grain through.
- **seed-size** *of potatoes* of a suitable size for planting.
- **seedy** *of oatmeal or porridge* containing a lot of husks.

seehan, seean, sheehan *noun* the young of the coalfish *Pollachius virens*.

[Irish *saían*. See also *sayon*.]

seek, seekness *see* sick.

seemly *adjective, of a person* attractive, good-looking.

- ◆ *adverb* seemingly, apparently.

seep *noun* **1 seep of a day** a very wet day. **2** a small quantity of liquid, a drop *e.g.* *I haven't a seep of petrol*.

- **seepage** leakage through something meant to keep liquid in or out [also adopted in Standard English].
- **seeping, seepin** *adjective* soaked, drenched.
- ◆ *noun* a small amount (of liquid).

- **seep** seep, ooze out.

- **seep the drop** *of a well-thatched roof* shed rain.

[Scots "to ooze", hence U.S.A., hence adopted in Standard English in some senses; from Old English *sipian* "to soak; to be soaked". See also *sipe*.]

seep *see* sipple.

seeve *noun* a sieve.

- **milk your cow in a sieve** waste your time.

[Older form (still Scots and English dialectal).]

seg *see* sag.

seg¹ *noun* **1** a sedge. **2** *specifically* the yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*.

[Mainly Scots and Northern English form.]

seg² *noun* a callosity on the hand caused by hard work.

[Northern English, from Old Norse *sigg* "hard skin".]

seg³, sag *verb* set (the teeth) on edge.

[Scots *seg*; from Northern English *saig* "to saw", itself probably from Old Norse *saga*, corresponding to Old English *sagu*, which gives **saw**.]

seggan, saggan, sheggin, sheggeen *noun, usually in plural* a name given to various species of reeds, rushes and sedges; *specifically* (**a**) the yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*; (**b**) a reed used for thatching.

- **seggan runner** a bird: the water rail *Rallus aquaticus*.

[Scots and Northern English *seggan*; Hiberno-English *saggan*, also found in Western Scots; *sheggin* also found in Argyllshire; apparently **seg¹** + Scottish Gaelic diminutive ending *-an*. The form *sheggeen* has the Irish diminutive ending *-ín*.]

sel *pronoun* self, *thus* hissel, himsel, hersel, oorsels, theirsels, *etc.*

- **be oneself** *frequently, in the negative e.g. he'll niver be hisself again, A'm no' mysel' since*; be normal; have recovered from shock; said of a person after an illness, accident or calamity.

[Scots and Northern English form. See also **own**.]

selch *see* seal².

seldom *comparative* **seldomer** [general dialectal and Scots].

- **seldom comes the better** *proverbial*

selery *noun* a salary.

sell *past tense and past participle* **sole, soul', sowl', selt**

[Past tense and past participle: Isle of Man forms *sole, soul', sowl'*;

Lancashire *sould*; Scots and Northern English *selt*.]

selvage *noun*, *figuratively* the line where the tide meets the land.

semmit, **simmet** *noun* **1** a man's vest, a singlet. **2** a baby's flannel vest.

3 *rarely* a woman's vest.

[Scots; origin unknown, possibly the same word as obsolete English *samite*, from Old French *samit* in the sense of "a silk undergarment".]

semple *adjective*, *noun* simple.

□ **give a person something that isnae simple** **1** give a person a good talking to. **2** give a person a beating.

□ **simple medicine** one that is supposed to be mild and gentle in its operation no matter of how many ingredients it may be compounded.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

send, **sen'** *verb* send.

□ **a good one to send for sorrow, the right hand to send for sorra, the right fella or messenger to send for death** said of someone taking a long time to do an errand; *see* SORROW.

□ **sent for euphemism** about to die, *frequently I thought I was sent for*

[Scots form *sen'*.]

seney, **sayney** *noun* a medicine: senna.

[Obsolete Standard English *seny*; from Old French *sené*, itself from Latin *senna*, which gives English *senna*.]

seng *see* sang¹.

sense: there's only an ounce o' sense in the whole wurl', an' some people hes very few grains o' it

□ **ye haenae the sense ye wurr boarn wae, ye hinnae the sense ye wurr boarn wae**

sensible *adjective* **1** *of a patient* conscious. **2** **make someone sensible** make someone understand, inform someone.

sent *see* saint.

senthry *noun* a wild flower: centaury *Centaurium spp.*

[Old form.]

seo *exclamation* here!

□ **seo well** alright, okay.

sept *noun* a clan, a tribe.

sequister *verb* rub, wash hard.

sera *exclamation* a call to a sheep.

serene: all serene everything is okay *e.g. Comin' home in the morn-time/ All gay and serene/ Sure I slipped and I fell in/ The Mutton Burn Stream.*

serrag *noun* a wild plant: sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella*.

[*Cf.* sharrock and Irish *samhóg* "sheep's sorrel".]

servant, **servan'** *noun* a servant.

□ **servant man** a man-servant.

□ **what's the use of keeping a servant and begging?** referring to shabby gentility.

[Scots form *servan'*.]

session *noun*, *Presbyterian* the kirk session.

□ **session-room** the room in which the kirk session meets.

set¹, *past tense and past participle* **set**, *verb* **1** set. **2** sit. **3** cause, make *e.g. It set him mad.* **4** suit *e.g. Do I set this jacket?* **5** let (a house, a piece of land, etc.); *hence* **land setting** the letting of land. **6** **set yourself** prepare yourself for an undertaking.

◆ *adjective* **1** *of a person* marked out, so that his or her whereabouts are known. **2**

◆ *noun* **1** the build of a person *e.g. I knew her by the set of her.* **2** a person's appearance *e.g. Luk at the set o yon.* **3** *in various games* a match between two players. **4** *card-playing* a game (of whist). **5** vanity, conceit *e.g. He has a great set with him.* **6 (a) sett historical** the number of ridges of corn that a band of reapers could cut at one time; **(b) also sett** the strip of the field allocated to each reaper. **7** a spell (of weather). **8** *also* **sett** a

portion of a potato used as seed. **9** a check in growth *e.g. She has got a set.* **10** an assignation, an appointment.

- get a set at** take a dislike to (a person).
- make a dead set on** make a dead set at.
- set after** set out after.
- set again** oppose.
- set a lip** pout.
- set a stitch** sew.
- set away** *verb* set off.
- ◆ *noun* **set-away** fine appearance, show.
- set-away** fine appearance, show.
- set back** turn back.
- set by** *verb* put by, lay aside.
- ◆ *adjective* **set store by**, thought highly of [archaic in Standard English].
- ◆ *noun* **set-by** a makeshift, an inferior substitute.
- set-by** a makeshift, an inferior substitute.
- set down** *also* **settin down** a severe reprimand.
- setfast** a wild flower: the creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*; *see also* sit.
- set fast** *Roman Catholic* a fast day fixed by the Church.
- set fut in (a place)** set feet in (a place); come to (a place).
- set-hedge** a quick-set hedge.
- set in case**, *also incorrectly* **setting-case**, supposing *e.g. Tell her to trust in Christ, set in case she's a sinner.*
- set on** attack.
- set pay** fixed time not piece pay; wages based on the number of hours worked, not the quantity of goods produced.
- set someone's clock** put someone in his or her place.
- set time** a festival or celebration that takes place at a particular time every year (originally fixed by the Church); *also* **set night**
- setting** *noun* a clutch of eggs; usually thirteen.
- ◆ *adjective* **settin eggs** eggs for hatching.
- setting dog** a setter.
- setting down** a scolding.
- set to** *verb* begin.
- ◆ *noun* **set-to** a quarrel.
- set-to** a quarrel.
- set to lowe** set on fire.
- set up 1** *of growing crops* decline. **2** *of a person engaged in hard work* stop because of fatigue.
- set your heads together** conspire.
- set yourself of a child** plant the feet firmly and refuse to move.
- take a set out of someone** "take a rise out of someone", make fun of someone.
- the night is set** it is night.

[Past tense and past participle: Hiberno-English, English dialectal and, rarely, Scots *sot*; confused with the past tense and past participle of *sit*.]

set²: **set of drawers** a chest of drawers.

sett *see* set¹.

settle *noun* the part of the byre floor on which a cow stands or lies.

- saddle-bed** a settle-bed, a wooden bench seat that folded down to make a double bed.
- settle down** *of the weather* give signs of impending rain; a term applied to a day that looks like rain *e.g. I doubt it's settlin' down.*
- settling**: **there's a settling before you soon** said to a person who laughs or talks too much.

Setturday *noun* Saturday.

- a Saturday's moon and a Sunday's prime / Never brought good to any man's time**

[Scots form.]

seueek *verb* beat, rub well.

seven, saiven *numeral* seven.

- **in the seven townlands** for miles around.
- **keep a thing for seven years and you'll find a use for it**
- **never poke a fire in a strange house unless ye've known the owner for seven years**
- **seven sisters** a wild plant: (a) the sunspurge *Euphorbia helioscopia*; (b) the petty spurge *Euphorbia peplus*.
[From the cluster of leaves and flower stems at the top of the plant.]
- **seven sleeper** a creature that is imagined to hibernate through the winter: (a) *in plural* one of a group of birds, such as the cuckoo, the swallow, the wheatear, the willow warbler, the chiff-chaff, the corncrake and the stonechat. Illustration of *stonechat*, see **black**; (b) the chrysalis of a butterfly or moth.
- **seven-thirteen piece** 7/6d, the third of a guinea.
- **seven whistler** a bird: the whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* [from its call, a rippling whistle repeated seven times].
- **the seven sorrows of the world** great sorrow.
- **your seven senses** all your wits [*cf.* the use of Irish *seacht* "seven" in a loosely emphatic sense].

[North-Eastern Scots form *saiven*.]

sevendible, savendible, survendible, simmendable *adjective*

1 thorough, complete. **2** secure, made fast. **3** unmistakable, pronounced; remarkable. **4** very great; severe, excessive.

- **sevendibly 1** thoroughly. **2** severely.

[*Sevendible* also found in Orkney; form of Scots *sevendle*, itself an altered form of Scots *solvendie*, from Latin *solvendo* "solvent".]

several *noun, in plural* several people or things *e.g.* *Severals told me about it.*

sew, shoo *verb* sew.

- **sewed house** a house whose thatch is held down (*literally* sewn) with scolbs; *cf.* thatch. [ILLUS: sewed/ho]
- **shewin wabs** 'flowering' or linen embroidery.

[Scots form *shoo*.]

sey, scye *noun, tailoring and dressmaking* the opening of a garment into which the sleeve is inserted [*scye* also adopted in Standard English as a tailoring term].

[Scots; origin unknown, possibly the same word as Scots *sey* "the part of a carcass of beef extending from the shoulder to the loin", itself possibly from Old Norse *segi* "a slice of flesh".]

sez *see* say.

sgreach *noun* a screech, scream; the cry of a bird or a person.

shachle, shaughle *verb* walk in a shambling way.

- **shachle, shachly** having a shambling manner of walking.

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

shack¹ *noun* the shaft of a cart *Co. Donegal*. Illustration see wing¹.

[Origin unknown.]

shack² *noun, adjective* chalk.

[*Cf.* English dialectal and Scots *chaak* form.]

shackie *noun* a handkerchief.

shackle, shakel *noun 1* a hobble for a horse. **2** the link connecting the plough-beam with the "threep-tree".

shacock *see* shake.

shada, shadda, shedda *noun* a shadow.

[Berkshire form *shada, shadda*; Scots form *shedda*.]

- **he was that proud, ye dare not cross his shada, he is that proud, ye daren't stan' in his shedda**
- **he would trimmel if he seen his own shada, afeard of his own**

shedda

- **may yer shadda niver grow less** a good wish.
- **niver fear a ghost till ye see a shadda**
- **that cross, he wud fall out wi' his own shedda, he wud fight wi' his own shedda**

shade *see* shed.**shade** *noun* a shed, a hut.

- **hayshade** a hayshed.
- [Scots and English dialectal; the same word as Standard English "protection from the sun", from Old English *sceadu*. *Shed* is from a different Old English form *sced*.]

shae *see* shoe.**Shaemy** *proper noun* James.**shafe** *noun* a sheaf.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

shaft: break a shaft become pregnant.**shag¹** *noun* coir (coconut fibre).

- **shag-moss** club-moss *Lycopodium selago*.
- [The same word as Standard English *shag* (as in *shag pile carpet*).]

shag² *noun* an ox gelded when full-grown.[Northern Scots form of Scots and Northern English *segg*; probably of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Danish dialectal *seg* "a castrated boar".]**shaghran, shaughran, shaughraun, shaughering: a-shaughran** astray; *see* a³.

- **have a shaughran on you** be a bit insane.
- **on the shaughran 1** "on the road", begging. **2** fallen on hard times.
- 3** on the spree, on a drinking bout.
- [Hiberno-English *shaughraun*, from Irish *seachrán*.]

shaglins *see* clibbin.**shair** *see* sure.**shaird, sherd** *noun* **1** a shard, a splinter. **2** a thin sheet of any substance.**3** a very thin person.[Scots forms of *shard*.]**shairn** *see* sharn.**shake: past tense and past participle shuck, shuk; past participle also****shook**

- **don't shake han's wi' the oul' fella, till ye meet him** don't meet sorrow half-way.
- **in the shaking of an ass's lug** in a very short time, a moment.
- **shake-cock, shaycock, shacock** a medium-sized haycock.
- **shake-cole, shaycole, also shaked cole** a small or medium-sized haycock.
- **shake-hand(s) 1** a welcome. **2** a "handshake", a gift of money.
- **shake hands, kind brother, you're a rogue and I'm another**
- **shaking, shakin 1** the first small bundle into which hay is gathered. **2** a small haycock.
- **the shake of the bag, the shakings of the bag or poke** the weakling of a brood.

[Past tense: English dialectal and Scots *shuck, shuk*. Past participle: Scots, also Northamptonshire, *shuck, shuk*; Hiberno-English, English dialectal and Scots *shook*.]**shalawan** *noun* a social gathering.**shall¹, shaul, showl** *adjective* **1** shallow. **2** *of ice* thin.◆ *noun* a shallow place, a shoal.[Scots and English dialectal *shall, shaul*; old form (not Scots) *showl*. Standard English *shoal* is the same word, and is closely related to *shallow*.]**shall², shaul** *noun* a place in a queue of carts at a corn-mill or flax-mill, a turn at a mill.

- **in shalls** in turns, turn about.

[Irish *seal*.]

shalloo *noun* a hubbub, a commotion.

[Hiberno-English *shilloo*, onomatopoeic.]

shallop¹ *verb* pull up or let down a long fishing line *Co. Donegal*.

- **shalloping** the act of pulling up or letting down a long fishing line.

[Origin unknown.]

shallop² *noun* force, energy, "go" *e.g. He has a great shallop with him; Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

shallop³

shamble *noun, in plural* a horizontal frame laid over a cart to extend the area for carrying hay.

- **shamley: shamley-houghed, shamley-hocked** wobbly-kneed; *see hough*.

- **shammle-shins** *nickname* a person with very long shins.

[Scots and English dialectal form *shammle*, from Old English *scamul* "a stool; a table for displaying goods". The *b* in Standard English *shamble* is an insertion. *See also skemlin*.]

shame *see have*.

- **shame-faced** bold, brazen.

- **think shame** be ashamed *e.g. Think shame of yourself, child*.

shamed *adjective* ashamed.

shamrock *noun* a wild flower with a trefoil leaf, variously identified as:

- (a) the lesser trefoil *Trifolium dubium*; (b) wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*;
- (c) the hare's foot clover *Trifolium arvense*; (d) black medick *Medicago lupulina*.

- **drown the shamrock** take a drink to celebrate on St Patrick's night [from the custom of putting the shamrock from your lapel into your drink].

- **drown your shamrock, drown the shamrock** drink in honour of St. Patrick's Day (March 17th).

- **have the shamrock** be in luck.

- **Irish shamrock** a wild flower: white clover *Trifolium repens*.

- **shamrock tea** very weak tea [as if brewed with three leaves].

[Irish *seamróg*, from *seamar* "clover" + diminutive ending -*óg*.]

Shamus *proper name* James.

Shan, Shane *proper name* John.

shanach *see shanagh*.

shanachy *noun* a bard; a story-teller, *especially* of traditional or legendary tales.

[Irish *seanchaí*, originally "a professional historian", literally "a possessor of *seanchas* (*see shanahas*). *Cf. shanagh*.]

shanagh, shanach, shanough, shenagh *noun* **1** a welcome, a reception *e.g. They got a poor shanagh*. **2** a friendly greeting. **3** a chat; *specifically* a friendly or confidential chat. **4** story-telling, conversation, talk; *cf. shanahas*.

- ◆ *verb* **1** welcome. **2** chat confidentially; gossip.

- **shanachis** *plural obsolete* old stories about relationships *e.g. Mony a cronie 'ill be makin' shanachis (i.e. old stories about relationships)*.

[Irish *seanadh* "faithfulness to old friends", formed on *sean* "old". *Cf. shanachy, shanahas*.]

shanahas *noun* a chat.

[Irish *seanchas* literally "old lore"; formed on *sean* "old". *Cf. shanachy*.]

shan colleen *noun* a man's sweetheart.

shan colleen *noun* a girlfriend, a sweetheart.

shane *see have*.

shane chain.

shane *see soon*.

shangan *noun*, *figuratively* a small, insignificant fellow.

[Irish *seangán* literally "an ant".]

shank *noun* **1** the human leg [only jocular in Standard English]. **2** a handle, a shaft. **3 (a)** the stem of a candlestick; **(b) also pipe-shank** the stem of a tobacco pipe. **4** a grass-stalk.

- shank-bone** the shin-bone [only applied to animal bones in Standard English].
- shank it** go on foot.
- shank off (with yourself)** hurry off on foot.
- shank of the evening** the latter part of the evening.
- shank out** pay, "fork out".
- shank's mare, shank's nag** your own legs.

shan-new *adjective* brand-new.

shanough *see* shanagh.

shanty *noun* a small, hastily built dwelling.

shap *see* shaup.

shap *noun, verb* shop.

- I'll just go into the first shop I meet** *bull*.
 - make shop of someone's pocket**
 - My Aunt Jane, she tuk mae in / and made me tay in her wee tin. / Butter on the bread and shugger on the tap / Twa black balls fae her wee shap** *children's rhyme, old*
 - shap-keeper** a shop-keeper.
 - shop-clothes** bought, as opposed to home-made, clothes.
 - shopped of a railway engine** taken to the workshop.
- [Scots, also Hiberno-English, form.]

shape, ship *verb* **1** prepare *e.g. I must shape the field for the ploughing*.

2 shape out (a) shape up, take up a fighting posture; **(b)** shape up, show promise. **3** show off. **4 shape for** prepare yourself for. **5 shape after or for of a man** court, go after (a woman).

◆ *noun* **1** a shape. **2** a loaf. **3** an attitude, a posture.

- coul' shape** blancmange; *see* cold.
- in her shape of a woman** in her figure, without an outer garment.
- make a shape at or to** make an attempt at or to.

shar *see* shoor.

sharagan *noun* a string tied round trousers below the knee.

shard *noun* the mould-board of a plough.

shards *noun plural* broken pieces of china (used as play-things).

share *see* shire.

share: giv' us share give me some.

- look for your share** go about begging [translation of Irish *do chuid a chuartú*].

share¹ *noun* a chair.

sharee *see* swarry.

sharn, shairn, shern *noun, also cow sharn, cow-sharn* cow-dung.

- sherny** dirtied with dung.

[Scots and English dialectal *sharn*; Scots also *shairn, shern*; from Old English *scearn*.]

sharoy *see* shiroy.

sharp, sherp *adjective* **1** sharp. **2 of a dog** bad-tempered, snappish.

◆ *verb* **1** sharpen [archaic in Standard English]. **2 sharp a horse** roughen a horse's shoes, put in frost-nails or sharpen the calkins to provide more grip.

◆ *noun* a roughened horseshoe.

- as sharp as a weasel** **1** intelligent. **2** ill-tempered.
- sharp dreamer** someone whose dreams tend to come true.
- sharper** a woman with a sharp tongue.
- sharping:**
- sharping stone** a whetstone.

- **sharp-shod** *of a horse* shod with frost-nails.
- **sharp things need to be shtrapped betimes**
[Scots form *sherp*. See also *shirpet*.]

sharrac *noun* a foal.

sharred *see* shire.

sharroch *noun* a wild flower: wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*.

[*Cf.* Scots *shirroch* "sour", apparently from Scottish Gaelic *searbh*. The leaves are edible in small quantities and have a sour taste. See also *serrag*.]

shasagh: **shasagh-na-creegh**, **shasagh-na-criodh** heart's ease *Prunella vulgaris*.

shaugh *see* sheugh, shough.

shaugherin *pres part* walking badly.

shaughle *see* shachle.

shaughran, **shaughraun** *see* shaghran.

shaul *see* shall¹, shall².

shaup, **shap** *noun* **1** the pod of peas or beans; also **pea-shaup** **2** a husk of corn. **3** *in plural* immature peas or oats.

- **pea shaup**, **pea shap** the shell or empty pod of the pea; a pea pod.
[Scots, origin unknown.]

shave: **shaver** **1** a wag, an amusing fellow. **2** a shrewd fellow. **3** a sly, cunning fellow. **4** an eccentric fellow.

- **shavin** a splinter of wood.

shaw *see* shough.

shaw *see* show².

shaw *noun* a wood, a thicket [archaic in Standard English].

shawn, **shan** *noun*, *affectionate* a name for the smallest of a litter or brood *Co. Donegal*.

shay *noun* a chaise; *loosely* a four-wheeled, horse-drawn vehicle of any kind.

shay¹ *noun* a show.

shaycock, **shaycole** *see* shake.

she *pronoun* **1** *with reference to the weather* e.g. *She's a grand day*. **2** used for various implements, including ploughs, spades, saws, clocks and watches, and guns. **3** used for the sun. **4** *obsolete* substituted for *it* in the English of some Irish speakers; *see* **he**. **5** supposedly substituted for *I* in the English of some Irish speakers e.g. *Thon's her boat, she was not fushin the day*; i.e. that's my boat, I wasn't fishing today [also a stereotype of the English of Scottish Gaelic speakers, but never confirmed in reality in either case].

- **she-dandelion** a wild flower: the dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*; *cf.* **he**.
- **she-heather** the crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*; *see also* heather.
- **she-sole** a fish: the whiff *Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis*.

shear, *past participle* **shor'd**, *verb* reap with a hook (as opposed to a scythe).

- ◆ *noun* **1** *in plural* scissors. **2** *usually plural* clods; broken off pieces of peat.

- **a shor'd tree stands long**

- **have more in your sheers nor you can clip** have bitten off more than you can chew.

- **shearing** *noun* **1** reaping. **2** the corn harvest.

- **shearling** **1** a yearling sheep, a sheep after its first shearing. **2** a two-year old ewe.

- **shearman** *historical*, also **cloth shearer** a man employed to dry or dress cloth.

- **shear reeds** tall reeds used for thatching.

[*Past participle*: Devon *shored*.]

shear¹ *noun* the mouldboard of a plough.

shearleeks *noun* a bird: the grey partridge *Perdix perdix*.

[From its cry.]

shebeen, shibeen, shebeen *noun*, also **shebeen-house** an unlicensed drinking house, often selling only poteen.

- **shebeener**, also **shebeen (house) keeper** the keeper of a shebeen.
- **shebeen-house** a cottage in which whiskey is sold without a licence.
- **shebeening** the keeping of a shebeen.

[Hiberno-English *shebeen*, *sheebeen*; from Irish *sibín*.]

shed, shade *verb* part the hair of the head.

◆ *noun* a parting made in the hair.

- **shedding, sheddin** **1** a parting made in the hair. **2** a place where roads separate; a crossroads. **3 shedding of the waters** a watershed.

[Scots and English dialectal form *shade*. See also *shoddy*.]

shed¹ *verb* moult.

shedda *see* shada.

shedded *adjective* "the term applies to an engine operating from a certain location".

sheebeen *see* shebeen.

sheebeen *noun* a fall (of snow); a snowdrift.

[Irish *sibín* "a little snowdrift", from *síob* "a drift" + diminutive ending *-ín*. See also *sheebone*.]

sheebone, sheebowin *noun* a fall (of snow); a snowdrift.

- **lie sheebone** *of snow* lie in drifts.

[Irish *síob dhomhain*, from *síob* (*see* *sheebeen*) + *domhain* "deep".]

sheefin, shiffeen, shiffin: lá na shiffeen the day of the straws.

- **oidhche na sífin, eeghthin sheefin** the night of the straws; Daniel O'Connell, the Home Rule agitator, in support of a boast that he had made, organised a form of relay in which, from various centres, men set out each with a straw to the house of his neighbour, who in turn plucked a straw from his own thatch and carried it to the next house and so on, and in this way made a circuit of Ireland in one night.
- **the shiffeen shool** the travelling straw.

sheeg *see* shig.

sheegie, shiggy, sheeghy *noun* **1** a fairy. **2 derogatory** a person who molycoddles himself or herself.

◆ *adjective* associated with the fairies.

- **sheegie thimble**, also **sheggy thimbles** *noun* a wild flower: the foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*; *see also* fairy. [ILLUS: sheegie]

[Irish *síogai*. See also *sheeogue*.]

sheehan *see* seehan.

sheel *see* shill¹, showl.

sheelag, sheelog, sheelug, shelug *noun* the young of the coalfish

Pollachius virens.

[Possibly Irish *síológ* "a seedling" (*cf.* *síol éisc* "the seed (*i.e.* fry) of fish"). *Cf.* also Scots *sillock*, from Scots *sile* "the young of fish" (itself, like Irish *síol*, from Old Norse *sild*) + *-ock*.]

sheelie *see* Sheila.

sheeling *noun* a hut, a cabin on summer pastures in the mountains.

[Scots and Northern English; from Scots *shiel* "a hut, *etc.*" (possibly from Old Northumbrian **scēla*, corresponding to Old Norse *skáli*) + *-ing*.]

sheelings *noun plural* the scrapings from a hoe.

sheelog, sheelug *see* sheelag.

sheen *see* shoe, soon.

sheeogue *noun* a fairy changeling; a hobgoblin.

[Irish *síóg*, from *sí* "a fairy mound" + *-óg*. See also *sheegie*.]

sheep: plural sheeps

- **as well be hanged for an oul' sheep as a young lamb, as well be hanged for a big sheep as a wee lamb**
- **sheep-clipping** sheep-shearing.

- **sheep-ked** a sheep-tick.
 - **sheep-roddin** a sheep-track.
 - **sheep's brisken** a wild flower: the marsh woundwort *Stachys palustris*; *see* brisken.
 - **sheep-shank** a knot used by sailors.
 - **sheep's naperty** a wild flower: tormentil *Potentilla erecta*; *see* knap².
 - **sheep-walk** pasturage for sheep.
 - **sheep-wrack** an unidentified type of seaweed.
- sheer** *noun* a ramble; a long quick walk.
- sheered** *see* shire.
- sheerna'mail** *noun* oatmeal mixed with water.
- sheery** *see* murder.
- sheeskin** *see* sheskin.
- sheetag** *see* siostog.
- sheetin** *noun* the supposed act of shooting cattle with elfshot.
 [Devon *sheet* form of *shoot*, Middle English *sheete*; an alternative development of Old English *scēotan*, which also gives shoot¹. *Sheet* also arises as the North-Eastern Scots form of shoot¹.]
- sheggeen, sheggin** *see* seggan.
- sheggy** *see* sheegie.
- Sheila, sheelie** *proper noun* **1** an effeminate man. **2** a man who likes to be mollycoddled. **3** a mean-spirited fellow. **4** a useless, good-for-nothing fellow.
- **Sheely wi' the wee girls** boys should be boys.
 [Hiberno-English, from the Irish personal name *Sile*.]
- sheldrake, shelldrake, shieldrake** *noun* the sheld duck.
- shelduck, sheelduck, shell duck** *noun* **1** the sheld duck. **2** *also* **skiielduck** a bird: the red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator*.
- shel-foskey** *noun* a lean-to; a shed in a field.
- shell** *see* shall².
- shell: shell-dulse** a seaweed, *dulse*, growing on seashells.
- **shell-picker** a bird: the oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*.
Illustration see pyot.
- shelter, shilter** *noun, verb* shelter.
- **sheltery** *of a place* sheltered.
 - **shiltier** more sheltered.
- sheltern** *see* shiltern.
- sheltie, shiltie** *noun* **1** a Shetland pony. **2** *generally* a small pony or horse. **3** *figuratively* a small, strong man.
 [Scots *sheltie*, North-Eastern Scots also *shilt*; apparently from Old Norse *Hjalti* "a Shetlander".]
- sheltre** *noun* a hardy breed of pony.
- shelug** *see* sheelag.
- shemmy** *see* shimmy.
- shenagh** *see* shanagh.
- shepherd: shepherd's flock** large fleecy clouds.
- sherd** *see* shaird.
- sheriff** *noun, jocular* a large, heavy crowbar.
- shern, sherny** *see* sharn.
- sheroy** *see* shiroy.
- sherp** *see* sharp.
- sherp** *see* shirpet.
- sherry** *see* murder.
- sheskin, shishkin, sheeskin** *noun* a marsh; a water-logged place in a field; a bog-hole.
 [Irish *seascann, seisceann*.]
- shet** *see* shut.
- shettle** *see* shuttle².
- **she was in the shough when beauty went by** said of a girl who does

not have good looks.

sheugh, sheuch, shugh, shough, shuck, shaugh *noun* **1** *also* **dyke**

sheugh a drainage channel in a field or alongside a road. This is the usual term, a **ditch** being a wall or embankment. **2** a street gutter. **3** a drain opening. **4** a seed drill. **5** a small stream. **6** *jocular* **the Sheugh** the Irish Sea.

◆ *verb* **1** make seed drills. **2** **sheugh in** cover (plants) with earth when transplanting them. **3** obstruct (something), block (a plan).

□ **a Donegal body has no need to look in a dry shaugh for her answer** good at repartee.

□ **in the sheugh** *of a person* ruined.

□ **it's from the sheugh and back to it again** expressing the idea that successful families often only last three generations.

□ **let the sheugh build the dike** *literally* let what is dug out of the trench make the embankment: regulate your spending according to your earnings.

□ **sheugh-grass** roadside hay.

□ **sheugh pullet** a frog.

[Scots *sheugh, sheuch, shugh, shough*; origin unknown, possibly of Flemish origin, *cf.* Brabant dialectal *zoeg* "a meadow ditch". Also borrowed into Ulster Irish as *seoch*.]

shew *see* shoo.

shey *see* shy.

shibby *noun, derogatory* a man who does housework *Mid Ulster*.

[Origin unknown.]

shibeen *see* shebeen.

shift *verb* change your clothes.

◆ *noun* the act of moving house.

□ **shifter**, *also* **shifting bar** a crowbar.

□ **the first shift of a North wun' (wind) an' the heels of an Aist (East) wun' is as hard to judge as a mad dog**

shig, sheeg *noun* **1** **sheeg** a rectangular haystack. **2** **shig** a haycock. **3** a rectangular stack of flax beats. **4** **sheeg** *rare* a square stack of straw.

◆ *verb* stack (corn, *etc.*).

□ **shigcock** the intermediate hay-heap.

[Irish *síog*. *Shig* also found in Galloway.]

shigglety *see* shog.

shiggy *see* sheegie.

shiggy-shoo *see* shog.

shilcorn, shillcorn, chilcorn *noun* a blackhead; a pimple; *specifically* a pimple that does not come to a head.

[Scots and Northern English *shilcorn*, Scots also *chilcorn*; origin unknown, possibly containing **horn** in the sense "a callosity".]

shill *see* showl.

shill¹, shull, sheel *noun* **1** a pea-pod. **2** *usually in plural* the husks of grain.

◆ *verb* shell (peas, *etc.*); remove the husks from (corn, *etc.*).

□ **chaff shillins** awns of barley.

□ **shilling, shillin** **1** *usually in plural* shelling, grain with the husks removed. **2** shelling seeds, the husks of grain. **3** *usually in plural* the fine skin on grain inside the husk.

□ **shilling hill** a hill where grain was formerly winnowed by being thrown into the wind.

□ **shilling seeds**, *also* **shill seeds** shelling seeds, the husks of grain; *specifically* the husks of oats.

□ **shillin stones** the pair of millstones used for taking the husks off oats.

□ **shill oot** "shell out" money.

[Scots and Northern English *shill*; West Midland English, also rarely Scots, *shull*; Scots and English dialectal also *sheel*; from Middle English *shylle*, related to **shell**.]

shill², shell *adjective* shrill.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), from Old English *scyl* "resonant".]

shillcorn *see* shilcorn.

shillelagh *noun* an oak or blackthorn cudgel.

[Hiberno-English, named after Shillelagh in County Wicklow.]

shilling: **if he gets a shilling, it's a prisoner** he is a miser.

shillocks, shillogs *noun plural* a wild flower: rape *Brassica napus*; *cf.* skellock. [ILLUS: shillocks]

shilly-shally *noun* a weak, indecisive person.

shilpit, shilped *adjective* thin and sickly-looking; poorly dressed, having the appearance of neglect.

[Scots *shilpit*, possibly an altered form of *shirpet*.]

shilter *see* shelter.

shiltern, shelttern *adjective* morose, gloomy *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

shiltie *see* sheltie.

shiltier *see* shelter.

shimmagine *noun* the refuse of malt after brewing, used as cattle and pig feed.

shimmy, shimee, shemmy, chem *noun* a woman's garment: a chemise (a slip).

[English dialectal and Scots *shimmy*, English dialectal also *shimee*, Lancashire also *shemee*; a mistaken singular form as if *chemise* was plural. Hampshire form *shim*.]

shin *see* shoe.

shin *see* soon.

shin: **shin-burnt** having the shins mottled by sitting at the fire.

□ **shin-heat** a warming of the legs at a fire.

shindy *noun* a row, a quarrel.

◆ *verb* quarrel.

shine: **in the name of the shinin sun** *exclamation*

□ **shinin**:

□ **take a shine out of someone** "take a rise out of someone", make fun of someone.

shinnen, shinnin *noun* a muscle, a sinew.

[Western Scots form of Scots and Northern English *sinnen*, itself a form of *sinew*. The final *n* is an insertion.]

shinner *see* cinner.

shinny, shinnie, shinty *noun* the game of hurling, *especially* in its traditional form (now replaced by organised hurling).

□ **shinny your own side 1** the lining-out cry at the start of a traditional game of shinty. **2** the cry in the game of shinty when a player crosses the line between the sides.

[Scots and Northern English; origin unknown, possibly from the cry *Shin you!* used in the game, itself of unknown origin.]

ship *noun* a sheep.

ship *see* shape.

□ **don't lose the ship for a haporth o' tar**

Shipquay: **Shipquay Street's a slippery street tae slide upon** *tongue twister, L'derry city*.

shire, share *verb* **1** pour off the top layer of a liquid; *specifically* drain off the watery part of buttermilk. **2** skim (a liquid). **3** separate liquid from solid matter by allowing it to stand until the solid matter settles to the bottom. **4** pour off (a liquid), leaving the sediment. **5** *of snow* melt. **6** *of a liquid* settle, clear. **7** *figuratively, of the mind* clear. **8** *figuratively* clear (the head) by taking a walk in the fresh air, *frequently passive* **get your head shired**; *also* **sharred, sheered** **9** cool down after a fit of temper. **10** throw off (the effects of drink). **11** **shire off** *of rain* stop.

◆ *noun* **1** a defect in linen fabric. **2** a thin place in a woven fabric. **3** a thin

patch in a crop.

- **shired** *of the texture of a fabric* thin.
- **shiry, shirey 1** *of a liquid* thin, watery. **2** *of woven material* thin, loosely woven. **3** *of a crop* thin.

[Scots and Northern English *shire, sheer*; Scots also *share*; from Old English *scīr* "bright; clear".]

shiroy, sheroy, sharoy, shorroy *noun* **1** a crowd at a wedding or other function. **2** a boisterous event; a rowdy gathering. **3** an ostentatious show.

[Origin unknown.]

shirpet, sherpet *adjective* **1** pinched in appearance *e.g. a shirpet nose*.

2 weak, feeble. **3** insipid, lacking in strength or flavour.

[Scots *shirpet*, apparently formed on *sharp*. *See also shilpit*.]

shirt, shurt *noun* **1** a shirt. **2** a man's or woman's vest.

- **all shirt and no frill, all frill and no shirt**
- **one more clean shirt'll do ye** said to someone who is coughing badly.
- **shirtin: shirtin cloth 1** the quantity of cloth for making a shirt.
- 2** *historical* a white streamer worn on the hat of a hearse-driver.
- **without a shirt** with nothing.
- **ye niver know you're livin' ti' ye luk at yur shirt** you learn something new every day.

[Scots form *shurt*.]

shishkin *see* sheskin.

shite: shitehawk, *also shite* a bird: the skua *Stercorarius spp.*; *see also* dirt, kep, gob¹, snap.

See also skite¹.

shiureach *noun* a very thin fellow.

shive¹ *noun* (a) *usually plural* a herb: chives; (b) the shallot.

[West Midland form.]

shive² *noun, usually plural 1* the husks of oats. **2** shows, fragments of the refuse of flax.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Northern English), from West Flemish *shif*.]

shive³ *noun* a slice (of bread, *etc.*).

[Rare in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal); from Middle English *schīve*, Old English **scīfe*.]

shive⁴ *verb* shave *e.g. The lightnin' shived past my eyes*.

shiver *noun 1* a slice. **2** a splinter [rare in Standard English].

shiverrant *noun* a neglected child *e.g. "Poor crayther! it was a shiverrant to the world."*

shivvy *verb* chivvy *Co. Donegal*.

shleucan *noun* a donkey's hoof that has grown long and upturned through neglect.

[Irish *sleabhcán* "a horny stump".]

shlooters *noun plural* old, worn-out shoes; *cf.* slooter.

sho, show *exclamation* shoo!

[Scots form.]

shoart *see* short.

shoat *noun* a pipe down the side of a house draining water from the roof.

shoave *see* show¹.

shoch *see* shough.

shock *verb* frighten (a person).

- **my shocking! exclamation**
- **shocking:**

shock¹ *noun, in plural* the shows of flax.

- **wee shock** a very small child or animal.

shod *noun* a piece of iron used to protect the heel or toe of a shoe from wear.

[The same word as Standard English "fitted with shoes".]

shod¹ *noun, in plural* the shows of flax.

shoddy *noun* small quarry stones.

- **shoddy-man** *quarrying* a man who shapes paving setts, *etc.*
[Yorkshire "inferior coal"; from *shoad* "loose pieces of ore mixed with soil" (a mining term; possibly from Old English *scādan* "to divide", which gives *shed*) + *-y*.]

shode *noun* a puff (of a tobacco pipe).

shoe, shae; *plural shoon, shin, sheen*; *noun* a shoe.

- **naebody gaes barefooted like the shoemaker's wife**
- **shoe-cap** a toe-cap on a boot.
- **shoeing, shooin** the metal rim of a wooden wheel.
- **shoe-leather**:
- **shoemaker**:
- **shoe-mouth** the top of a shoe *e.g.* *The snow was up to my shoe-mouth.*
- **shoes in the cradle and feet in the mire** things are wrong-placed.
- **the finest man that ever wore shoe leather**
- **while your shoes are good** while you have the opportunity.
[Scots and Northern English form *shae*. Plural: *shoon* poetic in Standard English; Scots forms *shin, sheen*.]

shog *verb* **1** joggle, jolt. **2** nudge. **3** move slowly, jog along.

- ◆ *noun* **1** a jog, a jolt. **2** a nudge; a push. **3** a shake. **4** a blow, a shock.
- **shigglety** unsteady, rocking.
- **shoggle, shuggle** *verb* **1** joggle, jolt; shake. **2** be unsteady.
- ◆ *noun* a jog, a jolt; a shake.
- **shoggly, shuggly, shuggely, shogglety** *adjective* shaky, unsteady.
- **shoggy, shoogie, shuggy** sway to and fro.
- **shoggy-shoo, shuggy-shoo, shiggy-shoo, suggy-soo** **1** a suspended rope used by children as a swing. **2** the act of swinging a child in the air. **3** *also shuggety-shoo* a see-saw; the game of see-saw. **4** a soft place in a bog where a person can jump up and down without breaking the surface. **5** the gallows. *See shoo.*
- **shuggling-stone** a rocking-stone near Creeslough.
- **shuggly-shoo, shoogly-shoo, shuggely-shoo** *noun* **1** a quagmire. **2** *also shuggle-shoe* a see-saw. **3** a type of see-saw in a children's playground.
- ◆ *verb* (give something) a rock from side to side. *See shoo.*
[Rare in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal); possibly from Middle Low German *schocken* "to swing", influenced by *jog, etc.* Scots also *shuggle, shoogle, shiggle*; Scots and Northern English also *shuggy*, Scots also *shoogy*.]

sho-hole *noun* an opening or rough drain to carry away water from a downpipe.

shoo *see sew.*

shoo, shew *verb*, *rowing* back water.

[Scots, form of *shove*.]

shooder *see shoulder.*

shoogie, shoogly-shoo *see shog.*

shooin *see shoe.*

shook *see shake.*

shool *see showl.*

shool, shule *verb* lead a wandering life.

- ◆ *noun* restlessness; a desire to wander or travel.
[Irish *siúl* "to roam". *See also shooler*.]

shooler, shuler *noun* **1** a tramp; a tinker; a wandering vagabond; a beggar.

- 2** a sponger, *especially* one who sponges to obtain drink. **3** an uninvited guest.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *siúlóir* "a rambler", from *siúl* (*see shool*) + agent ending *-óir*.]

shoon *verb* sit down.

shoon *see shoe.*

shoor *see* shore.

shoor, shar *noun* a shower.

- **there'll na be much wet, but there'll be lang showers with rain atween** an answer to someone who says there will be no difficulty when it is obvious there will be plenty.

[Scots and Northern English form *shoor*, Midland English form *shar*.]

shoosh *verb* be quiet.

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

shoot *see* shuit.

- **shot down** disappointed in love.

shoot¹ *verb* fling, toss, throw away.

- ◆ **noun 1** a gutter along the edge of a roof. **2** a drainpipe.

- **as sure as shootin'** very sure.
- **have (a cow) shot** treat (a cow supposed to have been affected by the evil eye) by putting gunpowder on her back between the hips and setting it off with a match, then giving her an egg with gunpowder in it to eat.
- **if A had been shot for it A cudna a (done something)**
- **if ye shoot at the moon, ye'll maybe hit a star** aim high.
- **shoot at a pigeon and kill a crow**
- **shootie in** a football game in which all the players have a free shot at the nets.
- **shoot the crow** go down a slide on the hunkers but with one foot stuck out in front.
- **shot elfshot** (a disease in cattle supposedly caused by a fairy dart).
- **shot of something** rid of, free from something.
- **shot-star** a shooting-star, a meteor.

See also scoot¹, sheetin.

shoot² *noun* a suit.

[Scots form.]

shoot³ *noun* a foolish person.

shoot⁴ *noun* the mouldboard of a plough.

shootable *see* shuit.

shooter *see* shoulder.

- **shap man:**

shor'd *see* shear.

shore, shoor *noun* a sewer, a drain.

- ◆ *verb* lay drains in (a field).

[General dialectal and Scots *shore*; probably from the use of the shoreline for dumping rubbish, but often understood as a form of *sewer*.

The form *shoor* has apparently been influenced by *sewer*.]

shorroy *see* shiroy.

short *see* dishort.

short, shoart *adjective* short.

- **draw short cuts** a way of deciding who leads in a game.
- **fond of short cuts** not straight.
- **short and long** in short, in brief.
- **short and sweet, like a donkey's gallop**
- **shortbread** a short (friable) biscuit baked with butter.
- **short-grained, also short in the grain** irritable, short-tempered.
- **short in the steps an' long in the teeth** showing signs of old age.
- **shortly** quickly.
- **short of puff 1** short-winded. **2** out of breath.
- **short o' the count** less in amount.
- **short-tongued 1** tongue-tied. **2** having a lisp.
- **short-writing** shorthand.
- **the short hours of the morning** the small hours of the morning.

[Scots form *shoart*.]

shot *see* shoot¹.

shot¹ *noun* a contribution; a reckoning, *thus* pay yer shot

- **first shot** the first run of the still in making **poteen**, a weak distillation, used medicinally for rubbing sprains, *etc.*
- **the first shot o' whiskey** good to rub for rheumatism.
- **you were always a good shot at a lying fowl** *ironic* you're a wonder!
- shot² 1** a young, weaned pig. **2** *derogatory* a young person.
[Scots; probably of Dutch origin, *cf.* Dutch dialectal *schote*.]
- shough** *see* sheugh.
- shough** *see* show¹.
- shough, shoch, shaugh, shaw** *noun* a draw at a pipe, a smoke.
◆ *verb* take a draw at a pipe, smoke.
[Hiberno-English *shough, shoch, shaugh*; from Irish *seach*.]
- shoul** *noun* a rock or sound in Carlingford Lough.
- should, shud, sud**; *negative shouldnae, shudna, shudnae, sudna*; *auxiliary verb* should.
□ **should ought to** ought to.
[Scots and English dialectal form *shud*, Scots and Northern English also *sud*. Negative: mainly Scots and Northern English *shudna*; Scots also *shudnae, etc.* (*see* no²).]
- shoulder, shouldher, showlder, shooder, shouter, shooter** *noun* the shoulder.
□ **roon sholdered, roon shooterd, roon shooteret, roon shuttered, roon shoutered**: **shoulder-stone** a putting stone, a shot putt.
□ **that many they were shoulderin' other** expressing a large number of birds *etc.*
[Southern English form *showlder*; Scots and Northern English forms *shooder, shouter, shooter*.]
- shout**: **shouting** the time of confinement of a woman having a baby.
□ **shout out of a pregnant woman** be in labour.
- shouter** *see* shoulder.
- shove** *see* show¹.
- show** *see* sho.
- show** *see* sow.
- show¹** [rhymes with "how" or "snow"], **shough, shove, shoave** *noun*, usually in plural flax refuse, the woody part separated from the fibre in scutching.
[Scots *show*, Hiberno-English and English dialectal *shove*; apparently an altered form of *shive*².]
- show², shaw** *verb* **1** show. **2** give, hand over *e.g.* *Show me that spade, till I show you how to dig a hole.*
◆ *noun* **1** give someone a show of let someone see (something), show someone (something). **2** **shaw** the green top of a potato plant.
□ **show-boy** a man who is a show-off.
□ **show-down** to quarrel.
□ **Showing Sunday** *historical* the Sunday following a wedding, when it was customary for the bridal party to attend the church at which the wedding took place. The newly-married couple sat together on this occasion. Thereafter, they reverted to the usual practice of men sitting in the right hand aisle, women in the left.
[Scots and Northern English form *shaw*.]
- show³** *noun* the udder of a cow *e.g.* *Making a good show before calving.*
- showl** *see* shall¹.
- showl, shool, shule, shill, sheel** *noun, verb* shovel.
□ **shovel-handed** left-handed.
[English dialectal forms *showl, shool*; Scots *shill, sheel*. The spelling *shule* can represent either Scots *shill* or English *shool*. *See also* scuffle¹.]
- showlder** *see* shoulder.
- Shraft** *noun* Shrovetide.
□ **Shraft Tuesday, Shrauve Tuesday** Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day.

- [Hiberno-English and obsolete Northern English form *Shraf*;
Hiberno-English also *Shraft*; South of England *Shrauve*.]
- shrammed** *adjective* perished with cold.
[Southern English, possibly from rare Old English *scrimmam* "to shrivel".]
- shriek**: **shriek cock** a bird: the mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*; *see also* screech. [ILLUS: shriek/c]
- shroggy** *see* scrog.
- shrubby** *see* scrub.
- shuck** *see* shake, sheugh.
- shud** *see* should.
□ **he should have said** he said, he did say.
- shudna, shudnae** *see* should.
- shued** *adjective* sued.
- shuffle**: **shuffle the brogue** a game: hunt-the-slipper; *see* brogue.
□ **shuffle wing** a bird: the dunnoek *Prunella modularis*.
- shuggar** *noun* sugar.
□ **suckered** pampered, spoiled.
[Old form *shuggar* (still Scots and English dialectal), Scots also *sucker*.]
- shuggelty-shoo** *see* shoggle.
- shuggely, shuggety-shoo, shuggle, shuggly, shuggly-shoo, shuggy, shuggy-shoo** *see* shog.
- shugh** *see* sheugh.
- shug-shug** *exclamation* a call to calves.
- shuir** *see* sure.
- shuit, shoot** *noun, verb* suit.
□ **shootable** suitable.
□ **suit yourself with** provide yourself with; marry.
[Scots and English dialectal form.]
- shuk** *see* shake.
- shule** *see* shool, showl.
- shuler** *see* shooler.
- shull** *see* shill¹.
- shullecks** *noun* a cowardly person.
- shune** *see* soon.
- shunner** *see* cinner.
- shure** *see* sure.
- shurk** *verb* shirk.
- shurl** *verb* slip, slide.
[Northern English; possibly of Low German origin, *cf.* German dialectal *schurren* "to slide on ice" + *-le*.]
- shurt** *see* shirt.
- shut, shet** *noun, in plural* shutters (on a window).
□ **come home on a shutter** be carried home injured.
□ **shutter**:
[Southern English form *shet*.]
- shuttle**¹ *noun* **1** an icicle. **2** a sheet of ice on the road.
[Also found in Galloway; altered form of Scots *shockle*, itself a shortened form of Scots and Northern English *ice shockle*, from Middle Low German *īs-joke*, corresponding to Old English **īs-ȝicel*, which gives *icicle*.]
- shuttle**², **shettle** *noun* a tangle; a matted clump, *e.g.* of plant roots *Co. Donegal*.
[Origin unknown.]
- shuttle**³: **shuttle-eye** *weaving* the part of the loom through which the weft passes.
□ **shuttle-foot** *literally* having a foot like a weaver's shuttle: splay-footed.
□ **shuttle-hook** *weaving* a small hook for drawing the weft through the shuttle-eye.

shy, shey *adjective* shy.

- be shy** *euphemism* **1** in card games be unwilling to play. **2 be shy with something** be unwilling to share something.
- I shy** hide and seek.

sib *adjective* **1** related by blood [archaic in Standard English]. **2 too sib of cattle** inbred. **3 friendly**, on good terms.

◆ *noun* relatives, kindred.

- make sib** make free.
- sib-bred** inbred.
- siblike** friendly.
- sibship** friendship.
- sib to a person** related by blood to a person *e.g. Question asked of a ghost: Have you no sibber friend till appear till?, He favours his father and is sib to his mother's side.*

sic, siccan *see* such.

siccar *adjective* sour, cutting in speech; *of an unpleasant disposition.*

sich *see* such.

sich *verb, noun* sigh.

- sicher** sigh and sob.
[Scots form.]

sichan *see* such.

sicht *see* sight.

sick, seek *adjective* sick.

- are ye sick?** you must be joking!
- fall sick**
- it wud sicken a pig**
- neither sick nor sore** afflicted neither in mind nor body.
- seekness** sickness.
- sicken:**
- sickener** a severe disappointment.
- sickly:**
- sickly-looking** *of the moon* watery.
- sick, sore and sorry; sick, sore and tired** *emphatic* sick and tired (of something or somebody).
- sick-sorry** exceedingly sorry.
- sick-tired** "fed up".
- sicky-baad-no weel!** ill.
- take sick** fall ill.
- you sicken my happiness** I find you very annoying.
[Scots and Northern English form *seek*.]

sickamoor *noun* a tree: the sycamore.

[Old form.]

sicker *adjective* **1** sure, certain. **2 of a person** steady, reliable. **3** precise in speech.

[Scots and Northern English; from Old English *sicor* "safe, secure", itself from Latin *securus*, which gives *secure*.]

sick-sick *see* suck.

sicna *see* such.

sid *see* say.

sidders *see* sithars.

side *noun* **1** the vicinity of a town, *etc. e.g. Comber side. **2** prejudice *e.g. She niver shows side.**

- keep your right side out** act in such a manner as to be of benefit.
- on the side of your foot** on foot.
- side-board** a movable board used to heighten the sides of a cart.
- side-car** a jaunting-car.
- side-cast, side-casted** *of the weather, adjective* overcast.
- ◆ *verb* become overcast.
- side-legs** (ride) side-saddle.

- **side-loft** a loft extending over a part of a room.
- **sidesman** the best man at a wedding [because he stands beside the groom].
- **sidewiper** an evasive, untrustworthy person.
- **sidie, sidey**:
- **sidie by sidie, sidie for sidie** side by side, alongside each other.
- **sidth** length.
- **stretch the side** go to bed; go to sleep.
- **the two sides of the house, the other side of the house** *euphemisms* referring to the sectarian divide.

sids *noun plural* suds.

siege *noun* an attack (of illness); an epidemic.

sight, sicht *noun* **1** sight. **2** the pupil (of the eye).

- **a sight for sore eyes** **1** an unusual occurrence. **2** a pleasing sight; *specifically* describing a welcome visitor or someone who has not visited for a long time.
- **get sight of, get a sight of** catch a glimpse of.
- **the sight left his or her eyes** describing the effect on a person of seeing something astonishing.
[Scots form *sicht*.]

sign: like Paddy Burney's signboard, it's the same on the other side

- **like Paddy Hanlon's or Harry Roe's signboard, it is the same on the other side**
- **signboard**:
- **signs on it, etc.** evidently *e.g.* *So signs on it ye had nothing to do with him or ye'd have another story* [translation of Irish *tá a shliocht air*].
- **sign your hand** write your signature, put your name down [archaic in Standard English].
- **the sign of** a sign of *e.g.* *I didn't see the sign of a soul*.

signify: poor-signified, also signified insignificant.

- **signified**:

signify¹ *verb* magnify *e.g.* *signifying glasses*.

silence: silence gives consent, as the man said when he kissed the dumb woman

sillendher *noun* a heavy blow *Co. Donegal*.

siller *noun*: money.

[Scots form of *silver*.]

silly *adjective* **1** limp *e.g.* *This lettuce is gone silly with the sun*.

- 2** (hanging) loose. **3** *of a cutting edge* untempered.
- **give someone the silly hand** smack someone.
- **silly-go-saftly** **1** a foolish, useless person. **2** a fun-loving person fond of playing harmless tricks. *See soft*.
- **silly old man** a game, popular at wakes.

simmendable *see* sevendible.

simmer *see* summer.

simmet *see* semmit.

simper *verb* simmer.

[Older form (still Northern English).]

sin *see* son.

sin *see* soon.

sin *see* sun.

sin *see* syne.

sin: as sure as I'm in sin

- **may I never sin, may I nivver sin** *e.g.* *May I nivver sin if I don't do such and such*.
- **not a sinner or a soul, not a sinner** "not a soul", no one.
- **sinner**:
- **sin your soul** *literally* injure your soul by committing sin: said when provoked to swear, *etc.*

□ **the sin of a lie is the pinching of it**

since: I clare tae God I niver met the like o' ye since my born days

sincere *noun, of manner* serious.

sinder, sinther *verb* sunder, separate.

□ **acumsinery** *literally* all come asunder: an old, tattered garment; an old, worn item that is difficult to wash, such as old lace.

□ **set (a couple) sindthry** divorce (a couple).

□ **sundry, sundhry, sunry, sindry, sindhry, sinthery, sinery, sinnery** *adjective* sundry, various; *also all an sinery*

◆ *adverb, also into sinnery* asunder, apart, in bits; *also fall sinery see also asiner.*

[Scots forms *sinder, sinner*; obsolete North-Eastern Scots also **sinther*; Scots also rarely *sunner*.]

sine *see* syne.

sinery *see* sinder.

sing: **sangin** singing.

□ **sing dumb** say nothing.

□ **singing-man** a precentor.

single: **single-snipe** a bird: the Jack snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*, also known as the half-snipe [as opposed to the larger common, or double, snipe *Gallinago gallinago*].

□ **singletree** the swingletree of a plough. [ILLUS: singletr]

□ **singling 1** the process of taking one run of poteen through the still. **2** *in plural. also singleens* poteen run once through the still.

sinicle *noun* a wild flower: sanicle *Sanicula europaea*, Co. Donegal.

sink *noun* a gutter; a sewer.

sink *noun, also sinker* a length of woven cloth.

sinner *see* cinner.

sinnery, sinther, sinthery *see* sinder.

siostog, sheetag *noun* a hassock of plaited straw or rushes.

[Irish *saoisteog*.]

sipe *verb 1* seep. **2** soak, saturate.

□ **siping** soaking, saturated, *usually siping wet*

[Scots and Northern English form of *seep*.]

sipple, seeple *noun* a sip.

◆ *verb* sip noisily.

[Scots and Northern English *sipple*, from *sip* + *-le*.]

September *noun* the month, September.

siree *see* swarry.

siserary, sisery *noun* a violent scolding; a severe blow.

□ **sis** a long-winded story, *especially* one offered as an excuse.

[English dialectal *siserary*, form of *certiorari* "a type of legal writ".]

siskin *noun* a bird: the goldcrest.

sissle *verb* sizzle.

[Southern English form.]

sissywig *noun* an earwig *North Down. Illustration see* fork.

[Altered form.]

sister: **sister's daughter** used instead of the less specific term *niece*.

□ **sister's son** used instead of the less specific term *nephew*; *cf.* brother.

sit, past tense and past participle sut, past tense also sot, verb sit in to or up to draw your seat close to (the table, fire, *etc.*).

□ **a settin hen** a hen sitting on eggs.

□ **better to rue sit than rue flit, better to rue an' sit than rue an' flit** better to stay than to move and repent it.

□ **he would sit up all night watching a penny** said of a miserly person.

□ **let that hare sit** take no action on something for the moment.

□ **sit a summons** disregard a legal summons.

□ **sit down** settle, make your home; *specifically* take up the tenancy of a farm.

- **sit down off yer feet** sit down.
- **sit-fast** a wild flower: the creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*; *see also set*¹.
- **sit someone's biddin'** stand correction.
- **sittin-down** a marriage settlement, financial means, property, *etc.*
- **sitting** a number of eggs on which a hen sits, usually thirteen.
- **sitting's as chape as stannin' except in a public house**
- **sittin in the middle of your dinner**, *etc.* in the process of eating your lunch, *etc.*
- **sittin on nettles** restless, ill at ease.
- **sittin's as chape as stan'in except in a public-house**
- **sit under (the Rev. X) or (the ministry of Rev. X)** *Presbyterian* attend the church of (Rev. X).
- **sit up** draw your seat close to the fire.
[Past tense: Scots, also Shropshire, form *sut*; Southern English *sot*. Past participle: Scots, also Shropshire, *sutten*. *See also set*¹.]

sit² *noun* a situation.

sit-a-way *noun* *e.g.* *What kind of a sit-a-way is there there?*; *i.e.* are there many interesting things there?

sithars, sidders *noun plural* scissors.

[Hiberno-English and English dialectal form *sithars*, Northern English also *sidders*.]

sitherwood *noun* a shrub: southernwood *Artemisia abrotanum*.

[Scots form.]

sittelen *noun* a kitten.

six, sax *numeral* six.

- **a pair of sixes, all sixes, about sixes** all the same, "six of one and half a dozen of the other".
- **saxpence** sixpence.
- **six-and-fifty** a building stone weighing fifty-six pounds (half a hundredweight, 25.40 kilogrammes).
- **six an fifty** a weight.
- **six-quarter, six-quarters** a horse that is a year and a half old.

[Scots form *sax*.]

sixt *numeral* sixth.

[Scots form.]

siz *see* say.

size: have the size of someone have someone's measure, have a good idea of his or her character.

- **see the size o someone** "have the size of someone", discover someone's true character.
- **that's about the size of it** that is the truth of the matter.

'sizes, sizes *noun plural* assizes.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), shortened form.]

skahy *see* stughie.

skail *see* school.

skaith *see* scathe.

skale, scale *verb* **1** scatter, spill. **2** *specifically* spread (manure, *etc.*). **3** *of a meeting, congregation, school class, etc.* spill out, disperse. **4** stand (a round of drinks). **5** rake out (a fire).

◆ *noun* a round of drinks.

[Scots and Northern English; probably of Scandinavian origin and related to Old Norse *skilja* "to separate".]

skall *see* scald.

skalley-baulcher, skalley-baulchin *see* scaldie.

skame *see* scheme.

skane *noun* a pin cushion.

skar *see* scar.

skarf, skart *see* scarf.

skate *noun* a strip of ice that children slide on.

skatty *verb* quarrel.

skaur *see* scar.

skaw *see* skew¹.

skay *see* skeagh².

skea *noun* **1** bare ground. **2** a spoor. **3** the look or appearance of a growing crop.

skeag, skaig *noun* a hawthorn bush; *specifically* a solitary hawthorn, often regarded as a fairy thorn.

[Irish *sceachóg*, from *sceach* (*see* skeagh¹) + diminutive ending *-óg*.

See also sciog.]

skeagh¹ *noun* **1** the hawthorn. **2** a hawthorn bush; *specifically* a solitary hawthorn, often regarded as a fairy thorn. *Illustration see* fairy. **3** a haw, the fruit of the hawthorn.

[Irish *sceach*. *See also* skeag.]

skeagh², skey, skay *noun* **1** part of an eel-trap in a weir, consisting of a wattled wing to guide the eels into the net *Lower River Bann*. [ILLUS: skeagh/P] **2** a partial loft or half-loft in a traditional house. **3** a wickerwork hurdle, raised about five feet from the ground, on which flax was dried.

[Irish *sciath* "any object made of wattle-work".]

skean *see* skian.

skedaddle *verb* go quickly.

skeeding, skeedyin *see* scideen.

skeeg, skeek, skig, skeg, squeeg, squig *noun* **1** *also* skeegin, squiggle a small quantity (of liquid). **2** a squirt of milk from a cow's teat.

[Scots *skeeg, skig, skeg*; origin unknown.]

skeegen *see* scideen.

skeeg-wag, skig wag *noun* a light-headed person, *especially* a foolish girl.

□ **skeeg-waggery** facetiousness, love of joking.

[Irish *scigmhagadh*.]

skeel *verb* remove mud from the surface of (a yard or road).

[*Cf.* English dialectal "to strip the crust off a loaf", Hampshire *also* noun "a layer of soil"; possibly a form of scale².]

skeely *adjective* skilful.

[Scots, from Scots *skeel* form of *skill* + *-y*.]

skeem *see* skime.

skeenk *see* skink.

skeer *see* scar.

skeerloch *noun* a complaint *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

skee-weep *noun* **1** a smear. **2** an illegible scrawl.

[Onomatopoeic.]

skeg *see* skeeg.

skeggin *noun* a drop.

skeigh, skiegh *adjective*, *especially of a horse* spirited, mettlesome, skittish.

[Scots *skeich*; apparently of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian and Swedish *skygg* "inclined to shy".]

skein: ravel the **skein** confuse, bring matters into confusion.

skelb, skelp, skilp, scarp *noun* a splinter, *especially* a splinter of wood in a finger, *etc.*; *cf.* skelf.

◆ *verb* **skelp** cleave.

[Irish *scealp, scealb*; *also* Scots *skelb, skelp* from Scottish Gaelic *sgealb*.]

skelf, skilf, scalf *noun* a splinter, *especially* a splinter of wood in a finger, *etc.*; *cf.* skelb.

◆ *verb* cleave.

[Scots *skelf*, probably from obsolete Dutch *schelf*.]

skeligan, skeligon *see* skellington.

skellet *noun* a saucepan.

[Older form (still Scots and English dialectal) of *skillet*. *See also* skilyeen.]

skellington, skeligan, skeligon *noun* a skeleton, the skeleton.

[English dialectal, also found in Glasgow; altered form.]

skellock, skillocks, skelligs *noun* a wild flower: (a) charlock *Sinapis arvensis*; (b) the wild radish *Raphanus raphanistrum*.

[Scots *skellock(s)*, *skillock(s)*; Older Scots *skaldocks*, Middle English *kedlock*; possibly from Old English *cedelc* "a plant: Good King Henry". *See also* shillocks.]

skelly¹, skellie, skilly *verb* **1** squint. **2** look around furtively; glance sideways. **3** stare with a fixed look. **4** aim askew and miss the mark.

◆ *noun* **1** a squint in the eye. **2** take a skelly at squint at. **3** a guess. **4** an unsuccessful attempt.

◆ *adjective, also skelly-eyed* cross-eyed.

[Scots and Northern English *skelly, skellie*; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Old Norse *skelgjask* "to squint".]

skelly², skilling *noun* **1** "skilly", "skillygolee", very thin porridge.

2 *specifically, historical* workhouse porridge. **3** boiled vegetables and oatmeal.

skelly-brann *noun* phosphorescence in the sea *Co. Donegal*.

[With the first element, *cf.* **skelly¹**; with the second element, *cf.* English *brand* as in *fire-brand*.]

skelp *see* skelb.

skelp, skilp *verb* **1** slap, strike with the hand or with a flat surface; smack.

2 *also skelp along* run, scamper.

◆ *noun* **1** a slap, a smack; a blow. **2** a slice. **3** a fast pace.

□ **skelping, skelpin** a beating, *especially* with the open hand on the bare bottom.

[Scots, Northern English and Hiberno-English *skelp*; Scots also *skilp*; possibly onomatopoeic.]

skelp¹ *noun* a girl aged about twelve.

skelt *see* skilt.

skemlin *noun* a quantity of peat dug from the edges of a bog-hole for mud-turf.

[*Cf.* Scots *skemle* "to shamble", Southern Scots also "to work in a clumsy fashion"; from Old Norse *skemill* and Middle Dutch *schemel* "a stool on which a workman sat astride", corresponding to Old English *scamul* (*see* *shamble*).]

skeow *see* skew¹.

skeow *noun* a show-off.

◆ *verb* show-off.

Cf. keo.

sklep, skip, scap, scape *noun* **1** a large, lidded basket. **2** *also* bee-skep a straw beehive. [ILLUS: skep]

[Scots and English dialectal *sklep, skip*; Scots also *scap, scape*; from Old Norse *skeppa* "a basket". *See also* skib².]

skerrif *verb* shiver with cold.

skerry *noun, in plural, also skerry-blues* a variety of potato.

□ **Skerries yawl** a type of boat: a double-ended clinker-built yawl [named after the Skerries off Portrush].

[North-Western English and Southern Scots, origin unknown.]

skerry-brand *noun* sheet-lightning.

sketch *noun* partial knowledge; the ability to do certain things.

skew¹, skeow, skaw *noun* **1** a skew. **2** a distortion of the features. **3** (a)

the thatch projecting over a gable wall, often plastered over with mortar;

(b) *also* **skewin** the barge-course of a roof (*i.e.* the part overhanging

slightly at the gable end); *also* **gable skew**, **skew stones** **4** the layer of cement sealing the gable edge of a roof; *cf.* barge¹.

◆ *verb* **1** distort. **2** wrench. **3** screw.

□ **skew eyed** cross eyed.

□ **skew-wheef** "skew-whiff", askew; off the plumb.

[Hiberno-English form *skeow*. *See also* *skowe*.]

skew² *noun, verb* *stew* *Co. Donegal*.

skew³, **skeow** *noun* a scow, a large, flat barge for transporting the mud raised by a dredger.

skeward *noun* a steward *Co. Donegal*.

skey *see* *skeagh*².

skian, **skean** *noun* a dagger, a short sword.

[Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *sgian* (corresponding to Irish *scian*).]

skib¹ *verb* trim a stack or load of hay or straw by pulling away loose bits.

[*Cf.* Irish *sciobadh* "to snatch".]

skib² *noun* a wooden trough for washing potatoes; *cf.* *skep*.

skible *noun* **1** something slenderly put together. **2** a worthless good-for-nothing.

skible *see* *skybal*.

skiboo *noun* nobody in particular (when assigning blame).

skice *noun* a quarrel, *especially* a lovers' quarrel *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

skid *verb* **1** tantalise. **2** make fun of.

[Possibly a strengthened form of *kid*.]

skid¹ *noun* a strip of ice that children slide on.

skiddlety *adjective* small, undersized.

[Scots *skiddlie*, from *skiddle* (form of *scuddle*) + *-ie*. *See also* *skittle*.]

skideen *see* *scideen*.

skiegh *see* *skeigh*.

skift *noun* **1** *also* **skiff**, **skiffle** a slight shower of rain. **2** *also* **skiff**, **skiffle** a small quantity (of hay, snow, *etc.*). **3** a flirt. **4** a splinter of wood in a finger, *etc.*

◆ *verb* **1** rain lightly. **2** flirt.

[Scots, apparently an altered form of *scuff*.]

skig *see* *skeeg*.

skig-cock *noun* a heap of hay; the first small heap, usually about three feet high, made by haymakers.

skig wag *see* *skeeg-wag*.

skil *see* *school*.

skilf *see* *skelf*.

skilling *see* *skelly*².

skillocks *see* *skellock*.

skillop *noun* a tapered gouge for boring holes in wood *Co. Antrim, Co.*

Down.

[Origin unknown.]

skilly *see* *skelly*¹.

skilp *see* *skelb*.

skilt, **skelt** *verb* run away.

◆ *noun* **1** a cheeky girl. **2** a small girl. **3** a light-headed, irresponsible girl.

4 a flirt.

[Scots, also Derbyshire and Worcestershire, "to move about quickly, to dart"; either onomatopoeic (*cf.* *helter-skelter*) or from Middle English *skelt* "to hasten", itself of unknown origin.]

skilyeen *noun* a skillet (a frying-pan or heavy saucepan) *Co. Antrim*.

[Apparently contains the Irish diminutive ending *-ín*; *see also* *skellet*.]

[ILLUS: *skilyeen*]

skim *see* *skime*.

skim: **skimmin** a thin cover of snow.

skime, **skeem**, **skim** *verb* **1** **skime at** look sideways or with half-shut eyes

at. **2** scowl. **3** pry into other people's business.

◆ *noun* a quick look.

[Scots and Northern English *skime*, from Old Norse *skima* "to peer".]

skimf *noun* a very small quantity.

[Onomatopoeic.]

skimmer *noun* a flicker (of light).

[Scots and Northern English form of *shimmer*.]

skimp *adjective* mean, stingy.

skimpit, skimpt *adjective* pinched, miserly; little enough.

skin *noun* a manual worker.

□ **fit to jump out of your skin, fit to leap out of your skin** overjoyed.

□ **from the skin out** from top to toe.

□ **have no skin on your face** be shameless.

□ **he or she wouldn't give you the skin of his or her skitther**

□ **he or she would skin a louse for the hide an talla, he or she would skin a flea, he would wrestle a flay under the bed for the hide and tallow; hence skin-the-rouse** a miser.

□ **if ye work for a shillin' a day, ye'd be lucky to hev skin, let alone shirt**

□ **I'll knock smoke out of yer skin** a threat.

□ **in his skin** completely naked.

□ **in one's skin** naked.

□ **is the skin of yur head tight?** what do you take me for?

□ **it wud skin ye, it would skin a fairy** said of very cold weather; *see* fairy.

□ **know someone's skin on a bush, know someone's skin on a bush in Janyary** recognise someone anywhere.

□ **put something into a good skin** put something in order.

□ **skinamalink, skinnymalink, skinnymalinky, also skinnymalink meledoon legs** a tall, thin person [extended forms of *skinny*. For the element *-ma-*, *cf.* *whigmaleerie*].

□ **skinful**

□ **skinful of bones** a very thin person.

□ **skin-him-alive** a very thin person; *cf.* *skinamalink*.

□ **skinny** a nestling, a young bird.

□ **skin out** go, depart.

□ **skin-plate** a side-plate for discarded potato skins.

□ **skint** penniless, "broke".

□ **skin the goat** niggardly, stingy.

□ **the skin o a pig couldn't stand that, the skin of a pig couldn't stand that** epithet, nickname.

□ **your skin to the Devill, may the Devil skin ye!** curses.

□ **know someone's skin on a thorn-bush** recognise someone anywhere.

□ **There he is in his skin, / When he jumps out, I'll jump in** *rhyme*

skin² *verb* shin (up a tree).

skin³ *verb* **skin over** not do a job properly.

skinadre, skinadhre *noun* a thin, fleshless, stunted person.

skink, skeenk *verb* **1** test the strength of whiskey by pouring it from a height to produce bubbles. The longer they last, the weaker it is. **2** pour thin porridge from one vessel to another, to break up lumps and mix it thoroughly. **3** *of liquid* spill over.

◆ *noun* **1** a type of vegetable soup. **2** very thin porridge. **3** oatmeal mixed with water. **4** any liquid food. **5** tea or soup of very poor quality. **6** a drink made with eggs broken into hot water.

□ **skinkinaleary** tea [for the element *-aleary*, *cf.* *whigmaleerie*].

□ **skinking** the act of spilling or splashing liquid.

□ **skinky** *of porridge* thin.

[Obsolete Standard English (still Scots and Northern English) *skink* "to pour (drink)", Scots form also rarely *skeenk*; from Middle Dutch *schinken*

"to make a present of", from the idea of pouring wine for someone.]

skin-marrow *noun* the razor-shell *Ensis arcuatus*, *Co. Donegal*.

[*Cf.* Scots *skinny-breeks* literally "skinny trousers" (*see breeks*). The second element may be *marrow*.]

skinnymalink *see* skinamalink.

skip *see* skep.

skip¹: **skip-jack** **1** a toy made from the wishbone of a fowl, constructed so that it can be made to skip across a surface. **2** *hence* the wishbone of a fowl.

skip² *noun, bowling* the captain of a team.

[Scots, shortened form of *skipper*.]

skir¹ *verb* skim (a stone).

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Southern English), origin unknown.]

skir², **scar** *noun* a bird: the tern *Sterna spp.* *Illustration see fish*.

skird *noun* a child.

skirl, skerl, skurl *verb* **1** shriek, scream, cry shrilly. **2** *of the bagpipes* sound. **3** sing shrilly. **4** run; hurry away.

◆ *noun* **1** a shriek, a shrill cry. **2** the sound of the bagpipes. **3** a loud, discordant sound.

□ **a skirl of a song** the singing of a few lines of a song.

□ **no banshee'll skirl when he's stark**

□ **skirly, skurly** *adjective, of a voice or noise* grating.

◆ *noun* a bird: the mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. *Illustration see shriek*.

[Scots and Northern English *skirl*, Yorkshire also *skerl*; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian *skryla* "to wail", *skralle* "to shriek with laughter".]

skirt *verb* run away, hurry off.

[The same word as Standard English *skirt* "to go round the outside of something".]

skirt¹ *noun, figuratively* a residual portion or fringe (of land).

skit *see* skite².

skit *noun* **1** a practical joke, a hoax; a light-hearted prank. **2** a joke, a funny story.

□ **skittle** skittish.

skitch: get on the skitch of a thing how it is done.

skite¹ *vulgar verb* empty the bowels.

◆ *noun, abusive* **1** a worthless, unreliable person. **2** a useless, conceited person, *frequently empty skite* **3** a silly, frivolous person.

□ **no empty skite** *pun* applied to a person who has just eaten well.

[Scots and Northern English; from Old Norse *skíta*, corresponding to Old English *scītan*, which give *shite*. *See also skitter*.]

skite², **skyte**; *past participle skit*; *verb* **1** slap, smack. **2** slip or slide suddenly. **3** **skite away** fly off at a tangent. **4** cause something to slide suddenly or fly off at a tangent. **5** throw with a sideways motion. **6** shoot (a marble) by flicking the thumb over the forefinger. **7** skim (a stone).

8 squirt, splash, cause a spray of liquid.

◆ *noun* **1** a smack; a sudden blow, *especially* a glancing blow. **2** a splash, a drop of liquid. **3** a sudden, passing shower. **4** a hurried journey. **5** a frivolous, light-headed person. **6** a person who talks too much, a blatherskite.

□ **on the skite** on the spree, on a drinking bout.

□ **skiting** a beating.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse (*ek*) *skýt* "(I) shoot".]

skite-the-gutter a person of no account.

skither *see* skitter.

skither-ma-conkie *nickname* **1** a brat. **2** a small, annoying man.

skitter, skither, squitter *verb* **1** have diarrhoea. **2** scatter (*e.g.* seed).

◆ *noun* **1** *usually the skitters* diarrhoea [*the skitters* also adopted generally in colloquial English]. **2** an animal suffering from diarrhoea.

3 *abusive* a worthless person or animal. **4** **wee skitter** the smallest pig of

the litter.

□ **skittery** *derogatory* too small.

[Scots and English dialectal, English dialectal also *squitter*; extended form of *skite*¹.]

skitter¹ *verb* scamper away.

skittle *verb, especially of children* pour liquid from one vessel to another.

□ **skittling** the act of pouring liquid from one vessel to another.

[Scots, form of *skiddle* (see *skiddlety*).]

skittle² *noun, specifically, in plural* a game played on country roads with rough wooden skittles.

skiven *noun* a thin piece of leather with shoemaker's wax spread on it, applied hot to relieve a chilblain on the heel.

skiver, skivver *noun* **1** a skewer. **2** a long knitting needle. **3** a cambrel (a stick used to spread open and hang up a slaughtered animal). **4** a shaving of wood; a splinter of wood in the finger, *etc.* **5** a piece of bone used for closing the tail of a fishing net. *Illustration see slug*².

◆ *verb* skewer.

□ **skiver-the-goose** a game: two people are trussed up like fowls, and hop about on their hunkers trying to overbalance each other.

□ **sup soup with a skiver** perform the impossible.

[Older form (still Scots and English dialectal).]

skiwee *see* scawee.

sklate *see* slate.

sklent, sklint *see* slant.

skliver *noun* a sliver, a splinter *Co. Donegal*.

[Strengthened form.]

skloy *verb* move or slide (something) out of order or position.

[Scots *scly, scloy*; form of obsolete Scots and Northern English *slithe*, itself a form of *slide*.]

skowe *Co. Armagh, noun* an irregularity in form.

◆ *verb* turn away.

Cf. skew¹.

skrake *see* screek, skreek of day.

skrawdyin *see* scradeen.

skree *see* screek.

skree *noun* a large quantity *Mid Ulster*.

[Origin unknown.]

skreegh *see* screek.

skreeghin willia *noun* a place where stillborn or unbaptised babies are buried.

skreek *see* screek.

skreek *verb* creak.

◆ *noun* a grating noise.

[Obsolete Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal) *screak*, onomatopoeic.]

skreek of day, skreek of daylight, skreigh of morning, screigh of day,

scraigh o day *noun, also skreek, skrake* the first glimpse of dawn,

frequently up at the skreek

[Scots *skreek, skreich, scraigh*; strengthened form of Scots *creek*, from Middle Dutch *kriecke* and Middle Low German *krik*; influenced by *screek*, as if referring to the cries of birds.]

skreigh *see* skreek of day.

skribe *see* scribe².

skrike *verb* screech, shriek.

◆ *noun* a screech, a shriek.

□ **skrike-owl** the barn owl *Tyto alba*, also known as the screech-owl.

□ **skriker** a screaming child.

[Mainly Northern English; probably of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian *skrika*.]

skrotched *adjective*, of plants shrivelled, e.g. by an icy wind *Co. Antrim*.

[Possibly a strengthened form of *scotch*.]

skrunt *see* scrunt.

skudent *noun* a student.

skulk: **skulk ye** an offer to "split the difference" *Co. Donegal*.

[Irish *scoilt* "to split".]

skulk¹ *noun*, abusive e.g. a mean skulk; as mean as mean can be.

skull *verb* poll (a cow), cut off the horns close to the head.

□ **skulled** of cattle polled.

skunge *see* scunge.

skunner *see* scunner.

skurema *noun* a ghost.

skurl, **skurly** *see* skirl.

skurly *see* skirl.

skwon, **scuon** *exclamation* a call used to incite a dog.

sky: **at the skyline** e.g. *A carman told me he waited an hour for me at the skyline*.

□ **by the skyline** by the mountain road.

□ **if the sky falls ye'll catch larks**

□ **over the skyline** by a road crossing a mountain.

□ **skyline**:

□ **under the sky** in the open air.

skyachie, **skyaghy** *see* stughie.

skyar *see* scar.

skybal, **skyble**, **skible** *noun* **1** a lazy, useless person, a ne'er-do-well. **2** a ragged, neglected person. **3** a poor, thin animal. **4** a worn-out horse. **5** a thin person. **6** something flimsily constructed.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

skyte *see* skite².

slab *noun* **1** the outer pieces of flat wood taken off a log first in a sawmill.

2 a thick slice of bread.

◆ *verb* saw off slabs.

slabber *verb* **1** slobber. **2** eat greedily and noisily or in a messy way. **3** go about in an awkward, ungainly way. **4** talk in a nauseatingly flattering way. **5** talk too much; talk indiscreetly or stupidly. **6** **slabber at someone** derogatory (a) give someone a telling off; (b) provoke someone verbally.

◆ *noun* **1** a soggy mess, e.g. food that has been chewed. **2** mud. **3** a loudmouth, a person who talks too much. **4** a tell-tale, a person who carries tales. **5** a wet day. **6** a dirty person.

□ **I wud slabber me fingers** a reply to someone who says, "Houl' yer tongue!".

□ **slabberin** derogatory a telling-off.

□ **slabbering-bib** a bib for a baby.

□ **slabber over (a person)** be over-friendly.

□ **slabber-the-cabbage** *nickname* a person who is always telling tales.

□ **slabbery** of the weather wet, muddy.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), from Dutch *slabberen* and Low German *slabbern*. Standard English *slobber* is from an alternative Dutch form *slobberen*. Also Hiberno-English form. *See also* beslabber.]

slabby *adjective* muddy.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal), from obsolete Standard English *slab* "a muddy place" (apparently of Scandinavian origin, cf. obsolete Danish *slab* "mud") + -y.]

slachtering, **slachterin** *noun* the act of paring the surface of a bog.

slack¹ *noun* **1** a little hollow in a hillside. **2** the small (of the back).

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *slakki*.]

slack²: **slack-back** a lazy person.

□ **slack-handed** without energy.

- **slack-spun** somewhat mentally deficient [the image is that of a poorly-made rope].
- slackmarra, slackmarrow** *see* **slatmara**.
- slade** *noun* a spade with a long narrow blade, with one side of the blade turned up at right angles, used for cutting peat.
- slae** *noun* a tree: the sloe.
 - **sloe-black** as black as a sloe.
[Scots and Northern English form.]
- slagh** *adjective* muddy, dirty.
[Irish noun *sláthach* "mud, slime".]
- slaister** *verb* **1** do wet, dirty work; daub (*e.g.* paint) messily; make a wet, dirty mess. **2** bedaub, bespatter. **3** do anything in a dirty, careless way.
 - ◆ *noun* **1** a wet, dirty mess. **2** the act of working in the fields in bad weather.
 - **slaisterin** the act of working in a dirty, careless way.
 - **slaistery** wet, dirty and messy.
[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown. *See also* **slouster, slysterin**.]
- slake**¹, **sleek** *verb* **1** of *cattle* lick up (grass). **2** wipe carelessly, smear.
 - ◆ *noun* **1** a careless wash; a gentle wipe or brush over. **2** a smear, a daub. **3** the act of bedaubing or smearing. **4** a layer of butter, jam, *etc.* on a slice of bread. **5** a streak of dirt, a dirty mark.
 - **a lick and a slake** a hasty and careless wash.
 - **slaking** shuffling.
[Scots and Northern English *slake*, from Old Norse *sleikja* "to lick". The form *sleek* may be the result of confusion with **sleek**. *See also* **gab**².]
- slake**² *verb* trim (a haystack) with a rake.
[The same word as Standard English "to treat lime".]
- slammekin** *adjective* untidy, slovenly.
- slandles** *see* **slanlis**.
- slane, slan** *noun* **1** a type of spade for cutting peat, with a wing so that two sides of a **peat** are cut at once; *specifically* **(a) breast-slane** a **slane** with an upward-curving wing used for cutting horizontally into a bank; **(b) underfoot-slane** a **slane** with a downward-curving wing used for cutting straight down. **2** a spade without a wing, used for cutting peat. **3** peat; small clods of peat. [ILLUS: **slane**]
 - **slane turf** black mud turf. *also* **slane turf**.
 - **slaney**: **slaney barrow** a barrow with no sides.
[Irish *sleán*.]
- slanging**: **slanging match** an altercation.
- slanlis, slanus**, *also incorrectly* **slandles**, *noun* a wild plant: **(a)** the ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*. *Illustration see* **cock**¹; **(b)** the greater plantain *Plantago major*; **(c)** the common water-plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*; **(d)** the broad-leaved pondweed, *Potamogeton natans*.
[Irish *slánlus* literally "healing herb", *cf.* **ripple-grass**.]
- slant, slent, sklent, sklint** *verb* **1** slant. **2** deviate from the truth without lying outright. **3** give a side-long glance.
 - ◆ *noun* **1** a slant, a slope. **2** a glance, a passing look.
 - **get a slent on someone** get an opportunity of speaking to someone.
[Older form (still Scots and Northern English) *slent*; Scots also *sklent, sklint*.]
- slanus** *see* **slanlis**.
- slaodaidhe, bloody** *noun* a lazy indolent person.
 - **slaodaidhe madaidh** a lazy dog.
- slap** *noun* a lime marble.
- slap**¹ *noun* **1** a gap or opening in a dyke, hedge or fence. **2** a notch, *e.g.* in the blade of a knife. **3** **the slaps** patches of smooth sea between Rathlin Island and the mainland.
 - ◆ *verb* separate threshed grain from the coarser chaff with a riddle, before

winnowing.

□ **As I went over the slithery or slidderly slap, I met my Uncle Davy...**

□ **slap-riddle** a riddle for separating threshed grain from chaff.

[Scots, from Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *slop* "a narrow entrance".]

slap² *noun* **1** a heavy fall *e.g. He fell a sore slap. **2** a large number or quantity.*

□ **slap-dash** a thoughtless, impetuous fellow.

□ **slap (food) intae ye** *frequently imperative* as an encouragement to eat.

□ **slap it into or up (a person)** *vulgar, verb* give a person what he or she deserves as a scolding, punishment, *etc.*

◆ **exclamation** expressing satisfaction at the thought of a person's downfall.

slap³ *noun, in plural slops; also slap water, slap bucket*

[Scots, also Hiberno-English, form.]

slape *see* sleep.

slarry *verb* **1** make a mess. **2** dirty (*especially* with mud).

[Scots form of *slurry*.]

slash *verb* **1** strike with something wet. **2** splash. **3** walk quickly through water.

◆ *noun* **1** a quantity of liquid dashed out violently. **2** a heavy shower.

3 the act of walking quickly through water. **4** *also* **slashin** a stroke with the tawse.

□ **slasher** a fine woman [in Standard English "a dashing fellow"].

□ **slashings, slashins** "lashings", abundance.

slat *noun* a cross-bar.

slat *noun* a slate.

[The same word as Standard English "a long narrow strip of wood", from Old French *esclat* "a piece split off". The related Old French *esclate* gives slate.]

slat-an-righ *noun, astronomical* Orion's belt.

slate, sclate, sklate *noun* a slate.

□ **he or she has a slate off, there's a slate off** said of a foolish person.

□ **slate-house** a house with a slated roof as opposed to a thatched roof.

□ **slater** *also* **slate-cutter** a wood-louse.

□ **slater bird**, *also* **slater** the starling *Sturnus vulgaris*.

[Scots form *sclate, sklate*. *See also* **slat**.]

slatmara, slatmarra, slackmarra, slackmarrow, slockmarrow **1** a seaweed: furbelows *Saccorhiza bulbosa*, *especially* its stem.

2 *figuratively, derogatory* describing a person.

[Irish *slat mhara* literally "rod of the sea".]

slatter *verb* go about like a slattern.

□ **slattering** going about like a slattern.

slave *see* sleeve.

slaver, slever *verb* **1** slaver. **2** talk nonsense.

◆ *noun, also* **slavers** slaver, saliva.

□ **Iv I houl' my tongue, I'll slaver my fingers** reply to someone who says, "Hold your tongue".

□ **slaverer** a baby's bib.

[Scots form *slever*.]

slay *noun* **1** a reed used by weavers; an instrument forming part of a weaver's loom. **2** the wooden frame that holds the reed and drives home the weft; the hand-board of a loom.

□ **slay-hook** **1** *weaving* the implement used to draw the threads through the **slay**. **2** *figuratively* a dried herring.

sleak: **sleakin** a quenching of thirst.

sleck *noun* slack (coal dust) *Co. Antrim*.

sled *noun* a sledge; *specifically* a **slipe**. *Illustration see* **slipe**¹.

[Obsolete in Standard English except U.S.A. (still Scots and English

dialectal); from Middle Flemish and Middle Low German *sledde*.]

sledgehammer: **ye couldn't break ye wi' a sledgehammer** you're not easily embarrassed.

slee *adjective* sly.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

sleech *see* slitch.

sleek *see* slake¹.

sleek: **as sleekit as a cat** sly, wary, cautious.

□ **sleeked, sleekit 1** *of a person* smooth, flattering. **2** sly, cunning, underhand.

□ **sleeker 1** a sly person. **2** a hypocrite.

□ **sleeking-bone** or **-stone** a hard, polished bone or stone used for glazing linen.

sleenge *noun* a lunge; a leenge.

◆ *verb* beat or trounce severely, leenge.

sleenge *see* slinge¹, slinge².

sleep, slape; *past tense and past participle* **slep**; *noun, verb* sleep.

□ **a long sleep an' a tay breakfast** describing Sunday, formerly said by people used to eating porridge for breakfast the rest of the week.

□ **be slept** have slept, *especially* have slept well *e.g.* *Are ye no slept?*

□ **dying wi sleep** extremely tired, exhausted.

□ **have slept in a field and left the gate open** be hoarse.

□ **sleep as soun' as a tap**

□ **sleep in** oversleep, lie too long in the morning [also adopted in Standard English].

□ **sleeping** *of a foot, etc.* numb with cold or cramp.

□ **sleeping-drop** an opiate.

□ **sleeping warriors** in Irish mythology, a force of armed soldiers who sleep at Buncrana under a spell to be eventually wakened for a final fight for the republican cause.

□ **sleep it out** oversleep.

□ **sleep-weed** or **-wort** a wild flower: common butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris*.

□ **sleep without rockin'** sleep without any inducement.

□ **sleep wi' wan eye open** be wide-awake.

□ **sleep your tide** miss your opportunity.

□ **slept-in** *figuratively, of clothes* creased.

□ **the sleep's left me** I can't sleep.

[Old form (still Berkshire) *slape*. Past tense: Hiberno-English and mainly Midland English *slep*. Past participle: English dialectal *slep*.]

sleeve *also, incorrectly* **slave** *noun* a sleeve.

□ **sleeveless** *of a person* helpless.

sleeve¹ *verb* **sleeve yourself** eat a lot, stuff yourself.

□ **he'd give ye the sleeves outa his waistcoat**

sleeven *noun* a good-for-nothing, useless young fellow.

[Hiberno-English *sleeveen*, from Irish *slibhín* "a sly person".]

sleight *noun* the knack of doing something.

sleight *see* slight.

[The same word as Standard English *sleight (of hand)*.]

slent *see* slant.

sleshins *noun* cessation.

sleuster *see* slewster.

sleuter *see* slooter.

slever *see* slaver.

slew *noun* a multitude.

slew¹ *noun, of a person* having the head sideways and the shoulders hunched up *e.g.* *There's a slew on him*.

slewster *see* slouster.

slewster, sleuster, slouster, slouther *verb* flatter, coax; *also* **slouster**

someone up

◆ *noun* a flatterer.

□ **slewstering** flattery.

[Apparently a strengthened form of Irish *lústar* "flattery". Possibly influenced by *slouster*.]

slewter *see* *slooter*.

slib *noun* a young cob.

slibe *see* *slipe*¹.

slice: **slice of luck**

slick *adverb* **slick in time** just in time.

□ **slick off** at once, immediately.

sliddery *see* *slither*.

slider *noun* an ice-cream between two wafers.

Slieve *noun* a mountain *e.g.* *Slieve Donard*.

slieve *verb* caress.

sliggan, sliggaun, sliggin *noun* **1** a shellfish: a fresh-water mussel (**a**) the swan mussel *Anodonta cygnea*; (**b**) the duck mussel *Anodonta anatina*.

2 *figuratively* a slipper.

[Irish *sliogán, sligeán*.]

slight, sleight *verb* demolish, raze.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Hiberno-English), from Low German *slichten* and Dutch *slachten*.]

slim *verb* skim over, do (a job) carelessly.

◆ *noun*, *also* **slim-cake, slim-bread** **1** soda-bread baked on a griddle.

2 *also* **potato-slim** griddle bread made from flour and potatoes.

sling *verb* **1** *of a cow or sheep* give birth prematurely. **2** **sling along** walk heedlessly.

◆ *noun* a careless person.

□ **slinger** a careless walker.

□ **sling-poke** a tramp, a beggar; *see* **poke**¹.

See also *slink*.

slinge¹, **sleenge** *noun* a sharp blow with a cane or whip.

◆ *verb* lash with a cane or whip.

[Yorkshire *slinge*, origin unknown.]

slinge², **sleenge** *verb* **1** slouch, lounge about idly. **2** sneak about. **3** a lazy, good-for-nothing fellow.

□ **slingeing** slouching.

[Hiberno-English, Northern and Western English *slinge*, also rarely in Western and Southern Scots; Scots form *sleenge*; origin unknown.]

slingings *noun plural* the lower slopes of a mountain.

slink *noun* **1** a premature calf. **2** a weak, starved creature.

◆ *adjective*, *also* **slinkit** thin, lean; in poor condition.

[Scots and English dialectal, probably an altered form of *sling*.]

slip *noun* **1** a pinafore. **2** *in plural* women's or children's knickers. **3** a weaned piglet.

◆ *verb* let slip, let (a person) escape; let (an employee) go, dismiss (an employee).

□ **as slippy as a Bann eel at Toome, as slippy as a Toome eel**

□ **have slip tail** *of a cow* show signs of calving.

□ **slip a foot** *literally* accidentally slip and fall: have an illegitimate child.

□ **slip-and-go-down** flummery, sowens.

□ **slip away** die quietly.

□ **slip-coat** a light summer overcoat.

□ **slip down the hill** get old.

□ **slip-foal** a premature foal.

□ **slipping** a young woman (around 20).

□ **slippy**:

□ **slippy-tit** a "slippery", untrustworthy fellow.

□ **slip the backs** **1** get away. **2** get off lightly.

- slipe**¹ *noun* **1** a sledge used for transport, mainly across soft or steep places. **2** *also* **slipe-car**, **slibe-car** a vehicle without wheels, whose runners are a continuation of the shafts; *specifically, also* **box-slipe**, such a vehicle with a wooden box-like container (as opposed to a wicker basket). **3** *derogatory* an ungainly, awkwardly tall and thin person. **4** a slack, careless fellow.
- ◆ *verb* **1** transport on a **slipe**. **2** drag (something) along the ground. **3** *also* **slibe** slip, slide. [ILLUS: **slipe**]
- **slipping** the process of drawing with a **slipe**.
[Scots *slipe*, from Low German *slipe* "a sledge".]
- slipe**² *verb* **1** pare, slice. **2** *also* **slipe off** strip, peel (off). **3** smooth (plaster, *etc.*).
- ◆ *noun* a large portion.
[Scots and Northern English, possibly from Low German *slipen* and Dutch *slipen* "to draw something over a smooth surface".]
- slippaugh** *noun* numbness.
- slipper** *noun* the gizzard of a fowl.
- ◆ *adjective* slippery.
- **slipper-lip** a protruding lower lip.
- slipper-fusil** *noun* a spindle.
[The first element appears to be **slipper**. *Fusil* "a spindle" is from Old French *fusel*; in Standard English used only with reference to a heraldic device.]
- slit** *noun* a sprout; a cutting of a plant.
- slitch**, **sleech** *noun* **1** river or sea silt; vegetable matter from a river-bed, *especially* when used as manure. **2** *also* **sleech-grass** eel-grass *Zostera spp.*
[*Slitch* obsolete in Standard English (still Northern English); Scots and Northern English, also Sussex, form *sleech*; from Old English **slīc*.]
- slither** *verb* saunter idly.
- ◆ *noun* a person who shuffles when walking.
- **slither-go-easy** an easy-going person.
- **slithering-stone** a stone exposed at low water at the edge of the tidal estuary at Malin.
- **slithery**, **sliddery** **1** slippery, slippery [*slithery* also adopted in Standard English]. **2** sly and flattering in speech.
- **slithery-gudgeon** a lazy, sly person; *see* **gudge**.
[Older form (still Scots and English dialectal) *slidder*. *See also* **sluther**.]
- slitter**, **slittery** *see* **slooter**.
- slo**, **slough** *noun* the bone inside the horns of cattle.
[Orkney and Shetland, also South-Western English, *slo*; from Old Norse *sló*.]
- sloak** *see* **sloke**.
- sloam** *see* **sloom**.
- sloam** *verb* slumber, sleep.
[Northern English and Southern Scots form of Scots and Northern English *sloom*; apparently from Old English noun *sluma* "a slumber".]
- sloat**¹, **slote** *verb* suck up; drink greedily.
- **sloted** *of rain* abated.
[Southern Scots; origin unknown, possibly an altered form of **stock**.]
- sloat**² *noun* a cross-bar.
[Obsolete in Standard English, form of *slot*. Also Scots form.]
- slob** *noun* **1** mud, *especially* on the seashore. **2** *also* **slob-lands** muddy ground on the foreshore. **3** a large, soft worm used as bait in fishing.
[Hiberno-English; from Irish *slab*, *slob*.]
- sloch** *noun* a slough (an outer skin).
[Scots form. *See also* **sloosh**³.]
- slochter** *Co. Donegal, verb* go about in a lazy, slovenly way.
- ◆ *noun* **1** a slovenly, lazy person. **2** a person with awkward, badly-fitting

clothes.

[*Cf.* Scots *slocher* "slobber"; probably onomatopoeic.]

slock *verb* **1** slake (the thirst). **2** slake (lime).

[Scots and Northern English, apparently a form of **slocken**. *See also* **sloat**¹.]

slocken, sloghan *verb* **1** quench (a fire), slake (the thirst). **2** slake (lime).

3 overboil (potatoes, *etc.*).

[Scots and Northern English *slocken*, Scots rarely also *slochen*; from Old Norse *slokna* of a fire "to go out". *See also* **slock**.]

slockmarrow *see* **slatmara**.

slodian *noun* a half-cooked cake *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

slog *see* **slug**¹.

sloghan *see* **slocken**.

sloisther *see* **slouster**.

sloiter *see* **slooter**.

sloke, sloak *noun* an edible seaweed: green laver *Ulva lactuca*.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *slabhac*.]

slomed *see* **sloom**.

slonk, slonky *see* **slunk**¹.

slooch *verb* **1** slouch. **2** walk stealthily.

[Scots, also Lincolnshire, form.]

slooder *see* **slooter**.

sloom, sloam *verb* **1** of *root crops* become too leafy (as a result of wet weather or too much manure). **2** of *corn* fall over while unripe (as a result of wet weather).

◆ *adjective*, of *corn* too luxuriant in growth.

□ **sloamed, slomed** of *root crops* too leafy.

□ **sloomy, sloamy** of *soil*. **1** mossy, dank. **2** soft, deep and rich. **3** of *growing corn* rank and easily flattened by the wind. **4** of *a person* lazy, inactive.

[Scots and Northern English *sloom*, Northern English and Southern Scots also *sloam*; apparently of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian *sluma* "to run up into long weak straw".]

sloosh¹, **sloush** *noun* **1** a sluice. **2** a drain opening.

[Scots form.]

sloosh² *noun* slush.

□ **slooshy** slushy.

[Rare Scots and Northern English form.]

sloosh³ *noun* a mermaid's skin; *cf.* **sloch**.

slooster *see* **slouster**.

slooter *see* **sluiter**.

slooter, sloother, slouter, sleuter, slewter, sluter, slitter, sloiter, slotter, slutter, sluther, slooder *verb* **1** pass the time idly. **2** pretend to work; work in a slovenly way; *specifically* do laundry carelessly. **3** behave in a slovenly way. **4** shuffle about. **5** cook badly; eat in a messy, noisy way. **6** behave like an oaf.

◆ *noun* **1** a slovenly, lazy person. **2** a messy, slovenly worker. **3** an awkward, ineffective person; a clumsy oaf. **4** a person who walks in a shuffling way; *see also* **shlooters**. **5** a person with badly-fitting clothes. **6** an untidy, noisy eater. **7** a person who sneezes carelessly. **8** a person who talks in a slow, drawn-out way. **9** wet mud.

□ **bad slitters to you** a mild curse.

□ **slitter-pokes** *nickname* a slovenly worker; *see* **poke**¹.

□ **slittery** slimy, slippery.

□ **slootery** **1** clumsy, untidy. **2** of *a handshake* not firm.

□ **slutterin** describing the noisy, slopping way that ducks feed.

[Scots *slooter, slouter, sleuter, slewter, sluter, slitter, sloiter, slotter* (also South-Western English), *slutter* (also Northern English), *sluther*;

probably onomatopoeic.]

sloother *see* sluiter.

slope *verb* **1** play truant from (school). **2** attempt to gain favour.

◆ *noun* a stroll.

[The same word as colloquial (originally U.S.A.) "to make off".]

slosh *noun* a large quantity (of liquid).

slot *see* sloat¹.

slotter *see* slooter.

slough *see* slo.

sloughan *noun* food settling down.

slouk *noun* a depression or puddle in the ground.

□ **slouky** *of a road* pitted with muddy holes.

slounge, slunge *verb* **1** idle about, loaf. **2** slouch; walk with a slouch.

3 slunge aff slink off.

◆ *noun* **1** *also* **slounger** a loafer, an idler. **2** a skulking, sneaking fellow.

3 a mischievous fellow. **4** a lazy, dirty person.

[Scots and Northern English *slounge*, Scots also *slunge*; altered form of *lounge*.]

sloush *see* sloosh¹.

slouster *see* slewster.

slouster, slooster, slewster, slowster, sloisther *verb* **1** dabble in water.

2 work in a messy way, *especially* in wet and dirty conditions. **3** wallow.

◆ *noun* **1** an untidy worker. **2** a messy dish of food.

□ **sloustering** **1** the act of working in a messy way. **2** *derogatory* kissing.

[Scots *slouster, slousther, slooster, slewster, slowster*; possibly an altered form of *slaister*.]

slousther *see* slewster.

slouter *see* slooter.

slow: speak slow, slow to speak

sluch *noun* a shallow, dirty pool.

[Scots form of *slough*.]

sluddan *noun* a pool.

sluffan *noun* a sloven (a dirty, careless person) *Co. Donegal*.

slug¹, slog *verb* gulp (food or drink).

◆ *noun* **1** the amount of liquid taken at one swallow, *especially* a drink from a bottle [*slug* also adopted generally in English slang]. **2** a person who drinks too much.

[Hiberno-English, possibly from Irish *slogadh* "to gulp".]

slug² *noun* the part of a *coghel* net immediately before the tail *Lower River Bann*.

[Origin unknown.] [ILLUS: slug]

slug³ *noun* a caterpillar.

sluiter, sluter, sluther, slooter, sloother *verb* flatter, coax; *also* **butter up and sluther down**

◆ *noun* an insincerely affectionate person.

Cf. slooter.

slummage *Co. Antrim, Co. Down, noun* **1** a distillery by-product, used as cattle feed. **2** *brewing* barley grains.

[Origin unknown.]

slump *noun, also slump hole* a muddy hole in the ground; *specifically* (a) a deep rut in a road; (b) a hole on the seashore where sand has been removed. *Cf.* slunk¹.

◆ *verb* sink into mud; *of a vehicle* stick in a slump.

[English dialectal and Southern Scots "a swamp; a muddy place"; origin unknown, possibly an altered form of *sump*. Also U.S.A., hence also British English, with reference to the stock market.]

slunge *see* slounge.

slunk¹, slonk *noun* **1** a deep rut in a road. **2** a small hollow in a field. **3** a hole in a bog. **4** a gap or pass between cliffs.

◆ *verb, of shoes that are loose* move up and down on the feet.

□ **slunky, slonky** *of a road* full of ruts.

[Scots; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Danish dialectal "a hollow in the ground".]

slunk² *verb* slink, sneak about.

□ **slunker** a sneak.

[Shetland and Caithness; from Norn (*cf.* Old Swedish *slunka*, corresponding to Old English *slincan*, which gives *slink*).]

slupit *adjective* round shouldered.

slurry *noun* wet mud, ooze.

slush *verb* toil, work hard.

[The same word as Standard English noun "partially melted snow", from the idea of kitchen drudgery.]

slut *noun historical* a home-made light made of tow dipped in oil, tallow or resin.

[The same word as Standard English "a slovenly woman".]

sluter *see* slooter, sluitier.

sluther *see* slooter.

sluther *see* sluitier.

sluther *verb* **sluther down** slither, slip, slide down.

[Northern English, rarely Scots, form of *slither*.]

slutter *see* slooter.

slutterin *see* slooter.

slysterin *noun* **1** messy cooking. **2** *derogatory* fancy cooking.

[Caithness *slyster*, form of *slaister*.]

sma', smaal *see* small.

smach, smagh [the "ch" or "gh" is not pronounced] *noun* **1** a stroke in the game of hurling. **2** a stir, a movement.

[Irish *smeach*.]

smack: smack for attraction towards (someone of the opposite sex).

[The same word as Standard English "a flavour".]

smagh *see* smach.

smalick *see* smallock.

small, smaal, sma' *adjective* **1** small. **2**

□ **get small change for (long words)**

□ **small-bone** a spare rib of pork taken from close to the spine.

□ **small bread** *bakeries* bread in rings or farls (*see* **fardle**) as opposed to loaves.

□ **small family** a family of young children.

□ **small tho' it is, it is good**

□ **smally** undersized.

[Scots and Northern English form *sma'*; South-Western English *smaal*, also found in Argyllshire.]

smallock, smalick, smollock *noun* **1** a rap with the knuckles; a sharp flick with the finger. **2** a smack about the head.

◆ *verb* beat up, thrash.

□ **smallicking, smallickin** **1** eating noisily with your mouth open. **2** a beating, a thrashing.

[Apparently Irish *smalóg* with altered ending.]

smarrig *exclamation* alas! alas for!

smash *noun* oats dried and crushed with the husks.

smashach *noun* a small, dainty person.

[*Cf.* North-Eastern Scots *smushach* "a small dark-haired person", apparently from Scots and Northern English **smush** + *-ach* (*see* **trail**).]

smear: smearin' a small amount (of hay, snow *etc.*).

smeer *see* smoor.

smeh: have a smeh on you be in the huff, sulk.

smell *noun* a very small quantity (of alcohol).

□ **smell that!** said when giving someone a blow on the nose.

- **smell the cork** be in the habit of drinking alcohol.
- **ye'd get redd a yur smell that day** it's very windy outside today.
- smerr** *noun* a slender red-flowered grass.
- smert** *adjective* smart.
[Scots form.]
- smick** *noun* any very small fish *Belfast*.
[Origin unknown.]
- smick smack smooth** *adverb* gently, evenly; thoroughly.
- smiddy, smuddy, smitty** *noun* **1** a smithy, a blacksmith's forge.
2 *figuratively* a hovel; a dirty, dishevelled house or room.
- **smiddy-coom** the ashes, dust, *etc.* of a smithy; *see* **COOM**.
[Scots and Northern English form *smiddy*, Northern English also *smitty*.]
- smidereens** *see* **smithereens**.
- smig¹** *verb* kiss and cuddle.
- **smigger** a womaniser.
- **smigging** *noun* kissing and cuddling.
[Scots "to leer"; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Danish dialectal *smige* "to ingratiate yourself". Roxburghshire also *smeeg*, *cf.* Old Danish *smege* "to caress".]
- smig²** *verb* waylay and shoot (someone).
- ◆ *noun* a thump, a sudden blow.
[Origin unknown.]
- smig³** *noun* the chin.
[Irish *smig*.]
- sminders** *noun plural* **smithereens** *Co. Donegal*.
[*Cf.* Irish *smionagar* "fragments of broken glass".]
- smir** *see* **smur**.
- smit**, *past tense and past participle* **smit**, *verb* pass on an infection or contagion to (a person).
- ◆ *noun* infection; contagion, *frequently* **get the smit**
- **he's that like him, you wud think he had smit him**
- **smitting** infectious, contagious.
- **smitting-sickness, smitting-disease** an infectious or contagious disease.
- **smittle** *adjective* infectious; contagious.
- ◆ *verb* place (flax) in the same bundle or pile as flax grown in other areas, to transfer the smell and mislead a purchaser.
- **you wud think he or she had smit him or her** a comment on how alike two people look.
[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *smittian* "to taint; to stain".]
- smitch** *noun* **1** a spot, a mark. **2** one of the pustules in the skin caused by scabies. **3** a very small quantity, a particle.
[Scots and English dialectal, from Old English *smȳc* "heavy smoke".]
- smite, smoit** *noun* the least amount, a tiny particle.
[Scots and mainly Northern English *smite*, origin unknown.]
- smith: as black or dirty as a smitty**
- **smith-crab:**
- **smith's finger** the bolt of a lock.
- smithereens, smidereens** *noun plural* **1** small splinters, small bits
[*smithereens* also adopted generally in colloquial English]. **2** *specifically* broken pieces of china that children play with.
- **knock someone into smithereens** *figuratively*
[Hiberno-English, from Irish *smidirini* *noun plural*.]
- smittle** *see* **smit**.
- smitty** *see* **smiddy**.
- smock** *noun* a woman's undervest.
- smoit** *see* **smite**.
- smoke: smoker** a strong gale of wind.

- **smoke walk** the mark left at the back of a fire by deposits of soot and tar from peat smoke.
- smollock** *see* **smallock**.
- smoocher** *noun* someone who prowls about furtively.
[East Anglia, altered form of English slang *mooch*.]
- smoolyin** *noun* **1** a small amount (of stones, grains, *etc.*). **2** a small amount (of liquid).
[*Cf.* Shetland *smuil* "to break into fragments; a collection of fragments"; from Norn (*cf.* Norwegian *smule* "a fragment").]
- smoor** *see* **smur**.
- smoor, smear** *verb* **1** smother. **2** *of heat* stifle. **3** drown.
◆ *noun* fine mist; *see also* **smur**.
[Northern English and Scots *smoor*; Scots also *smure, smear*; from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *smōren*.]
- smooth** *verb* iron (clothes, *etc.*).
□ **smooth dandelion** a wild flower: the dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* [to distinguish it from similar flowers, *cf.* **he**].
□ **smoother: smooth-faced** bashful, shy.
□ **smoothing cloth:**
□ **smoothing iron:**
□ **smooth water runs deep, with the devil at the bottom of it** a comment on someone who seems too polite to be sincere.
- smud** *verb* **1** cover with smuts. **2** *of a fire* smoulder; *cf.* **smudge**².
□ **smuddoch** a fire that burns badly, with more smoke than flame.
[Scots form.]
- smuddy** *see* **smiddy**.
- smudge**¹ *verb* smirk, laugh or smile secretly or in a suppressed way.
◆ *noun* a smirk, a suppressed or concealed laugh or smile.
[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]
- smudge**² *verb* smoulder.
[Northern English, origin unknown.]
- smur, smir, smoor** *noun* **1** *also* **smurrin** a light drizzle of rain; a light shower. **2** fine rain.
◆ *verb* drizzle *e.g.* *It's smurring rain*.
[Scots and English dialectal; origin unknown, possibly a form of **smoor**.]
- smush** *noun* **1** something reduced to pulp (*e.g.* over-boiled potatoes) or to small particles (*e.g.* trampled straw). **2** fragments; *specifically* of trampled hay or straw.
◆ *verb* crush, bruise.
□ **smushy** messy.
[Scots and Northern English, altered form of *mush*.]
- smut** *noun* an angry face; a frown.
◆ *verb* sulk.
□ **Smut Sunday** the Sunday before Lent [translation of *Domhnach na smut* "the Sunday of the frowns", from the idea that the girls who hadn't found husbands in time for a wedding that spring were discontented].
[Irish *smut*.]
- snaa** *see* **snow**.
- snaa pastyie** *noun* a piece of string tied round the horns of cattle as a charm for mastitis, red water *etc.*
- snack** *see* **sneck, snick**.
- snadger** *noun* a bird: the house sparrow *Passer domesticus*.
- snaffle** *noun* an underhand rogue.
[*Cf.* English dialectal and slang verb "to steal", origin unknown.]
- snag** *see* **snig**¹.
- snag** *noun* the stump of a tree.
- snail** *noun* a slug.
□ **Four and twenty Hieland men / Ridin' on a snail, / Says the**

hindmost to the foremost, / "I'm slidin' aff his tail" rhyme

- **snail house** a snail shell.
- **snail's gallop** a very slow pace.
- **snail's pace** a very slow pace.
- **snail whelk** a garden snail: *Helix aspersa*.

snake *noun, historical* a man-trap consisting of a barbed iron spike fixed in the ground.

- **snake-stone** a fossil ammonite. [ILLUS: snake-st]

snap *verb* **1** of a flood break out. **2** eat hastily.

- **snap-apple** a Hallowe'en game: the players have to try to catch an apple in their mouths. The apples are on a small merry-go-round, placed alternately with raw potatoes, whin branches, *etc.*
- **snap-at-the-crust** a mean, grasping person.
- **snappy** quickly.
- **snapper** something excellent.
- **snaphite** a bird: the skua *Stercorarius spp.*; *see also* shite.

snare: **it's a bad way to snare birds, throwing stones at them** better to conciliate than to irritate.

snarl, snurl, snerl, snirl *noun* a snarl, a knot, a twist.

- ◆ *verb* **1** of a rope, *etc.* twist, form into knots. **2** twist, tangle (a rope, *etc.*). **3** ruffle, wrinkle.
- **snarled** twisted, knotted.
- **snarl-knot** an intricate knot.
- **snarly, snurlly** **1** full of snarls, entangled. **2** gnarled.
[Scots and Northern English form *snurl*; Northern English, also Orkney and Shetland, *snirl*.]

snash, snesh *noun* **1** verbal abuse, abusive language. **2** impudence.

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

snatch: **snatchclout** a handkerchief.

- **snatcher**:
- **snatcher-man** on a steam train, the man who reached out to receive a token from the signalman when the driver was on the wrong side for the signals.
- **snatching** fishing with the bare hooks of a stroke-haul.
See also sneck.

snathe *see* sned².

snatter *see* snot.

snaw *see* snow.

snawag *noun* a female crab, *especially* when it has cast its shell.

[Donegal Irish *snámhóg*, formed on *snámh* "to crawl" + diminutive ending -*óg*.]

snawee *noun* a thin, miserable-looking person or animal.

[Irish *snámhai* "a crawler".]

snazzy *adjective* well done up.

sneck *see* snick.

sneck, snick, snack, snig *noun* **1** the latch of a door, *etc.* **2** a door-catch, *etc.*

- ◆ *verb* secure (a door, *etc.*) by a latch or catch.
- **snack-drawer** a crafty, deceitful person.
- **sneck-band** a string attached to the latch of a door and passed to the outside so that the door can be opened from outside.
[Scots and Northern English *sneck, snick*; Northern English also *snack*; origin unknown, possibly a form of **snatch** (itself of unknown origin). *See also* unsneck.]

sned *see* snid.

sned¹, snid; *past tense* **sned**; *verb* **1** cut off (a branch), prune (a tree).

- 2** cut the tops and tails off (turnips). **3** chop (straw). **4** *generally* **sned off** chop off.
- **snedder** a crude, home-made knife for topping and tailing turnips.

[Scots and Northern English *sned*, Scots also *snid*; from Old English *sn*□*dan*.]

sned² *noun*, also **scythe-sned**, **scythe-snathe** the shaft of a scythe.

[*Sned* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), Scots and English dialectal also *snathe*; from Old English *sn*□*d*.] [ILLUS: *sned*]

snedden *noun* a large sandeel, probably the greater sandeel *Hyperoplus lanceolatus*.

[Origin unknown.]

sneeshing, **sneeshin** *noun* snuff.

□ **sneesh** snuff; a pinch of snuff.

[Scots; Highland English form of *sneezing* (*tobacco*), *i.e.* snuff.

Borrowed into Scottish Gaelic as *snaoisean*, which may also have influenced the form. Also in Irish as *snaoisín*.]

sneevil, **sneeviller**, **sneevle** *see* *snivel*.

sneirl *e.g.* a cross *sneirl*; ill-tempered.

snell *adjective* **1** of a person acerbic, cutting. **2** conceited; disdainful. **3** of the weather keen, bitter.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *snell*.]

snerl *see* *snarl*.

snesn *see* *snash*.

snetter *verb*, of a child cry.

snib¹ *noun* a bird: the common snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

[*Cf.* Scots form *snip* in compounds such as *snipie-nebbit* "snipe-nosed".]

snib² *verb* **1** trim (a haystack). **2** cut off small slices from (the top ends of potatoes). **3** cut into small pieces.

◆ *noun* a sarcastic, cutting remark.

□ **snibbins** portions sliced from potatoes.

[Scots and Northern English; possibly the same word as **snib**³, influenced by *snip*.]

snib³ *verb* **1** scold, rebuke. **2** check, restrain (a person). **3** secure (a door, *etc.*) by a latch or catch.

◆ *noun* **1** a door-catch, *etc.* **2** a small bolt on a door.

□ **snibble** *noun* **1** a door-catch, *etc.* **2** a chock for a cart-wheel, *etc.* **3** a sickle.

◆ *verb* **1** stop abruptly. **2** inform on a person.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal); of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian and Danish *snibbe*. *See also* **snib**².]

snick *see* *sneck*.

snick, **sneck**, **snack** *verb* *snick*, *snip*.

◆ *noun* a small, cut-off piece of plug tobacco.

[Scots and Northern English form *sneck*. *See also* **snig**¹.]

snick¹ *noun* an expert (*e.g.* at planting roses).

snicker *noun* a suppressed laugh; a sneering laugh.

◆ *verb* laugh in a suppressed manner; laugh sneeringly.

snicket *noun* the penis.

[Origin unknown.]

snid *see* **sned**¹.

snid, **sned** *noun*, *sea-fishing* a snood (one of the short lines that hang from a long line and carry the hooks).

◆ *verb* **1** snood, hold back (the hair) with a snood (a hair-band or hair-net). **2** *sea-fishing* snood, attach (the hooks) to the snoods.

[Scots forms.]

sniff: **sniffle** **1** the **sniffles** the snuffles, a head cold; *see also* *snivel*. **2** of a child *snivel*, cry.

□ **sniffy** supercilious, proud.

See also *snifter*.

snifter *noun* **1** a sniff. **2** a snort. **3** a snore. **4** a small amount. **5** also

snifterer a strong blast of wind; a storm. **6** *in plural* (**a**) a blocked nose in

children, animals or poultry; (b) a severe head cold. **7** a petty disagreement.

◆ *verb* sniff, snuffle.

[Scots and Northern English, onomatopoeic (as is **sniff**).]

snig *see* **sneck**.

snig¹, **snag** *verb* **1** snick, chop off. **2** cut, slash; *specifically* cut with a sickle. **3** clip with a knife, snip. **4** cut awkwardly or unevenly.

◆ *noun* **1** a cut. **2** a cutting remark. **3** a small piece. **4** an undersized thing *e.g. a snig of a potato*. **5** the smallest of a brood or litter. **6** a term of endearment for a baby. **7** a child who cuts the string of another child's kite in order to steal it. **8** an annoying person.

[Hiberno-English, Scots and English dialectal *snig*, form of **snick**.]

snig² *verb* **1** pull quickly. **2** draw (a hay-heap) with a tow-rope or chain attached to a horse or tractor.

[Northern English, also Caithness; onomatopoeic.]

snigger *verb* **1** giggle; *usually* offensively, a little sneeringly. **2** laugh sneeringly.

snipe *noun* a bird: the lapwing.

snippadan *noun* a small, cheeky person *Co. Donegal*.

[Possibly English *snip* in the obsolete Standard English sense "to snub" + Irish ending *-adán*.]

snirt¹ *verb* **1** laugh in a suppressed way. **2** snort through the nose when trying not to laugh.

◆ *noun* a stifled laugh.

[Scots and Northern English, onomatopoeic.]

snirt² *Co. Antrim, verb* flick (something); throw (something) forcefully.

◆ *noun* a sharp blow.

[*Cf.* Northumberland masonry term "to flake off a piece of stone"; origin unknown.]

snite *verb* **1** blow your nose; *specifically* using your finger and thumb.

2 tweak (someone's nose).

□ **Ded snite you for a rascal** a curse, an imprecation.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *snȳtan* and Old Norse *snýta* "to wipe the nose". *See also* **snoit**.]

snitter *verb* snigger, laugh in a suppressed way.

[Scots and Northern English, onomatopoeic.]

snivel, **sneevil**, **sneevle** *verb* **1** snivel. **2** speak through the nose. **3** speak with a cleft palate.

◆ *noun, in plural the sneevles* the sniffles, a head cold.

□ **sneeviller** a grumbler, a person who is constantly complaining.

[Scots forms *sneevil*, *sneevle*. *See also* **snool**.]

snoak *see* **snoke**.

snoob *noun* a simple candle, made by rolling a linen rag in soft resin.

[*Cf.* South-Western English "nasal mucus", onomatopoeic.]

snod *adjective* **1** neat, trim, tidy. **2** haughty, unfriendly. **3** impertinent, forward.

◆ *verb* **1** neaten, put in order. **2** trim (a candle). **3** cut (something) smooth or level; *specifically* neaten the edges of a thatched roof. **4** prune (a tree); lop (a branch); cut (a plant) off close to the ground; *cf.* **sned**¹.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown. Old Norse *snoðinn* "shaven" has been suggested.]

snoddy *noun* a runt, the weakling of a litter.

snog *noun* a sea-worm *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

snoit *noun* a very small person.

[Galloway form of **snite**.]

snoke, **snoak**, **snook** *verb* **1** *also* **snoke out** of a dog scent, smell (out).

2 of a pig, dog, etc. poke with the nose. **3** burrow your nose. **4** of a person pry; search around inquisitively; sneak. **5** creep into a cosy place.

6 snuffle; snort; snore. **7** speak through the nose. **8** wheedle, coax.

◆ *noun* a sneak; a cringing, underhand person.

[Scots and Northern English; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *snoka* "to snuff, to smell" and Old Norse *snaka* "to hunt about".]

snooning with *adjective* teeming with.

snook *see* snoke.

snool *noun* **1** a person or animal of a secretive or sly nature; a sneak; a cringing, underhand person. **2** someone who submits tamely to others, an abject person; a spiritless drudge; a cowardly person. **3** a dejected-looking person; a person with a permanent grudge against the world. **4** a sneering person.

◆ *verb* **1** cow, intimidate; make (someone) dispirited. **2** sulk; moan, complain.

□ **snooly** *adjective* a person who is constantly complaining.

◆ *noun* a person who allows his or her hair to grow down over the eyes.

◆ *verb* allow the hair to grow down over the eyes.

[Scots *snule*, *snool*; possibly a form of *snivel*.]

snoot *see* snout.

snore *verb* **1** snort. **2** *also take snore* sulk. **3** *of a storm* make a loud noise. **4** *of bullets* whistle. **5** *of a spinning top* sleep (spin so fast that it seems to be standing still).

□ **in the snore** in the huff, sulking.

□ **snorer** a home-made toy, a sucker.

snorlip *noun* a turnip.

's not *see* be.

snot *noun* **1** the burnt wick of a candle. **2** *abusive (a)* an impudent, conceited person; **(b)** a dirty person; **(c)** a despicable person.

□ **cold enough to blow the snotters off a mermaid**

□ **coul snotter** describing someone ignored, abandoned or stood up.

□ **snotter**, **snotther**, **snother**, **snatther**, *vulgar*, **1** *usually in plural* the mucus of the nose. **2** the wattle hanging from a turkey cock's forehead.

3 *abusive (a)* a dirty person; **(b)** a despicable person. **4** *abusive* a "snotty", contemptuous person.

□ **snotterbox** *derogatory, vulgar* the nose.

□ **snottery** *vulgar* pompously indignant.

□ **snotty** cheeky, impertinent.

snout, snoot *noun* **1** a snout. **2** *derogatory* the face.

◆ *verb, of a pig* shove with the snout.

□ **a pig wi another snout** someone quite different, "a horse of another colour".

□ **snout rag** a handkerchief.

□ **what would wet your snout** a small quantity (of liquid).

□ **whether wud ye rether hae a soo's snoot stewed, or a stewed soo's snoot?** *tongue-twister.*

[Scots and Northern English form *snoot*.]

snow, snaw, snaa *noun, verb* snow.

□ **many haws many snaws** *proverbial*

□ **snaaflake** a snowflake.

□ **snow-bank** a large white cloud.

□ **snowbird** the starling *Sturnus vulgaris* [a flurry of starlings is believed to be an omen of a fall of snow]. [ILLUS: snowbird]

□ **snow-broth**, **snow-broo**, **snaw-bree** melting snow, slush; *see* bree, broo⁵, broth¹.

□ **snow cock** a bird: the mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. *Illustration see* shriek.

□ **snow drop** a snowflake.

□ **snow is the dog's summer**

□ **snow-reek** a snowdrift.

□ **snow-top**, **snaa-tap** a diamond-shaped iced bun; *see also* top.

- **(vanish) like snow aff the ditch**
- **ye couldn't beat snow ay a rope** a sneering retort to someone who threatens violence.
[Scots and Northern English forms *snaw*, *snaa*.]
- snuff**: **bad snuff to you** *exclamation*
- **snuff it** *literally* put out the candle: cease work.
- snuffles** *noun plural* a cold in the head.
- snug** *adjective* **1** of a farm trim, tidy. **2** prosperous, well-to-do.
- snugadan** *noun* a sneak; a crafty person.
[*Cf.* Irish *snagadán* "a lifeless person" and *smugachán* "a contemptible person".]
- so, sae** *adverb* **1** so. **2 so, so** quite so, yes. **3 so ... as** as ... as *e.g. so long as it is done*. **4** in the construction *so + pronoun + auxiliary verb*, used at the end of a sentence to reinforce what has just been said by partly repeating it *e.g. That's a nice car, so it is* [more commonly used in Ulster (and in the West of Scotland) than elsewhere]. **5 also sot** used emphatically in replies *e.g. I will so*.
- **every so often** every now and then.
- **so and so** so-so, middling.
- **so as** in such a way that; in order that.
- **so be** if so be, provided that *e.g. I'll go so be you come too*.
- **so far** **1** "so long", goodbye. **2 also so long** a greeting.
- **so then** therefore *e.g. He's gone away, so then he cannot come*.
[Scots and Northern English form *sae*; Scots also *sot*, mainly childish, influenced by *not* in emphatic replies.]
- soagh** *see* sough.
- soak** *verb* **1** dry (clothes) in the open air [from the idea that the air soaks up moisture]. **2** fawn, curry favour; *cf.* **suck**.
- **soaked** of clothes half-dried.
- soans** *see* sowens.
- soap¹, sape** *noun* soap.
- **sape sids, sap** soap suds.
- **soap boy** *historical* a lather-boy, a barber's assistant.
[Scots and Northern English form *sape*.]
- soap²** *noun* a small amount (of liquid).
- **soaping** sopping, dripping.
[Scots form of *sop*.]
- soarnach** *verb* rummage; search frantically.
[Origin unknown.]
- soart** *see* sort.
- sober**: **sobereity** sobriety.
- **sober-sides** **1** a steady, serious man. **2** a precocious or unusually grave child.
- soc** *noun* the face; the nose or chin.
- sociable** *noun* an inside Irish car without the cover, oval in shape, with high, light springs.
- sock¹** *noun* the socket of a spade or shovel.
[Shortened form, rare in Standard English.]
- sock²** *noun, also plough-sock* a plough-share. *Illustration see* plough.
- **have a sock on you** be in the huff, sulk [translation of Irish *soc a bheith ort*, where *soc* is used in the sense "a snout"].
[Scots and Northern English; from Old French *soc*, itself probably of Celtic origin corresponding to Irish *soc*.]
- sock³** *noun* a **brave sock** a lot of money.
- sod** *noun* **1** a deadweight. **2** a large, expressionless, heavy baby. **3** the image *e.g. He's the very sod of his father*.
- ◆ *verb* **1** cut out (peat). **2** throw sods at (a person).
- **as much as wud sod a lark** as much as would do a lark's cage.
- **on the sod** exactly, "to a T".

- **sod bank** a green-sod-bank.
 - **soddy** heavy.
 - **the old sod** the old country.
 - **turn the sods on someone, turn the sod on someone** bury someone.
- soda:** **sausage soda**, *etc.* soda-bread with sausage, *etc.*
- **soda-bread** *less commonly* **soda-cake**, **soda-scone** bread *etc.* raised with bicarbonate of soda.
 - **soda-heid** a slow-witted, dense person; *see* head.
- soddened** *adjective*, of stones wedged together.
- sodger** *see* soldier.

soft, saft *adjective* **1** soft. **2** of the weather wet, rainy, drizzling; frequently a soft day

[*cf.* Irish *lá bog* "a soft day". In Standard English, *soft* weather is mild and balmy] **3 soft about** "soft on" (a person of the opposite sex).

- **a blow that will saftin the wax in yer lug**
- **be soft on someone** be in love with someone.
- **have a soft place in your head** be half-witted.
- **have a soft spot in your heart for** be inclined to favour or forgive in someone what wouldn't be pardoned in someone else.
- **have a wee softness** be slightly mentally retarded.
- **how soft the wool grows on you!, saft ee, wud ye eat a brick?** meaning that nobody could be as innocent or foolish as you seem.
- **saftie** a simpleton; a "softy", a silly, weak person.
- **Saft John barred the dure wi' a sausage**
- **saft-spoken** soft-spoken, plausible.
- **saft words butthers no parsnips, soft talk will butter nae parsnips** a man had better speak up and to the point, if he means to get on in the world.
- **soft drink, saft drink** a non-alcoholic drink.
- **soft-headed** silly, foolish.
- **softness:**
- **soft water** rainwater as opposed to hard water, *i.e.* spring water.
- **soft-wheeled** of a vehicle having rubber tyres.
- **ye're queer and saft, but yer teeth's the saftest o ye** said to someone pretending to be silly.

[Scots, also Western English and Hiberno-English, form *saft*.]

sofy *noun* a sofa.

sogarth *noun* a priest.

sogh *see* sough.

soigheds *noun* elfshot.

soil *noun* fresh grass or other green fodder fed to cattle.

- ◆ *verb* feed cattle indoors.

[Apparently the same word as Standard English "dirt", because of the increased quantity and quality of the manure so produced.]

sojer *see* soldier.

sola *noun*, *literally* solo: a card game for one player *L'derry city*.

solan goose, soland goose, solan bird *noun* a bird: the gannet *Sula bassana*.

[Scots, also accepted in Standard English; from Old Norse *súla* "the gannet" + possibly Old Norse *and* "a duck".]

soldier, sodger, sojer *noun* **1** a soldier. **2** a name for a brave little boy; *especially* as an encouragement to bear pain or discomfort without crying. **3** *childish* a small spark of fire on the edge of burning paper, or on the underside of a cooking pot; a particle of burning soot.

[Scots and English dialectal form *sodger, sojer*.]

sole *see* sell.

sole *noun* **1** the palm of the hand. **2** a sill; *also* window-sole

- **as tough as sole-leather**
- **sole-grass** a grass: creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*.

- sole-leather** "walk over" (someone), "ride rough-shod over" (someone).
- the sole of my foot to you** *contemptuous*
- window-sole** the sill of a window.
- solid** *adjective* sane, in full possession your mental faculties.
 - ◆ *adverb, of progress* slowly, steadily *e.g. go solid downhill.*
- sollendine** *noun* a wild flower: the greater celandine *Chelidonium majus*.
[Old form *solydyne*, North-East Scots *soladene*.]
- somachaun, somahaun** *noun* a heap of hay; the first small heap, usually about three feet high, made by haymakers.
- some** *adverb* **1** a little, to some extent *e.g. I can swim some.* **2** slightly, somewhat *e.g. She's some better the day.*
 - ◆ *pronoun* one or other *e.g. They live in some of these houses.*
 - somebuddy** somebody; *see* **body**.
 - some-place else** somewhere else.
 - something**:
 - something afore something** an omen.
 - someway** somehow.
 - someways** in some way, somehow.
 - someyin** someone; *see* **one**.
- somes** *noun* a runt, the weakling of a litter.
- son, sin** *noun* a son.
 - big sonny** a term of address, used derisively to a mature man.
 - sonnikins** a term of address: **(a)** *to a child* a term of endearment; **(b)** *to a man* a term of contempt.
 - yer son's yer son till he's married, but yer daughter's yer daughter till she goes to the grave** son and daughter compared.
[Scots form *sin*.]
- sonachan, sounaghan, sonaghan** *noun* a trout; a plump trout; a kind of trout appearing in certain lakes in November, coming from the rivers.
- sonce** *see* **sonse**.
- sonk** *see* **sunk**.
- sonrock** *noun* a soft seat to lie or lean upon near the fire.
[Origin unknown.]
- sonse, sonce** *noun* good luck, prosperity.
 - it has some sonse with it** said of something of good size and value.
 - sonsy, sonsie, sunsy, sansy** **1** *of a person* lucky, fortunate. **2** *of an action, etc.* lucky, auspicious. **3** thriving, plump, healthy-looking. **4** *usually, of a girl or woman* buxom, glowing with health. **5** generous in nature. **6** cheerful, pleasant. **7** *of a person's situation or means* comfortable, plentiful.
 - sonsy and douce** pleasant and quiet.
 - sonsy-faced** having a bright, healthy, jolly appearance.
 - sonsy-looking, sonsy-lukin** of a comely, good-looking, buxom appearance; of substantial or jolly appearance.
[Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *sonas* (corresponding to Irish *sonas*). Scots forms also *sunsy, sansy*. *See also* **unsonsy**.]
- sonties** *see* **sannies**.
- soo** *noun* a sow.
 - soo-luggit** *of a horse* having hanging ears; *see* **lug**.
 - soo-stack** a large rectangular haystack.
 - soo-stale** the base of a haystack; *see* **stale**¹.
 - soo-thrissel** a wild flower: the sow-thistle *Sonchus spp.*; *see* **thistle**.
 - you can't make a purse out of a sow's lug or ear** you must have the right stuff to do anything.
[Scots and Northern English form.]
- soogan, soogawn** *see* **suggan**.
- soogh** *see* **sough**.
- soogie, soog-soog, soogy, sook, sookie** *see* **suck**.
- soo leg-leg** *see* **lag-lag**.

sooleymander *see* sylamander.

soolie *noun* gruel for feeding pigs.

[*Cf.* Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire *sowl*; apparently a form of *swill*.]

soolock, soolog *see* sour.

soom *see* sum, sweem.

soon, sin, shune, shin, sane, shane, sheen *adverb* soon.

□ **by soons** early, in good time.

□ **soon and late** *e.g.* *worked soon and late*.

□ **sooner (do one thing) than or nor (do another)** rather (do one thing) than (do another). *frequently would sooner*

□ **soons:**

[Scots forms *sin, shune, shin, seen*; Yorkshire form *sane*.]

sooner *noun, jocular* a dog that "would sooner pee on the carpet than go outside".

soop *see* sweep.

soop *verb* soak, drench.

□ **sooping wet** drenched, soaking.

[*Cf.* Nottinghamshire, Leicester and Warwickshire "to soak up"; form of *sup*¹.]

soople¹, souple *adjective* **1** supple. **2** *of a window* easily moved up and down. **3** glib; smart.

◆ *verb* supple, make (leather, *etc.*) supple.

□ **a soople mother makes a lazy child, a soople mother makes a lazy chile, a soople mother makes a leaden-heeled daughter, a souple mother makes a lazy child**

□ **as souple as a cloot** easily bent.

□ **as souple as a hare**

□ **soople jaws** *nickname* a fluent speaker.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

soople², souple, supple *noun* a swipple (the part of a flail that strikes the grain).

[Scots and Northern English forms.] [ILLUS: soople]

soor *see* sour.

soord *noun* a sword.

[Northern Scots form.]

soordook, soorlick, soorock, soorog *see* sour.

soort *see* sort.

sooster *noun* something tasty to tempt the appetite *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

soot: as sudden as a soot-drop like a bolt from the blue.

□ **during soot while time endures** forever. **during soot and secalorum** "forever and a day".

□ **soot-drop** a drop of dirty water falling through a thatched roof.

sooter *noun* a fish: the dragonet *Callionymus lyra*.

[Northumberland "the pout *Trisopterus luscus*", origin unknown.]

soothe *verb, also soother* coax, cajole, wheedle.

□ **sootherer** a wheedler.

□ **sootherin** coaxing.

□ **soothe someone up** humour and encourage someone.

□ **ye might as well try to soother a weasel**

[Hiberno-English extended form *soother*, also found occasionally in Scots.]

sope *noun* an indefinite quantity of liquid.

[Northern English; from Old English *sopa*, itself related to *sūpan* which gives *sup*¹.]

soraghing *noun* a delicate-looking person.

sore *see* swear.

sore, sair *adjective* **1** sore. **2 sore on (a thing) (a)** hard on, giving hard

wear to (a thing) *e.g. Cycling's sore on boots*; **(b)** extravagant with *e.g. She's sore on electricity*. **3 sore on (a person)** hard on, severe with (a person). **4 of the head** aching. **5 sad** (to see); pitiful *e.g. He's a sore fool*. **6** severe, hard *e.g. a sore journey*. **7 of the weather** bad, stormy *e.g. a sair nicht*.

◆ **adverb** **1** sorely, grievously *e.g. sore tired*. **2** very, extremely *e.g. sore wet*.

◆ **noun** a wound.

□ **dressed up like a sore finger**

□ **for the sore foot, for the sore finger** for a "rainy day" [translation of Irish *lá na coise tinne* "for the day of the sore foot"].

□ **give someone sore bones, give someone sair bones** give someone a beating.

□ **good for sore eyes** welcome, pleasant.

□ **I hope your sore head will be better soon** familiar remark to a man wearing a turban.

□ **put sore on someone** put someone in extreme difficulties.

□ **sair-looking** looking ill.

□ **sit up like a sore thumb** sit with a supercilious or unbending air.

□ **sore earnest** in real earnest.

□ **sore hand** a very thick sandwich; *see also hand*.

□ **sore head** **1** a headache. **2 figuratively** a type of sweet bun with a strip of greaseproof paper around it.

□ **sore ja's** mumps.

□ **sore missed** greatly missed [archaic in Standard English].

□ **sore-set** hard-pressed.

□ **sore sought** weak from exhaustion and exertion; worn out with age or weakness.

□ **sore-won** hard-earned.

□ **sore-working** hard-working.

□ **sore wrought, sair wrocht** **1** hard-worked, over-worked. **2** worried.

See work.

[Scots and Northern English form *sair*.]

soree *see swarry*.

sorey *noun* a roan horse.

[*Cf.* obsolete Scots *sorit* of a horse "roan", from obsolete Standard English *sore*, itself from Old French *sor* of a horse "roan".]

sorn, sorren *noun, historical* a tenure of land arising out of the provision of food and drink for soldiers; *also sorn land*

[Scots; from obsolete Gaelic *sorthan* "maintenance". *See also stroan*¹.]

sorrow, sorra, sarra *noun, frequently the sorrow, also (the) sweet sorrow euphemism* the devil *e.g. What the sorrow?*

□ **as sorra** as can be *e.g. wet as sorra*.

□ **sorrow (a)** "devil a", not a; *see also one*.

□ **sorrow blow ye** a curse.

□ **sorrow much** not much.

□ **sorrow one of me** *emphatic negative e.g. sorrow one of me knows* I do not know at all.

□ **sweet sarra to (someone or something)** a curse.

□ **the sorrow receive** used in negative sentences *e.g. The sorra resaive the one of them but went like that, trembling with fear*; not one of them but went *etc.*

□ **where in sorrow?** where on earth?

[Scots and Northern English form *sorra*, Northern English also *sarra*.]

sorry: be sorry after someone grieve for the loss of someone.

□ **neither sick nor sorry** said of someone who has caused annoyance and who passes the matter off lightly.

□ **not be sorry to (get something etc.)** like to (get something *etc.*), not object to (getting something *etc.*).

sort, soart, soort *verb* **1** arrange, tidy up. **2** repair, mend. **3** wash and dress (yourself). **4** supply someone with what he or she wants (*e.g.* in a shop).

5 punish, scold. **6** get along together, live in harmony *e.g.* *How does him and her sort?*

◆ *noun* **oul' sort** a term of address; *see* **old**.

□ **sorting 1** a grade, a quality *e.g.* *a good sorting*. **2** *in plural* odds and ends.

□ **sort of** to a certain extent.

□ **well-sorted** *of a couple* well-matched.

[Scots form *soart*, English dialectal *soort*.]

sosh *adjective* **1** snug, comfortable. **2** plump, fat. **3** neat, tidy. **4** impudent.

[Scots, shortened form of *sociable*.]

sooss *see* **souse**.

sooss *exclamation* a call to a dog or a pig to come for food.

[Scots and English dialectal; originally a noun "a mess of food for animals", origin unknown.]

sot *see* **set**¹, **sit**, **so**.

sother *see* **souther**.

sother *noun* a blow, a slap *Co. Armagh*; *cf.* **sotter**.

sotherin *see* **souther**.

sotter *verb*, *also* **sottle** simmer.

□ **sotterin** the bubbling noise made by saliva in the stem of a tobacco pipe.

[Scots and Northern English *sotter*, Scots also *sottle*; related to Old English *ȝesoden* "boiled".]

souch *see* **sough**.

soud *verb* arrange or settle matters.

[Scots, from Old French *souder* "to solder" (*see* **souther**).]

souder, soudie *see* **sowdy**.

sough, souch, sogh, soagh, sugh, soogh *noun* **1** a sough, a murmuring or sighing sound. **2** the sound made by something swishing through the air. **3** a whistling blow. **4** a rumour *e.g.* *It's all the sough through the countryside*.

◆ *verb* sough, make a sighing sound.

□ **Aa hear a sukh but Aa see nae bees** said ironically of someone who talks too much but fails to act.

□ **have a quiet sough** be silent.

□ **hold or keep a calm sough 1** *also* **hold or keep a quiet sough** keep quiet, hold your tongue. **2** have patience.

□ **soughin and sleepin**

□ **soughing** the sighing of the wind.

[Scots forms *souch, soch, soach, such, sooch*.]

sought *verb* seek.

soukit *adjective*, *of a horse* exhausted.

soul' *see* **sell**.

soul, sowl, saul *noun* **1** the soul, a soul. **2** **the sowl** expressing pity or contempt for a person.

◆ *exclamation* "by my soul!".

□ **dear soul alive, bless my heart and soul, be me saull, by me sowl, me soul!** *exclamation* *s* expressing surprise or astonishment.

□ **deed an sowl, in sowl** *emphatic* indeed; *see* **deed**².

□ **for soul and body** vigorously, with all your might.

□ **God rest his soul!** a prayer for a dead person.

[Scots forms *sowl, saul*.]

soulagh *noun* a broad, tart-tasting leaf.

soum *see* **sum**.

soun' *adjective* sound.

□ **as soun' as a bell**

[Southern English form.]

souns *see* **sowens**.

soup: **souper** *historical* **1** a Protestant who recruited converts by dispensing soup during the Famine. **2** a Roman Catholic who pretended Protestantism in order to obtain aid.

souper bowl *noun* a porridge bowl.

souple *see* soople¹, soople².

sour, soor *adjective* **1** sour. **2** *figuratively, of a person* sour, sullen, gloomy. **3** *of the weather* cold, harsh.

◆ *verb* sour.

□ **as sour as bogweed, as soor as buttermilk** *of a person* quick-tempered or ill-tempered.

□ **if she wud only luk into the crame crock it wud soor it, the look of her wud sour suggar or crame, his or her face wud turn sweet milk sour, ye wud soor buttermilk**

□ **soordook** buttermilk; *see* duck¹.

□ **sour-dock** a wild plant: (a) broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*; (b) water dock *Rumex hydrolapathum*.

□ **sour leeks** a wild plant: common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*; *see also* wee.

□ **sourock, soorock, surrock, soorog, sourlick, soorlick, soolock, sulock, soolog** *noun, also in plural* a wild plant: (a) sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella*; (b) common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*; (c) wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*; *especially* the edible leaf of these plants.

[Scots and Northern English form *soor*.]

souse, sowse *noun* **1** a thump, a dull blow. **2** a bump. **3** *also* **soos** a heavy fall; the sound of a heavy fall.

◆ *verb* **1** strike, thump. **2** fall heavily. **3** *also* **soos** sit down heavily.

◆ *adverb* with a thud *e.g.* *She fell souse into the water.*

□ **come down a souse** fall with a thud.

□ **in a sowster** very wet and muddy.

□ **sousin** the preparation of lea ground for potato ridges.

□ **sousin sod** a sod dug from a furrow between spade ridges and added, broken up, to the ridge.

□ **sowster:**

[*Souse, sowse* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal); Scots and Northern English also *soos*; onomatopoeic.]

souther, sother, suther *verb* solder.

□ **sotherin** a beating, a thrashing.

[Scots form *souther*, Cheshire *sother*; from Old French noun *soudure*. Standard English *solder* is from an alternative Old French form *soldure*. *See also* soud.]

southernwood *noun* a kind of wormwood, *Artemisia abrotanum*.

southie *adjective, of a person* pleasant *Co. Donegal*.

[*Cf.* *sowdy* and Scots *couthie* (*see* *couth*).]

sow, show, saw, saa *verb, past participle* **saan, sowed, sad** **1** sow.

2 *figuratively* sprinkle (*e.g.* sugar).

[Scots and Northern English forms *saw, saa*; North-Eastern Scots *shaa*.

Past participle: Scots form *saan*, old form *sowed*.]

sowans *see* sowens.

sowdy, soudie *noun* **1** *also* **souder** a fat, lazy person. **2** a plump child or woman.

[Scots; from Scots *sowd* "a large quantity of money or goods", from Old French *soude* "soldiers' pay".]

sowens, sowans, souns, soans *noun plural* flummery (a dish made by pouring boiling water over the crushed husks of grain and steeping them in a tub for a week or so until they go sour, then boiling the strained mixture like porridge).

□ **a face like the skin o' sowens** a pock-marked face.

□ **A wudnae gie scrapin's o a sowan pot for it** said of something totally worthless.

□ **bad cess and sowens to ye** an imprecation; bad luck to you.

- **sowan pot** a vessel in which sowans are made.
- **sowen-breakfast** a breakfast of **sowens**.
- **sowen-kit** a **sowen-tub** [*sowen-* + obsolete Standard English (latterly Scots and English dialectal) *kit* "a wooden vessel" from Middle Dutch *kitte*. Standard English *kit* "equipment" is a development of the same word].
- **sowen porridge** a dish made by mixing oatmeal with **sowens** while they are cooking.
- **sowen-seeds** the husks of oatmeal used for making **sowens**.
- **sowen-tub** a vessel in which **sowens** are made.
- **sup sowens with an elsin** or **elshin** attempt an impossibility.
- **ye may sup yer sowens or drink them** you will have to (do something) one way or another.

[Scots and Northern English; from Scottish Gaelic *sùghan* "the liquid used in preparing this dish"; Scots also *souns*, North-Eastern Scots also *soans*.]

sowkins: upon my sowkins a disguised oath: upon my soul!

[Hiberno-English.]

sowl *see* soul.

sowl' *see* sell.

sowp *noun* an indefinite quantity of liquid.

[Scots and Northern English; from Old Norse *saup* "buttermilk", itself related to Old Norse *súpa* "to sup", corresponding to **sup**¹.]

sowse *see* souse.

sowsy *adjective* healthy.

spa *noun* decayed matter that accumulates and blocks drains *Co.*

Londonderry.

[Origin unknown.]

spachan *noun* a small potato for planting.

spache *see* speech.

spacial *see* speeshal.

spadach, spada *noun* poor-quality peat.

[Irish *spadach*.]

spade *noun* a group of people engaged in communal peat-cutting.

- **spade-face** a long, narrow face.
- **spadesman** a worker with a spade; *especially* a skilful worker.
- **spade the moss** cut peat for fuel, *especially* when a new bank is broken.
- **spade-turf** turf cut in spadefuls; dark-coloured turf, cut from about ten feet down in the bog using a slane; peat cut with a **slane** (as distinct from a **flaughter**).
- **spading fork** a broad-bladed garden fork.

spader *noun* soft, almost useless, turf.

spadger *see* sparrow.

spae, spay, spey *verb* **1** foretell; tell (fortunes); reveal (a secret) by the use of second sight. **2** *figuratively* give away (a secret).

- **spae-man, spae-wife, spae-woman** a man or woman who has the gift of second sight or who can tell fortunes.

[Scots, from Old Norse *spá*.]

spag, spaug, spawg, also incorrectly sprag, noun **1** a foot, *especially* a big, awkward foot. **2** *in plural* sensible, unattractive shoes.

◆ *verb* walk; *specifically* walk barefoot.

- **spaggie** splay-footed; *cf.* **splaw**.
- **spaugin** a long stride.

[Hiberno-English *spaug*, from Irish *spág*; also found in Highland English and Caithness, from Scottish Gaelic *spàg* "a paw"; Scots form also *spaug, spawg*.]

spag¹ *noun* a purse, a tobacco pouch.

spagger *see* sparrow.

spail *see* spale, spell³.

spailin *noun, historical* meat slaughtered, cooked and sold on the spot at a fair.

□ **spailin tent** a booth selling spailin.

[The same word as spoileen.]

spain, spean, spen, *also incorrectly spend; past participle spent; verb* wean (a baby, a foal, *etc.*).

◆ *noun* **spen** a newly-weaned, and therefore fractious, child.

□ **his or her look would spain a foal** said of an ugly person.

□ **spenning brash** a bout of illness affecting a child when newly weaned; *see* brash.

□ **spenning time** the season when lambs are weaned.

[Scots and Northern English *spean*; Scots also *spain, spen*; from Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *spanen, spenen*.]

spak, spake *see* speak.

spalder, spelder, speldher *verb* **1** split open. **2** splay the limbs. **3** *of a horse* suffer from a buckling of the hind legs due to being put to work too young. **4** walk awkwardly; *cf.* spalter.

□ **spaldrick** *thatching* a small rake for straightening the straws. [ILLUS: spaldrck]

□ **speldered 1** injured by taking an over-long stride. **2** *of a cow* having dislocated the hind legs as a result of the feet sliding apart.

□ **the deil speldher ye over a kash (kesh)** a decidedly unfriendly wish.

[Northern English and Southern Scots *spalder*, Scots *spelder*; from Scots and Northern English *spald*, Scots also *speld*, "to split", itself from Middle Low German *spalden*, corresponding to Dutch and Flemish *spalte* (*see* spalter).]

spale, spail, speal *noun* **1** a sliver of wood, glass, *etc.*; a shaving of wood. **2** *also fir-spale* a spill of bog-fir burnt as a source of light. **3** a splinter of wood in a finger, *etc.*

[Scots and Northern English *spale, spail*; from Old Norse *spal*- "bar of wood".]

spall, spaul, spawl *verb, of a cat, fox etc.* tear, mutilate (prey); rend asunder.

◆ *noun* small, broken stones.

spalpeen, spulpin *noun* **1** a labourer. **2** a wanderer. **3** *derogatory* (a) a fellow; (b) a disagreeable or contemptible person; (c) a rogue; (d) a rascal.

□ **spalpeen farmer** a small farmer.

[Hiberno-English *spalpeen*, from Irish *spailpin*.]

spalter, spolther *verb* **1** walk awkwardly. **2** stumble. **3** go over onto the side of your foot. **4** stammer, stutter.

◆ *noun* a manner of walking with hurried, loose steps.

□ **in spalters** slipping and stumbling.

□ **spaltering** awkward, stumbling walking.

[*Spalter* also found in South-Western Scots; from Southern English *spalter* "to split", itself from Southern English *spalt* "to split off" (probably from Dutch and Fleming *spalte*) + *-er*. For the form *spolther*, *cf.* Cumberland *spoalder* form of *spalder*.]

span *see* frog.

spandy *see* span-new.

span-frog *see* frog.

spang *noun* **1** a leap, a bound. **2** a long stride.

◆ *verb* **1** walk with long, quick strides. **2** *of an animal lying in pain* kick out the legs. **3** take a person aback; act treacherously.

□ **horse spang** a measure of distance: the length of a horse's bound.

[Scots and Northern English, onomatopoeic.]

spangle, spengle *noun* **1** a measure of yarn: four hanks. **2** an ounce (28.35 grammes) of wool.

[Rare Scots *spangle*, form of Scots and Northern English *spinle*, itself a

form of **spindle**.]

spank: **spanker** someone who "spanks along", someone who strides quickly and easily [in colloquial English generally, "a fast-moving horse"].

- **spanking** of extraordinary size or superior quality.
- **spankingly** in dashing style.

span-new, **spank-new** *adjective*, also **spandy** brand-new.

[*Span-new* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), Scots also *spank-new* (probably influenced by **spank**); from Old Norse *spán nýr*, itself containing *spánn* "a chip of wood".]

spannings *see* frog.

spanshil, **spencil**, **spenshel** *noun* a spancel (a rope used to tie an animal's legs together).

- ◆ **verb** **1** spancel, hobble (an animal) to prevent it from wandering.
- 2** hobble (a hen) with string to prevent her from scratching.
- **my spittle would spancel a cat** I am very thirsty.

sparandulicks *noun plural* money.

spare¹ *noun* the fly of a man's trousers [now only applied in Standard English to an opening in a woman's dress or skirt].

spare²: **goin' spare** at wit's end; cracking under pressure.

- **sparence**, **sparins**, **sparings** **1** a period of grace; *specifically* an extension of time to pay the rent. **2** a reduction in the rent. **3** what can be spared.
- **spare rib** a wife or husband.

spark¹ *verb* **1** **spark with** court, flirt with (a person of the opposite sex).

2 rain slightly, "spit". **3** *of hot fat, etc.* splash. **4** splash with water; bespatter with mud.

- ◆ *noun* **1** a glowing cinder. **2** a splash of hot fat, *etc.* **3** a splash of mud; a drop of rain.
- **like to spark to death** applied to someone having difficulty recovering after a fit of coughing; *see* like¹.
- **spark of fire** a live coal.

spark² *noun* a steep, but short, bank or hill *Co. Fermanagh*.

[Origin unknown.]

sparks *noun plural* socks without feet.

sparra *see* sparrow.

sparrish *see* sporrish.

sparrow, **sparra**, **spadger**, **spagger** *noun*, also **grey spadger**, **tweed spadger** a bird: the sparrow *Passer spp.*

- **in three hops of a sparrow** a very short time; very quickly, almost at once.
- **sparable** a sparrow-bill; a small nail used in the soles of sturdy boots. also **sparable-soled**:
- **sparrowhawk** a bird: the kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* [in Standard English, applied to a different bird, *Accipiter nisus*].
- **sparrow park** *jocular* a very small field; *see* park.

[Scots and English dialectal forms *sparra*, English dialectal also *spadger*.]

sparrow-grass *noun* asparagus.

[Altered form, formerly accepted as Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal).]

spartle *verb* make a painful and laborious effort.

[Scots, from Dutch or Low German *spartelen* "to sprawl".]

spartle¹ *noun* a spatula.

spatchcock *noun* a game: skiver-the-geese.

[Hiberno-English "a fowl killed and hastily prepared for cooking", short for *dispatch cock*.]

spate *noun* **1** a flood, a torrent [also adopted in Standard English]. **2** a sudden, heavy downfall of rain. **3** *figuratively* an outburst of speech.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

spats *noun plural* socks without feet.

spaug, spaugin *see* spag.

spauk *see* speak.

spaul, spawl, speal *noun* **1** a limb. **2** an ungainly, awkward walker.

□ **spaul-bone, spool-bone** the shoulder-blade.

[Scots and Northern English *spaul, spawl, speal*; Scots also rarely *spool* (*cf.* spool); from Old French *espaulle* "the shoulder".]

spavie *noun, also spave* a disease of horses: spavin.

□ **spavied, spavit, also spevelled** spavined, affected with the disease spavin.

[Scots form *spavie*.]

spawg *see* spag.

spawl *noun* a long, flat piece of stone or wood.

spawl *see* spaul.

spay *see* spae.

speak, spake, spak; *past tense spake, spak, spauk*; *past participle*

spoke, spauk; *verb* **1** speak. **2** *of a couple* court, keep company.

◆ *noun* **1** a talk, a speech. **2** a saying; *specifically* a proverb.

□ **in a manner of speaking** so to speak.

□ **put a or the speak on 1** greet, address someone [translation of Irish *fórrán a chur ar dhuine* (*see* furrawn)]. **2** *of a man* court (a girl).

□ **speak fair 1** say what you think is just. **2** humour, speak pleasantly to.

□ **speak fine** otherwise than in the district.

□ **speak ill** speak harshly.

□ **speak rough** speak in dialect.

□ **speak to** propose marriage to.

□ **speak up** reply.

□ **wor ye spakin'?** pardon?

[Older form in Scots and English *spake*, Northern English and South-Western Scots also *spak*. Past tense: *spake* archaic in Standard English; Scots and Northern English also *spak*, South-Western English also *spauk*. Past participle: *spoke* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots, also Southern English), South-Western English also *spauk*. *See also* out.]

speal *see* spale, spaul.

spean *verb* spay, remove the ovaries from (a female animal).

spean *see* spain.

spear: **spearling** the garfish *Belone belone*. *Illustration see* sword.

□ **spear wigeon** a bird: the red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator*.

speciment *noun, abusive, literally* a specimen.

[English dialectal form.]

speckle: **speckled**:

□ **speckled diver** a bird: the red-throated diver *Gavia stellata*.

speech, spache *noun* speech.

□ **get (the) speech of someone** speak to someone.

□ **speech is coming to him or her** *of a child* he or she is just beginning to talk.

[Older form in Scots and English *spache*.]

speed: **come speed** have success, prosper; make progress in the doing of a job of work.

□ **I wish you good speed**

□ **speedy**:

□ **speedy-go-sheegy** very quickly [extended form. For the element -go-, *cf.* maw-go-braw].

speedh *noun* an evil spell.

speel¹, speil, spiel *verb* **1** *also speellie* climb. **2** **speel up** climb up, ascend.

□ **spieler** a climber.

[Scots; origin unknown, possibly from Middle Dutch *spelen* "to walk on a tightrope, to do gymnastic tricks".]

speel² *verb* forecast the future.

[Scots form of *spell*².]

speel³ *noun* a splinter of wood in a finger, *etc.*

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal); of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian *spila*.]

speendrift *see* spindrift.

speer, speir, spier *verb* **1** ask, inquire. **2** ask (questions). **3** *also* **speer at** question (a person).

◆ *noun* **1** a prying, nosy person. **2** a search, an inquiry.

□ **speer guesses** ask riddles.

□ **speerings** searching questions, an interrogation.

□ **speer questions** ask (too many) questions, be inquisitive.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *spyrian* and Old Norse *spyrja*.]

speeshal, spacial *adjective* special.

□ **speeshal: specially ordered** *jocular* odd-looking.

[Scots form *speeshal*.]

speevy grey *noun* a bird: the redpoll *Carduelis flammea*. *Illustration see* thorn.

[The first element is unidentified.]

speil *see* speel¹.

speir *see* speer.

spelch *see* spelgh.

spelder *see* spalder.

spelder¹ *noun* a spider.

speldher *see* spalder.

spelgh, spelch *verb* splice (*e.g.* a broken pipe).

[Scots and Northern English *spelch* *noun* "a splint", from Old English *spelc*.]

spell¹ *noun* a spill: **(a)** a thin sliver of wood; *specifically* a sliver of bog-wood burnt as a source of light; **(b)** a folded or rolled paper used to carry a light to a candle, pipe, *etc.*

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal); possibly of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *spel*. *Cf. also* *spale*.]

spell² *noun* a ghost, an evil spirit.

□ **spell-bound** under the influence of an evil spell, bewitched.

spell³, **spail** *noun* a spell of work.

◆ *verb* walk or work energetically.

□ **spell-job** a job of indefinite length.

□ **spell-man** a man engaged to work by the job.

□ **spell someone** take over someone's work for a time to give him or her a break.

[Scots form *spail*.]

spell⁴: **get the spells** be taught; learn *e.g.* *I only know the Irish I get the spells of from the people*.

□ **have the spells** be able to read or write your name.

speller *noun, also spillet* a long line baited and laid on the seabed for flat fish.

[Hiberno-English *spiller* (also found in Cornwall), *spillet*; origin unknown. Also in Irish as *spiléar*.]

spen *see* spain.

spencel *see* spanshil.

spend *see* spain.

spend *verb, of cattle grazed on poor pasture* deteriorate.

□ **spend your opinion** give your opinion.

spengle *see* spangle.

spenning *see* spain.

spenshel *see* spanshil.

spent *see* spain.

spentacles *noun plural* spectacles, glasses.

□ **put the specs on someone** charge too much.

□ **specs, specks** spectacles.

[Scots and Northern English, altered form.]

spergie, spirgie *noun* **1** a small, thin person. **2** a very small specimen

e.g. a wee spergie of a flea.

[*Cf.* Scots *spurg(ie)* form of *spug*.]

sperit *noun* a spirit.

□ **sperity** spirited.

[Also found in Ayrshire.]

sperley *adjective* thin, weak-looking.

speuchan *see* spleughan.

spevelled *see* spavie.

spewteragh *noun* a mixture that is made too thin or too weak.

[Irish *spútrach* "slush".]

spey *see* spae.

spice: **spice-cake** a rich, spiced fruit cake.

spick: **spick an' span an' fit for Bristol**

spicket *see* spigot.

spiddery *adjective* slender, weak.

spiddiock *noun* a bird: the robin *Erithacus rubecula*. *Illustration see* God.

[Irish *spideog*.]

spider: **spider-waisted** narrow in the waist.

spidoge *noun* the step of a bicycle.

spiel *see* speel¹.

spielder *noun* a forked stick (*e.g.* for making a catapult); *cf.* spalder.

spieler *see* speel¹.

spier *see* speer.

spiffing, spiffin *adverb* fine, excellent.

spifficate *verb* overcome, defeat utterly.

□ **spifficated** overcome by drink.

spigot, spicket *noun* **1** a spigot. **2** *figuratively* an icicle.

[Old form (still Scots and English dialectal) *spicket*.]

spike *noun* **1** one of the bristles of a hedgehog. **2** a splinter of wood in a finger, *etc.* **3** *in plural* fir cones.

spile *noun* **1** a spill; *specifically* a sliver of bog-wood burnt as a source of light. **2** a bung; *specifically* (**a**) to stop the hole in a cask [rare in Standard English]; (**b**) to stop the drainage hole in the bottom of a boat. **3** the drainage hole in the bottom of a boat.

[Mainly Scots and English dialectal, from Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *spile* "a splinter; a wooden peg".]

spillet *see* speller.

spilpet *adjective* thin.

spin *see* spoon.

spin *exclamation* hurry, get a move on!

□ **spinner** a spider [only used in Standard English for rhetorical effect].

□ **spinning jenny** **1** a spinning-wheel. [ILLUS: spin/jen/P] **2** a child's spinning-top.

□ **spinning party** *historical* a social gathering of young women to spin together.

spindle: **spindle-shanks** *nickname* a person with long, thin legs.

□ **spin us a spindle** an invitation to a story-teller.

See also spangle.

spindrift, spendrift *noun* **1** spindrift (fine spray at sea). **2** fine rain driven by the wind. **3** fine snow blowing off a mountainside. **4** small calibre lead shot.

[Scots forms of archaic English *spoon* (from archaic nautical *spoon* "to run before the wind or sea" + *drift*). *Spindrift* is now also the form generally used in Standard English.]

spink¹, splink *noun* **1** the point of a jutting rock. **2** a steep bank or hillside; a cliff.

[Irish *sp(l)inc.*]

spink² *noun* a bird: a finch; *specifically* (**a**) the chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. *Illustration see chaff*; (**b**) the greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*; (**c**) the goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal); onomatopoeic, *cf.* *twink*.]

spirgie *see* *spergie*.

spirings *noun plural*:

spirtle *see* *spurtle*.

spit¹ *noun* a "spitting image", an exact likeness.

- **not spit over an old man's beard** not live to a ripe old age.
- **spit for luck** spit on the first coin earned, or on a coin given as an arles-penny or luck-penny, to bring luck.
- **spit-mae-poket** an upsetting person of no consequence.
- **spit-on-her-stick** a woman who immediately tells another news.
- **spit out or ye'll grow horns** advice given to distract a child who has bumped his or her head.
- **spit over the thumb, best man spits over my thumb** go between two combatants.
- **spittin at the tongs** in an advanced state of pregnancy.
- **spitting devil** a home-made firework.
- **they wouldn't spit on ye, if ye were on fire, they wouldn't spit in yer mouth if yer teeth was afire** describing the hatred of Protestants for Roman Catholics, and vice versa.
- **you could spit through it** said of thin fabric.

spit²: spitting 1 a spit: (**a**) a spade's depth; (**b**) a boundary line formed by cutting out a small trench with a spade. **2** *in making mud turf* the section turned over in the trench.

See also *lock¹*.

spit³ *noun* a gridiron.

spite: spited in the sulks.

splad *adjective* splay footed.

splank, splunk *noun* **1** a spark. **2** a blaze, a flash of fire.

- **splank-new** brand-new.

[Irish *splanc.*]

splash *noun* **1** weak soup; weak tea. **2** a sudden heavy shower of rain.

- ◆ *verb* stammer, stutter.

splatter: splattered besplattered.

- **splatter-foot** an awkward, ungainly walker.
- **splattering** a splashing.

splaw, splaa, spla *adjective* **1** *of the feet* broad, ill-made. **2** *also*

splaw-foot, splaw-footed splay-footed.

- ◆ *noun* **1** a big, awkward foot; *cf.* *spag*. **2** a splaying of the feet in walking.

- ◆ *verb* **spla along** walk awkwardly.

- **splaggy** splay-footed [apparently influenced in form by *spag*].

[*Splaw* rare and obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal and Southern Scots), English dialectal also *spla, splaa*; forms of *splay¹*.]

splay¹ *noun* a slight sprain.

[The same word as Standard English *splay* "to spread out". *See also* *splaw*.]

splay², splay *verb* **1** spay (a female animal). **2** castrate (a male animal).

[Old form (still Lincolnshire and Shropshire) *splay*.]

spleughan, spleuchan, spluchan, speuchan, spyuchan, spoughan

noun **1** a tobacco pouch. **2** *in plural, jocular* heavy boots.

[Scots *spleughan, speuchan, spyuchan, spoughan*; origin unknown, also in Scottish Gaelic as *spliùchan* and Irish as *spliuchán*.]

spleuter *see* splutter.

spleuter, spluter *noun* wet mud.

◆ *verb* wade about messily.

[Scots; onomatopoeic, or extended form of *pluter*. *See also* splutter.]

spley *see* splay².

splice *noun* a splinter of wood in a finger, *etc.*

[Scots, altered form of Scots *sklice* "a slice" (from Old French *esclisse* "a splinter"), influenced by *splice*.]

splinder, splinner *noun* a splinter.

□ **a splinter of the Devil's shin-bone** a most objectionable person.

[Scots; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Old Danish *splinder*, Norwegian dialectal *splindra*, corresponding to Middle Dutch *splinter*, which gives Standard English *splinter*. *Cf.* splint.]

splink *noun* a splinter of wood in a finger *etc.*

splink *see* spink¹.

splinnereens *noun plural* broken pieces of china (used as playthings).

splint *noun* **1** a spare rib of pork taken from close to the spine. **2** a splinter of wood in a finger, *etc.*

[The same word as Standard English "a thin piece of rigid material used to hold a fractured bone in position"; from Middle Dutch *splinte* "a metal pin", related to *splinter* (*cf.* splinder).]

splint-coal, splent-coal *noun* an inferior type of coal used for making steam.

split *noun* **1** a piece of potato (as distinct from a whole potato) for planting. **2** a sliver of bog-wood burnt as a source of light; *also* fir split; *see also* fir¹, bog.

□ **he's split to the shoulders** said of a man with very long legs.

□ **my head's splittin** I have a severe headache.

□ **split a pickle** make a cup of tea.

□ **split lips** open your mouth, speak.

□ **splittin image, split image** a "spitting image", an exact likeness.

split-new *adjective* brand-new.

splore *noun* **1** a frolic, a bout of merry-making. **2** a rumpus, a commotion.

[Scots; origin unknown, popularised by Robert Burns in *Holy Willie's Prayer*.]

spluchan *see* spleughan.

splunk *see* splank.

splurge *noun* a boaster, a person who "splurges".

[Originally U.S.A. "an ostentatious display or effort; to show off", onomatopoeic.]

spluter *see* spleuter.

splutter, spleuter *noun* a bustle, a state of agitation.

□ **splutterer** a person who stutters.

[For the form *spleuter*, *cf.* spleuter.]

sply *noun* a splinter (fragment of wood driven into a finger *etc.*).

spog *see* spug.

spoileen *noun, historical* a coarse type of soap, made from animal fat and oatmeal.

[Irish *spóilin* "a small joint of meat", from *spóla* "a piece of meat" + diminutive ending *-in*. *See also* spailin.]

spoke

spoke *see* speak.

□ **the best spoke in the wheel** the most important person in a household or extended family.

spolther *see* spalter.

spunk *noun* a breath, *thus* **not have a spunk** be unable to get a breath (*e.g.* because of asthma).

[*Cf.* Irish *sponc* "energy".]

spoocher *see* spootcher.

spook *verb* pluck (a fowl); *cf.* **pook**¹.

spool, spole: **spool-body** a spool-like body of a person.

□ **spool-boy** an attendant in a picture-house.

□ **spool of the breast** or **chest** the sternum, the breast-bone.

[The same word as Standard English "a bobbin", possibly confused with **spaul**; eighteenth century form *spole*.]

spool-bone *see* **spaul**.

spool-whaup *south Down, noun* a bird: **(a)** the bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica*; **(b)** the whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*.

[*See* **whaup**. The first element is unidentified.]

spoon, spin *noun* a spoon.

□ **make a spoon or spoil a horn** thoroughly succeed or fail as completely.

□ **nothing in him but what the spoon has put, little in him but what's put in with a spoon** no ability, no intellectual vigour.

□ **spoonbill**, *also* **spoonbill duck** a bird: the shoveler *Anas clypeata*.

□ **spooning** courting.

[Scots form *spin*.]

spoot *see* **spout**.

spootcher, spoocher *noun* a wooden ladle with a long handle used for baling a boat, or for lifting fish out of a boat.

[Scots, from Old Northern French *espuchoir*; also in Scottish Gaelic as *spuidsear*.]

spooterick *see* **sputterick**.

spootin *see* **spout**.

sporrach *noun* a sudden fluttering movement *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

sporrish, sparrish *noun* a dry-stone jetty in a lake *Co. Cavan, Co. Fermanagh*.

[*Cf.* Northern English *spor* form of *spur*.]

spot

□ **he only touched the grun in odd spots** describing a fast pony.

spoughan *see* **spleughan**.

spout, spoot *verb* **1** spout, gush. **2** "spout", talk.

◆ *noun* **1** a spout; *specifically* a drainpipe. **2** a gutter along the edge of a roof.

□ **be up the spout** be in debt to the pawnbroker.

□ **side spout** gutter (the kind running along the edge of a roof).

□ **spouting, spootin 1** *also* **spouting pipe** a drainpipe. **2** a gutter along the edge of a roof.

[Scots and Northern English form *spoot*.]

sprachle *see* **sprakle**.

spraddle *verb* **1** spread out. **2** walk with the legs wide apart.

□ **spraddle-legitt**:

[Obsolete in Standard English except U.S.A. (and still Devon).]

sprag *see* **spag**.

spraghle *see* **sprakle**.

sprakle, spraghle, sprachle, spraghle, sprauchle, spruchle *verb*

1 sprawl, lie with the limbs awkwardly spread out. **2** sprawl about, move in an ungainly way with the limbs spread out. **3** walk awkwardly or with difficulty. **4** clamber. **5** behave awkwardly.

◆ *noun* **1** an awkward struggle over obstacles, *also figuratively e.g. the everyday spraghle through life*. **2** an unsteady walk; a stumble. **3** a straggling branch of a tree. **4** a person who takes up more than his or her share of space.

□ **sprockly** awkward on your feet.

[Scots *sprakle, spraghle, sprauchle, spraghle, sprachle*; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Old Norse *sprokla, spraukla*.]

spranged *see* **springed**.

sprash *noun* a bout of illness; *cf.* brash.

sprasia *noun* a sixpence in old money.

sprat *noun* the fry of the minnow.

sprat *see* sprit¹.

□ **sprat-fishing** *noun* a method of fishing; three men, each with a very fine net, join them together to make a **tram** of nets; the shoal of sprats is detected by lowering into the water a pole, the end of which is pressed to the ear of one of the men, and a tapping sound is the signal to begin fishing.

□ **throw a sprat to catch a salmon** to make a small expenditure in the hope of a large gain.

sprauchle, spraughle *see* sprakle.

spread, spread *noun* a spread.

□ **spread-field** the ground where peat is spread to dry.

□ **spreadin'** a small amount (of hay, snow *etc.*).

[Scots and mainly Northern English form *spreed*.]

spreang *noun* a muck-hoe.

spreckle *noun* a speck; a freckle.

□ **spreckled, sprickled, also spreckly** speckled.

□ **sprickled breid** rich fruit loaf; *see* bread.

[Mainly Scots and Northern English *spreckle*, Scots also *sprickle*; probably of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *sprekla* "a fleck".]

spreed *noun* **1** a jollification; a dance. **2** a drinking bout.

spreece: put up a spreec *of a child cry.*

spreed *see* spread.

spreet *noun* something very small *e.g.* a *spreet of a fowl*.

□ **spreety of a person** thin, weedy.

[*Cf.* Scots *spreet* form of *sprite*.]

sprent *verb* dart forward suddenly.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse **sprenta* "to cause to sprint". *See also* sprint, sprink.]

sprent-new, sprint-new, sprink-new *adjective* brand-new; *cf.*

brent-new, span-new.

spresh *noun* a short heavy shower.

sprickled *see* spreckle.

sprickly-back, sprickle-back, sprickly-bag, sprickle-bag, sprittle-bag

noun, also spricklie, sprickle, sprick **1** a fish: a stickleback. **2** *also*

spricketie any very small freshwater fish.

[*Sprickly-bag* also found in Ayrshire; from *sprickle* (extended form of *prickle*) + *back* or *bag*. *See also* stickleback.]

sprig *verb* **1** embroider, work floral designs on linen; embroider muslin or linen. **2** *shoemaking and cobbling* drive in sprigs (headless or almost headless nails); fasten or nail on with sprigs.

□ **sprigger** an embroidress.

□ **sprigging, spriggin** **1** Swiss embroidery. **2** the act of embroidering; the occupation of embroidering muslin.

sprig bit *noun* a bradawl.

spring *noun* a construction used to give more leverage on a churn-staff.

□ **spring-cart, spring-van** a two-wheeled, horse-drawn cart or van.

□ **springer** *also* **springin cow, springin' heifer** *also* **first springer** a cow in calf.

□ **springing heifer, springin' heifer** **1** a heifer in first calf. **2** a young cow that has not had a calf. **3** a cow approaching calving time.

□ **spring-sides, springy-sides** boots with elastic sides.

□ **sprung** tipsy, drunk.

spring¹: feel one day longer than three months of spring

□ **it's many a wish a spring day covers**

□ **spring onions** shallots.

springed, sprunged, spronged, spranged *adjective*, of an animal thin and undersized.

□ **sprunge** an animal that has not thrived.

[Northumberland and Cumberland *springed*, origin unknown.]

sprink *noun* the part of a cabinet lock that receives the bolts; *cf.* **sprint**.

sprink-new *see* **sprent-new**.

sprint *noun* **1** the fastening of a chest, trunk, *etc.* **2** a clasp.

[Scots and Northern English, form of **sprent**.]

sprint-new *see* **sprent-new**.

sprissaun, sprissen *noun* **1** *derogatory* a small, insignificant, unreliable fellow. **2** a growing boy.

[Hiberno-English *sprissaun*, from Irish *spriosán* (Standard Irish *spreasán*) literally "a small twig".]

sprissy *see* **spruce**.

sprit¹, sprat, sprout *noun* **1** a species of fine, tough rush or rush-like grass used to thatch haystacks and make flax bands. **2** *specifically* the jointed rush *Juncus articulatus*. **3** rushes collectively. **4** coarse grass shaken over a heap of hay as a protective covering.

◆ *verb* remove rushes from (hay after mowing).

□ **sprittle** thatch.

□ **spritty** of a meadow, *etc.* covered in rushes and sedges.

[Scots; from Northern Middle English *sprett*, itself probably from Old English *sprytan* "to sprout". The form *sprot* may be from Old English *sprot* "a sprout".]

sprit² *noun* a mildew that affects growing flax *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*.

[Origin unknown.]

sprit³ *noun* a sprat.

sprited *adjective* spirited.

sprittle-bag *see* **sprickly-back**.

sprockly *see* **sprakle**.

spronged *see* **springed**.

sprot *see* **sprit¹**.

sprouse *noun* a term connected with linen production.

sprouse, sprouse *verb* boast.

□ **sprouser** a boaster.

[Western Scots form of Scots and Northern English *sprose*, possibly an extended form of *prose*.]

spruce *adjective*, also **sprucy, sprissy** of a hen having its feathers pointed forward instead of lying flat.

[Possibly the same word as Standard English "smart in appearance". *See* **sprush**.]

spruch *noun* a state of blustering *e.g.* *The news put him intil a spruch*.

[Onomatopoeic.]

spruchle *see* **sprakle**.

sprudhen: not one sprudhen not the least little bit.

spruilleog, spruog *noun* **1** a piece of dried peat for burning. **2** a fragment of burnt peat.

[Irish *spruilleog*.]

sprule *noun* an implement for twisting ropes from straw or hay.

Illustration see **garhook**.

[Probably the same word as Scots "a short length of wire pushed crosswise through the lead-sinker of a hand fishing line"; Scots and Northern English form of *sprawl*.]

sprung *see* **spring**.

sruog *see* **spruilleog**.

sprush *adjective* spruce, smart.

[Scots form. *See also* **spruce**.]

spry *adjective* brisk, active, nimble.

spud¹ *noun* **1** a potato. **2** **dacent spud** a decent fellow; *see* **decent**.

- **spudyeen** a small potato [*spud* + Irish diminutive ending *-in*].
- **ye could grow spuds in yur ears** why don't you wash yourself more often?

[General dialectal and Scots, also slang; origin unknown, possibly the same word as *spud*².]

spud² *noun* **1** the iron pin upon which a gate swings. **2** *in pitch-and-toss* the bob. **3** *in playing certain games* home, the base.

[The same word as Standard English "a digging or weeding implement", origin unknown.]

spudien *noun* a small amount (of liquid).

spug, spog, spyug, spuig, spwig *noun* a bird: the house sparrow *Passer domesticus*.

[Scots and Northern English *spug*, Scots also *spyug*; altered forms of Scots *spurg*, from *spur* (Old Norse *sporr* "a sparrow") + *-ock*.]

spug¹ *noun* a blister on the skin.

spull¹ *verb* spill.

[Scots form.]

spull² *noun* a spall, a splinter of wood or stone.

[Worcestershire form.]

spulpin *see* spalpeen.

spung *noun* **1** a tobacco pouch. **2** *historical* a fob (a pocket for a watch).

3 a large trousers pocket.

[Scots, apparently an extended form of Old English *pung*.]

spunging *adjective* drenched, soaked (with rain).

spunk *noun* **1** a spark of fire. **2** *historical* a type of sulphur match used in a tinder-box to carry the flame to the tinder.

□ **as dry as spunk** tinder dry.

□ **spunky** generous.

[Originally mainly Scots, also adopted in Standard English in the senses "tinder (now archaic); courage"; from Scottish Gaelic *spong*, earlier *sponc* "tinder".]

spurr *noun* a bird: the common tern *Sterna hirundo*. *Illustration see* fish.

[Cornwall and Pembroke, apparently an extended form of *pirr*.]

spurt: on the spurt on the spur of the moment.

□ **spurtin** **1** a gutter along the edge of a roof. **2** a drainpipe.

spurtle, spirtle *noun* **1** a pot-stick (a wooden stick for stirring porridge, *etc.*). **2** *thatching, also spurticle* an implement with two short prongs, used to push in the straw.

[Scots and Northern English; ultimately the same word as *spatula*, from Latin *spatula*, probably via Scandinavian, *cf.* Danish *spartle* verb "to use a tool like a spatula; to fill holes in plaster".] [ILLUS: spurtle]

sputrach, sputerach, sputrick *noun* a number of useless things, *e.g.* small, rotten potatoes.

[*Cf.* Irish *spruadar* "remnants".]

sputter *noun* a dilemma.

sputterick, spooterick *noun* a small fish found in rock pools, probably the sand goby *Pomatoschistus minutus*, *Co. Donegal*.

[Probably formed on *spout*, Scots and Northern English form *spoot*.]

spwig *see* spug.

spy *noun, also spy home* a game: hide and seek.

□ **spy-farley** an inquisitive person who tells what he *or* she has seen.

□ **spy farlies** *verb* pry, try to see what you have no right to see.

◆ *noun* **spy-farly** an inquisitive person who tells what he or she has seen. *See* ferly.

□ **spy-Wednesday** *Roman Catholic* the Wednesday before Easter.

spyuchan *see* spleughan.

spyug *see* spug.

squad *noun, derogatory* a group, a crowd of people.

squagh *noun* **1** the cry of wild-fowl. **2** a loud scream, *e.g.* that of a trapped

animal.

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

squance *see* sconce², sconce³.

square *noun* a piece of oatcake.

□ **break no squares** not quarrel.

□ **he or she wants a square of being round** he or she is mentally deficient; be slightly "touched" mentally.

□ **square crab** a crab: the mud runner *Goneplex rhomboides*.

□ **squared: square yourselves round** sit so as to widen the circle and make room for others.

□ **the time when the land was squared, the time of the squaring** the time when the old rundale system of land tenure was abolished, and the land divided into separate holdings.

square¹ *noun* a squire.

squaver *verb* **1** *also* **squave** throw the arms about, *frequently wavin an squavin* **2** square up as if to box. **3** manoeuvre a vehicle frantically, with many changes of direction.

◆ *noun* a flailing of the arms.

[Apparently a strengthened form of Northern English *quaver*, origin unknown.]

squeal *verb* grumble, scold.

◆ *noun* the vocal organ of a fowl, formerly used by children as a whistle.

□ **it will be a pity of them that hear your squeals** a threat of severe punishment.

□ **squeler, squeeeler** **1** a pig. **2** a young pigeon.

squeeg *see* skeeg.

squeenacy *see* squinancy.

squeeze: squeezegut a narrow passage.

squench *verb* quench (thirst, a fire, *etc.*).

[Obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal), extended form of *quench*.]

squerk *noun* a drop of tea.

squib *noun* a meal; food.

squiff *noun* a small amount (of liquid).

squig, squiggle *see* skeeg.

squinancy, squinacy, squinessy, squeenacy *noun* a disease: quinsy (a form of tonsillitis).

[Older forms *squinancy* (now rare in Standard English), *squinacy* (obsolete in Standard English); from Medieval Latin *squinancia*.]

squink *verb* squint.

[Suffolk form.]

squirley thrush *noun* a bird: the mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*.

Illustration see shriek.

[Possibly formed on Scots *squirl* "an ornamental flourish", form of *swirl*.]

squirrel: squirrel bird the tree creeper.

squit *noun, derogatory* an insignificant little fellow.

squitch *verb, of a cat* give a sudden scratch.

[*Cf.* rare Southern English "to twitch; to jerk out of the hand", form of *switch*.]

squitch¹ *noun, also* **squitch-grass** couch-grass *Triticum repens*.

squitter *see* skitter.

squivvy *verb, of a girl* wiggle to show off her figure.

[Onomatopoeic.]

sraideog *noun* a shakedown, a makeshift bed.

sraith, srah *noun* a holm, level land on a river bank.

srough [vowel as in "now"] *noun* the sigh of the wind; the sound of the sea or a river *Co. Donegal*.

[Onomatopoeic.]

sta' *see* stall².

stab *noun* **1** a wooden post, a stake; *specifically, also palin stab* a fence-post. **2** a large thorn. **3** a spine. **4** a large pin or needle. **5** a splinter of wood in a finger, *etc.* **6** *generally* anything standing erect, *e.g.* a stalk of corn. **7** *figuratively* a tall, thin person.

◆ **verb** **1** fasten with a stake. **2** cut and loosen (peats) for lifting afterwards.

□ **beggar's stab** **1** a large thick needle. **2** a large pin.

□ **not have a stab** be bald.

□ **stabber** a post rammer (for firming the earth around fence-posts, *etc.*).

Illustration see stake.

[Mainly Scots, form of **stob**. Also Hiberno-English form.]

stab¹ *verb* stable.

stab² *noun* an old horse.

stable-door *noun, euphemism* the buttoned opening of a man's trousers.

thus **Your stable-door's open**

stacan *see* stackan.

stacher *verb* totter, stagger.

[Scots; form of Middle English *stacker*, from Old Norse *stakra*.

Standard English *stagger* is also an altered form of this.]

stack *see* stalk.

stack, stake *noun* a stack (of peat, *etc.*).

□ **stack-bottom** the base of a haystack.

□ **stack-garden** a stackyard; *see* garden.

□ **stack o ribs** an emaciated person.

□ **stack-rope** a straw rope used in thatching a haystack.

□ **stack-stale** the base of a haystack; *see* stale¹.

□ **stag-yard** a stackyard.

[Fifteenth and sixteenth century form *stake*.]

stack¹, stag *noun* a pointed rock.

stackan, stacan *noun* **1** a tree stump. **2** *figuratively* a stupid, heedless person. **3** a stout, well-built boy.

[Irish *stacán, stocán*. *See also* stockan.]

stad *noun, in a horse* a fit of sulkiness or restiveness.

□ **take the stad, take the stadh, have the stad** **1** be in the huff, sulk.

2 become restive.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *stad* "a stop". *See also* halt, stop.]

staff *noun* one of the partitions between stalls in a cow-house.

stag *see* steg.

stag¹ *noun* **1** a young, unbroken stallion. **2** a horse or bullock not properly castrated.

□ **staggering** a game: two men with their wrists tied behind their backs and their ankles tied together try to knock each other down.

□ **stag's throb** a short distance: as far as you could hear a stag's heart throb.

□ **stag-warning** a game: tig.

[The same word as Standard English "a male deer".]

stag² *noun* a spoiled potato.

□ **stagen** *of a potato* spoiled by frost or decay.

□ **staggy** *of turnips* woody.

[Hiberno-English, *cf.* Bedfordshire "a coarse mushroom" and obsolete technical English adjective, of fur "raw, unseasoned"; origin unknown.]

stag³ *verb* be afraid to fight *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

stag⁴ *noun* an informer.

stagger *verb* **1** cause to stagger. **2** make an attempt at (something).

3 stammer, stutter.

◆ *noun* **make a stagger at** have a stab at, make an attempt at.

□ **if ye didn't knock it down, ye stagger'd it**

□ **staggering months** June and July, when there was formerly a lot of hard farm-work to be done, in hot weather and on short rations, as the stores of the previous year's potato crop would often have run out.

□ **stagger stone** a bird: the wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*.

staghey *see* stughie.

staip, staipit *see* steep.

stake *see* stack.

stake *noun* **1** a post-rammer for firming the earth around fence-posts, *etc.*

2 a long pole used to propel a COT (a flat-bottomed boat). [ILLUS: stake]

□ **stake and rice** **1** a fence made of upright stakes, interlaced with branches, twigs or wattles. **2** a fence made by driving the trunks of bushes into the ground or into an embankment and interweaving the branches.

See rice.

stale¹, **stile, steel** *noun*, *also* **haystile** the foundation of a stack of hay or corn.

□ **stiling** branches arranged flat on damp ground as a base for a haystack or within a permanent base structure.

□ **winter stale** peat that is left in the bog over the winter.

[Scots *stale*, from Middle Dutch *stael* or Middle Low German *stale* "the base of an embankment".]

stale² *verb*, *especially of a horse or cow* urinate [archaic in Standard English].

stale³ *verb* steal.

□ **he'd steal the eye out a yur head and tell ye ye wur better lukin' wi'-out it, he's steal the eye out a yur head and come back an' spit in the hole** he's a thief.

□ **he wud stale the cross o' an ass**

□ **he wud stale the hole out iv a flute**

□ **steal the eye out of a shirt-button** be addicted to stealing.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

stalk *see* stelk.

stalk, stack *noun* a stalk.

□ **stalk of rock** a stick of rock.

[Scots form *stack*.]

stall¹ *noun* the base of a haystack.

[Rare and obsolete English dialectal, possibly from Old English *staðol* "a foundation".]

stall², **sta'**, **staw** *noun* a stall.

◆ *verb* **stall yourself** eat too much.

[Scots and Northern English forms *sta'*, *staw*.]

stall³ *noun* a hayrack in a byre *etc.*

stalled¹ *verb* dwell, reside (in or at a certain place).

stalled² *adjective*, *of a limb* bad, lame, "gammy".

stalwart *adjective* stout, vigorous.

stammer *verb* stagger, stumble.

◆ *noun* a "stab", an attempt.

stamp: stamp with your mouth screw up the face *e.g. Asking your pardon, sir, she stamped with her mouth when I remarked upon it, and I could say no more till her.*

stamsteery: do something with a stamsteery do something without due consideration; *cf.* ram¹, steer³.

stand, stan', stau: *past tense stud; verb* **1** stand; make (something) stand. **2** withstand. **3** contest *e.g. I never stood your word.* **4** cost *e.g. It stood me five pounds.*

◆ *noun* **1** a stand. **2** the site (for a business). **3** the base of a haystack. **4** a stall in a stable. **5** a partition between stalls in a byre. **6** a set of four knitting needles.

□ **he cud stand a jossel or hussel yet** he is wearing well.

□ **it wud stan' (a person) better** it would befit (a person) better (to do

something).

- **stan-ball** a game similar to rounders.
- **stand again** oppose.
- **stand an election** go through a contest.
- **stand back** a command to an animal: go back.
- **stand by** stand aside.
- **stand-by** a snack, something taken in place of a regular meal.
- **stand for** be sponsor for (a child at baptism).
- **standing dram** a public-house with no seating.
- **standing stone** a stone obelisk, monolith.
- **stand it well** *of a person, animal or machine* remain in good health or condition.
- **stand it with** share the risk with.
- **stand lamp** a lamp of the oil and wick type; a kitchen lamp is attached to the wall - **stand** if bigger for the living room.
- **stand-off** stand-offish, reserved, haughty.
- **stand out** take no part in a business or transaction.
- **stand over** *verb* vouch for (the quality of something).
- **stand over the head of something** guarantee the quality or quantity of something.
- **stand still** a command to an animal: stand quiet.
- **stand-up** a disappointment in a love tryst.
- **stand up for** give testimony in favour of a person's character; stand surety for.
- **stand up to** box with.
- **stand your hand** treat the company to a drink.
- **stanner** a slender stake in a **skeagh** in an eel-weir *Lower River Bann*.
*Illustration see skeagh*².
- **stannin** *adjective* standing.
- ◆ **noun** **1** a stand, a stall at a fair or market. **2** the base of a haystack. **3** a partition between stalls in a byre.
- **stannin craps** unreaped crops.
- **stannin-man** a stall-holder.
- **stan your ground** a command to a horse: stop.
- **take a stand out of someone** shock, surprise someone [*cf. Irish stad a bhaint as duine (see stad)*].
- **that strong you could stand on it** *said of tea*.
[Scots and English dialectal form *stan'*, Scots and Northern English also *staun*. Past tense: English dialectal, rarely also Scots, *stud*.]

stane *see* stone.

stang *see* ride.

stang *noun* **1** a sting (*e.g.* from a bee or a nettle). **2** *generally* a sudden sharp pain.

- **stang-fish** a fish: the lesser weever *Echiichthys vipera*.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *stanga* "to prick".]

stank *noun* **1** a sheugh (a ditch) in which water lies. **2** a body of stagnant or slow-moving water. **3** a dam to hold back water in a stream [still in Standard English as a technical term].

- **stank-hole** a pool of stagnant water.
- **stank-water** ditch water, stagnant water.

[Mostly obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), from Old French *estanc*.]

stanlock *noun* a fish: the coalfish *Pollachius virens*, when full-grown.

[East coast of Scotland *stenlock*; also in Scottish Gaelic as *steinloch*; origin unknown.]

stanner, stannin *see* stand.

stap *see* stop.

- **that'll stap a gap till ye get a gate** *figuratively* meet a financial or other difficulty.

stappage *see* stop.

stapple *see* stopple.

stapple *noun* the stem of a pipe.

- **pipe-stapple, pipe-stopple** **1** the stem of a pipe. **2** a stalk of grass;
- 3** an icicle.

[Scots *stapple*; from Middle Dutch *stapel* "a stem, a stock".]

star: **my stars alive!** an exclamation.

- **star of Bethlehem** a wild flower: **(a)** the stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*;
- (b)** the wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*.

star¹ *verb* starting.

stare, ster, star *noun, also star-thrush, stirlin* a bird: the starling *Sturnus vulgaris* [*stare* archaic in Standard English]. *Illustration see* SNOW.

[Hiberno-English form *stare*, Hiberno-English and Midland English *star*, Scots form *stirlin*.]

star-grass *noun* couch-grass *Elymus spp.*

[Scots, from Old Norse *stǫrr, star-*.]

stark: **starken** *of fat, etc.* congeal, harden.

stark¹ *noun* a steep, usually short, bank or hill.

starn *noun* the least amount of sense *e.g. She hasnae a starn.*

[Scots, literally "a star", from Old Norse *stjarna*.]

star-naked *adjective* stark-naked.

[East Anglian form.]

start, stert, stairt *verb* **1** start, begin. **2** sprain. **3** startle, frighten.

- ◆ *noun* a short space of time.

- **he or she is no starter** said of an unwelcome visitor or someone whose company is unwanted.

- **starter**: **startit** startled.

[Scots forms; *see also* sturt.]

startle *verb* stampede.

starve, sterve *verb* perish with cold [*starved* also poetic in Standard English].

[Scots form *sterve*.]

stashed up *adjective, of a person* dressed up *North Londonderry.*

[First element unidentified.]

state: **state times** official holidays such as Christmas, as distinct from **set** times (*see* set¹).

station *Roman Catholic, noun* a visit made by a priest at the house of a designated family on a weekday to enable those living in the district to attend confession.

statu *noun* a bullock.

staughie *see* stughie.

staun *see* stand.

stavaig *see* stravaig.

stave¹ *verb* sprain, wrench (a finger, *etc.*).

- **make staves of something** break something in bits.
- **staved** *of a leg, finger etc.* bad, lame.

[The same word as Standard English noun "one of the bent pieces of wood making up a barrel".]

stave² *noun, figuratively* a funny story, a joke.

[The same word as Standard English "a stanza of verse".]

stave³ *verb* spread mud on a bank in making mud-turf *Co. Donegal.*

[Origin unknown.]

stavered *adjective* mentally confused.

[*Cf.* Scots verb "to stumble about", origin unknown.]

staving *adjective* "steaming", very drunk.

staw *see* stall².

stawl *see* steall.

stay, stey *verb* stay: **(a)** lodge; **(b)** live, reside.

- **stay on way** play truant (from school).

- **stay your errand** wait too long; prolong your errand.

[Scots form *stey*.]

stay-at-home *noun* a blunder.

stchiven *noun* an unidentified type of seaweed, used as fodder for pigs

Co. Antrim, Co. Down.

[Origin unknown.]

stead *noun* **1** also **haystead**, rarely also **steading** the base of a haystack.

2 a fence. **3** posts and rails for fencing.

◆ *verb* fence, put a fence round (a property).

- **steading**, **steadin** **1** the site of a building, *etc.*; also **farm steadin** **2** a fence; fencing.

steall, **styawl**, **styall**, **stawl** *noun* a quantity of liquid.

[Irish *steall*.]

steam: **good steam** funny, humorous; enjoyable.

- **steam-coach** a railway-train.

steek¹, **steik** *verb* close, shut tightly.

[Scots and Northern English; possibly from Middle English *steke*, Old English **stecan* "to stab", from the idea of pushing home the bolt of a door.]

steek², **steik** *noun* **1** *sewing* a stitch. **2** a stitch in the side, a sharp pain.

[Scots, probably a form of *stitch*.]

steel *see* *stale*¹.

steel *noun* a stool.

[Scots form. *See also* *stool*.]

steen *see* *stone*.

steep, **staip**, *past participle* **stept**, *verb* **1** steep. **2** curdle (milk).

◆ *noun* **1** oatmeal mixed with water. **2** *basket-weaving* the quantity of osiers supplied at one time to a worker for steeping in water to prepare them.

- **a rod in steep** a rod in pickle.
- **staipit cookie** a bun dipped in tea.
- **steeped**, **steeping** drenched, soaked with rain.
- **steeped-milk**, **steep-milk** **1** curdled milk. **2** curds and cream.
- **steep-grass** a wild flower: common butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris* [the leaves were formerly used to curdle milk].

[Past participle: Yorkshire *stept*.]

steepin *see* *stippen*.

steeple¹ *noun* a round tower. [ILLUS: *steeple*]

steeple² *noun* a staple; *specifically* an eye in a gate-post, *etc.* for holding a hook to fasten the gate.

- **draw the staple of** unlock (a door).

[Scots, altered form.]

steer¹, **stire** *noun* **1** also **steerie** a steer, a bullock. **2** a heifer.

steer² *noun* the rudder of a boat.

[Obsolete in Standard English, from Old English *stēor*.]

steer³ *noun* temper, rage *e.g.* *He was in a great steer*.

[Scots and Northern English form of *stir*.]

steericate *see* *stericate*.

steers *noun plural* stairs.

- **rainin stair-rods**

[Cornwall form.]

steery *see* *stir*.

steeve: **steeved** full up, unable to eat any more.

- **steever** a hard kick given to a person.
- **steevin**, also **steevener** a heavy meal.

[The same word as nautical English "to stow (a cargo)". *See also* *streeve*.]

steeveen, **steeven** *noun* a pointed, wooden pole or staff about four feet long, with a rest for the foot about six inches from the pointed end, used

to make holes for planting potatoes.

[Irish *stibhín*, itself possibly from English *stave* + diminutive ending *-in*.] [ILLUS: steeveen]

steg, stag *noun* a cockerel under a year old, *especially* a young game-cock.

[Northern English and Southern Scots *steg*, Northern English and South-Western English *stag*, applied to various male fowl; from Old Norse *steggr* "a male bird".]

steik *see* **steek**¹, **steek**².

stelk, stilk, stalk *noun* potatoes boiled together with beans or vegetables, and mashed; *also* **bean stelk**

[Irish *sta(i)lc* "stodgy food".]

stemmer *noun* a post-rammer for firming the earth round fence posts, *etc.*

Illustration see **stake**.

[*Cf.* obsolete nautical English "to ram with the stem of a ship".]

sten *verb* jump.

[Scots and Northern English "to stride; to bound"; possibly a shortened form of *extend*, from the idea of lengthening the stride.]

stench *verb* staunch, plug.

[Scots form. *See also* **stinched**.]

stencil *noun* **1** a stanchion (an upright window-bar). **2** *loosely* a window-bar.

[Scots and Northern English, form of *stanchion* with altered suffix.]

stenner *noun* small stones and gravel laid down by a stream.

□ **stennery** *of ground* containing many small stones.

[Scots *stanners, stenners*; from Old Northumbrian *stāner* "a stony place".]

step¹: **It's only a step from Killarney to heaven**

□ **step-and-hop** a game: hopscotch.

□ **step-dance** a dance, such as a jig, calling for elaborate footwork.

□ **step in shoe-leather** be in existence *e.g.* *He was the long-headedest man - glory be to God! - that ever stepped in shoe-leather.*

step²: **as cold as a stepmother's breath** *of a blast of air* very cold;

hence **step-mother's breath** a cold draught of air; a keen, biting wind.

□ **step-bairn, step-mother's bairn** a hairy caterpillar; *see* **bairn**.

stept *see* **steep**.

ster *see* **stare**.

ster *see* **stir**.

ster *verb* stare.

stericate, steericate *adjective* hysterical.

[*Cf.* English dialectal shortened form *stericks* of *hysterics*.]

sterk *see* **stirk**.

stern *see* **stir**.

sterve *see* **starve**.

steugh *see* **stoich**.

steveen *see* **steeveen**.

stew *verb* steam open (a letter).

stey *see* **stay**.

stey, sty *adjective* **1** steep. **2** raised on one side. **3** *of a roof* steeply pitched.

□ **set a stout heart for a stey brae, a stout heart for a sty brae**

□ **the owl' mare for the stey brae, the owl' mare for the sty brae**

[Scots; probably from Old English **stǣ*, but *cf.* Old Norse *stegi* noun "a steep ascent".]

sthookawn *noun* a partially blind, stupid person.

sthriddleys *noun plural* the fry of the minnow.

sthroe *see* **straw**².

sthuck:

s-thuck, s-thucky *exclamation* a call to calves.

□ **the sthuck is on him or her** he or she is in the huff, sulking.

[*Cf.* English slang *in shtook* "in difficulties".]

stian *see* styen.

stibble *see* stubble.

stick *verb, of a horned animal* gore.

◆ *noun, also* **stickbridge** a rough footbridge; *also* **stick o iron**; *see also* foot.

□ **a bad stick to make a fiddle out of** of a person who will not turn out well.

□ **any stick 'ill do to bate a dog wi'**

□ **get a stick, get stuck** a fall, a mishap *e.g. He got a stick in the buyin' of that horse.*

□ **get a stick in a bargain** be out-manoeuvred in a bargain [*cf. slang be stuck with something*].

□ **get the thick end of the stick** get the best of a bargain.

□ **gone to the sticks** **1** gone to pieces, spoiled. **2** *of a person* having greatly deteriorated in health.

□ **if you would throw him against the wall he wud stick** describing a very dirty person.

□ **I'll stick the nut in ye** I'll head butt you.

□ **like sticks a-brackin** quickly, post-haste; *see* a³, break.

□ **like sticks a peakin'** "like a house on fire"; rapidly, well.

□ **lose the stick you were herding someone with** **1** lose touch with someone. **2** **I thought I had lost the stick I was hurding you with** a remark made when a person seems as if about to act contrary to another person's advice.

□ **not worth a stick**

□ **play a good stick** be good at the game of hurling.

□ **put your hand in a cleft stick** fall into a trap.

□ **sticker** an animal that attacks with its horns.

□ **stickie** a member of the Official Irish Republican Army.

□ **sticking, stickin, also sticky** **1** "sticky", obstinate; disobliging. **2** *of a cow* inclined to stick with its horns.

□ **stickin out** outstanding.

□ **stickit nieve** a closed fist; *see* nieve.

□ **stickleg** bad, lame, "gammy".

□ **stick-leg** a wooden leg; *also* **it runs in the blood like a stick-leg** *jocular* it is a family trait.

□ **stick-legged** having a wooden leg.

□ **stick like shit to a blanket**

□ **stick-man** a dealer, in a small way, in livestock.

□ **stick (your eyes) in someone** fix (your eyes) on someone.

□ **stick your finger in someone's eye** "pull the wool over someone's eyes"; do someone down.

□ **with a stick in it** *of a drink* with a dash of spirits in it.

stickleback, stickly, stickyback, stickybag, stricklyback, stricklybag *noun* **1** a stickleback. **2** *loosely* any small freshwater fish; *see also* striddly.

[Old form *sticklebag*; Scots, shortened form *stickly*; Northern English *strickle-back, strickle-bag*. *See also* sprickly-back.]

stickler *noun* someone who decides what is fair in a particular bargain or debate.

stickly, stickyback, stickybag *see* stickleback.

stiff: as stiff as if he had swallay'd the proker

□ **I was just dead, but I hadn't time to stiffen** expressing how ill the speaker was.

□ **stiff cairt** an unsprung farm cart; *see* cart.

□ **stiffin** *noun* starch.

□ **stiffy** a corpse.

stiggened, stigauned *adjective* "frozen", very cold; *cf.* staked.

stile *see* stale¹.

stile: don't cross the stile till ye come to it don't meet sorrow half-way.

stiling *see* stale¹.

stilk *see* stolk.

still *adverb* always; continuously.

- **still-and-ever**, *also* **still-and-withal**, **still withal** "still and all", nevertheless.

□ **you take a pig to Australia and then bring it home, it's still a pig still¹**

- **a still tongue makes a wise head** *proverbial*

stilt *noun* **1** a shaft. **2** *also* **plough-stilt** the handle of a plough. *Illustration see* plough. **3** the leg of a wheelbarrow.

- **stilted of heels** high.

stime, styme *noun* **1** a ray of light, *frequently* **not be able to see a stime** **2** a glimpse, the least perceptible thing. **3** a particle, a very small quantity.

- ◆ *adjective* blind; in total darkness.

- **have not a stem on** be stark naked.

- **you haven't a stime of sense**

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

stin *verb* dry (clothes) in the open air.

stinched *adjective* full, having eaten heartily.

[Scots form of *staunch*. *See also* stench.]

sting: **sting-fish** a jelly-fish [in Standard English applied to stinging sea fish].

stink: **stinker** the harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*, also known as the sea-pig; *cf.* herring.

- **stinking herb Robert** a wild flower: herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*.

stinted *adjective* stunted.

stippen, steepin *noun* **1** *also in plural* a stipend, a minister's salary; a benefice. **2** *historical* a pew-rent, a voluntary offering or subscription to a minister's salary.

- **he preaches or a man must preach according to his stippens ?**

preaches what is expedient.

- **stipendry** a stipendiary (a salaried magistrate).

[Scots forms.]

stir, stur, stor, ster *verb* **1** move, go. **2** **stir yourself** bestir yourself, hurry up.

- ◆ *noun* fun, joviality.

- **a beardless boy's kiss is stirabout without salt**

- **steery** **1** very thin oatmeal porridge with a lump of butter and an onion. **2** oatmeal mixed with water. **3** an unpalatable mess of food.

- **stirabout, stiraboot** porridge; *also* **stirabout bowl**

- **stirabout stick** a pot-stick, a spurtle. [ILLUS: stir/stk]

- **stirrer** a potstick.

- **stirring, stirrin, stern, sturn** restless, excitable; *of a child* troublesome, headstrong.

[Scots and Northern English forms *stur, steer*. *See also* steer³.]

stire *see* steer¹.

stirk, sturk, stork, sterk *noun* **1 (a)** *also* **bull-stirk, bullock-stirk** a bullock; **(b)** *also* **heifer stirk, stirk-heifer** a heifer. **2** *also* **pig-stirk** a young pig. **3** *figuratively* a stupid, heavily-built fellow.

- **rain bull-sterks** rain heavily.

- **there's aye some water where the stirk drowns** *proverbial* "there's no smoke without fire".

[General dialectal and Scots *stirk, sturk*; Northern English *also stork, sterk*; from Old English *stirc*.]

stirrivee *noun* a rage, a fit of temper.

[Extended form of Scots *tirrivee*, origin unknown.]

stitch *noun* a difficult time *e.g.* *They've gone through a stitch since they married.*

See also steek².

stitter *see* stutter.

stoag *see* stog.

stoat *see* stot.

stoat, stot *verb* bounce.

□ **stotter** totter, walk feebly, stumble.

[Scots, origin unknown, *cf.* stoit.]

stob *noun* **1** a stake, a post; *specifically, also* **paling stob** a fence-post.

2 the stump of a tree. **3** a thorn or splinter of wood in a finger, *etc.* **4** a thick, blunt needle. **5** an ignorant, clumsy person.

◆ *verb* **1** stab. **2** prick (your finger). **3 stob up** stub up, root out (a tree, hedge, *etc.*). **4** clear (land) of undergrowth. **5** cut (gorse). **6** stub (your toe). **7** stub out (a cigarette).

□ **fluke stob** an implement for catching flukes (flat-fish, *especially* flounders).

□ **stob-awl** a bradawl; *see* aal.

[Scots and Northern English *stob*; a form of **stob**, possibly influenced by Old Norse *stobbe* or Dutch *stobbe* "stump". *See also* stab.]

stob¹ *verb* staunch (a wound).

stocach, stocka *noun* **1** an idle fellow, a sponger. **2** a youth, a young man.

3 a sissy, a dandy.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *stócach*. *See also* stockan.]

stocious *adjective, slang* drunk.

[Hiberno-English slang, origin unknown.]

stock¹ *noun* **1** the edge of a bedstead. **2 at the stock** on the side of the bed furthest from the wall.

□ **They at the wall will get the gold ball, they at the middle will get the gold fiddle, they at the stock will get the gold rock, He that lies at the stock / Shall get the gold rock; / He that lies at the wall, / Shall have the gold ball; / He that lies in the middle / Shall have the gold fiddle**
rhyme

[Obsolete in Standard English (latterly Scots and Northern English), from Old Norse *stokkr*.]

stock² *noun* a slate pencil.

◆ *verb, usually* **be stocked** become stiff, become cramped.

□ **stock, lock and barrel** "lock, stock and barrel", the whole lot.

stock³: **take stock of** scrutinise closely.

stocka *see* stocach.

stockan *noun* a youth, a young man.

[*Cf.* Irish *stocán* "a stump" (*see* stackan) and stocach.]

stockin': all in motion like a stockin' o' flays

stocks *noun plural* a simple arrangement for fulling flannel with the bare feet. A door was laid flat with an upright board fixed on each side. Two men sat at either end, and kicked the flannel from one to the other, adding soapy water from time to time.

stodge: stodged stuffed with food.

□ **stodging, also stodgy of food** heavy, filling [*stodgy* also adopted in Standard English].

[English dialectal, origin unknown, possibly from **stog**.]

stoey *exclamation* a call to pigs.

[Onomatopoeic.]

stog, stoag *verb* walk heavily or awkwardly.

□ **stogy** *noun, also stogit* a stupid, slow-moving, heavy person.

◆ *verb* blunder about clumsily.

[English dialectal and Southern Scots *stog*, Scots and English dialectal also *stodge*; origin unknown. *See also* stodge.]

stoich, steugh *noun* **1** a foul, suffocating smell. **2** *specifically* the smell produced by steeping flax. **3** the smoke of a tobacco pipe.

[Scots *stoich*, origin unknown.]

stoit *verb* **1** stagger, stumble. **2** walk in a careless, staggering way. **3** dodge easily.

[Scots, from Dutch *stuiten* "to bounce". *See also* stoat.]

stoke *verb* **stoke yourself** "stuff yourself", overeat.

stomach *verb* **1 stomach up** give way to your feelings. **2** puff, pant with exertion.

□ **not stick in your stomach** make you sick.

□ **stick in your stomach** make a lasting, *especially* painful, impression on you.

□ **stomached** **1** disgusted, resentful; angered, annoyed, put out.

2 silenced in an argument. **3** puffed, out of breath.

stone, stane, steen *noun* a stone.

◆ *verb* clear (land) of stones.

□ **as soon break stones as (do something)** a comparison.

□ **like a flung stone** lonely; not knowing anyone present.

□ **never sit on a stone in a month with an R in it** it is said that during the winter half of the year, the cold side of every stone turns uppermost. The warm side turns up on St. Patrick's day.

□ **stone bag** the gizzard of a fowl.

□ **stone-berry** the stone bramble *Rubus saxatilis*.

□ **stone-bruise** a large fleshy boil on the foot.

□ **stone-chack, stone-chacker, stanechacker, stone-check,**

stone-checker a bird: (a) the stonechat: *Saxicola torquata*. *Illustration see black*; (b) the whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*; (c) the wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*.

□ **stonechat** a bird: the wheatear.

□ **stone curlew** a bird: the whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*.

□ **stone dunder** the noise made by falling stones; *see dunder*.

□ **stone-finished** cemented *e.g. a stone-finished house*.

□ **stone-knapper** a man who breaks stones for road-making.

□ **stone plover** a bird: the grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*.

□ **stone row, stone raw** a bird: (a) the knot *Calidris canutus*; (b) the turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.

□ **stone-stead** the base of a haystack.

□ **stone twister** a bird: the wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*.

□ **stone upon stone makes a bad wall**

□ **stony** a hard, glazed, coloured marble for playing with.

[Scots and Northern English form *stane*, Northern Scots *steen*.]

stone *noun* a blue marble.

stook *noun* **1** a shock of grain, usually containing about twelve sheaves.

2 a shock of hay for seed. **3** a shock of flax containing about twelve beats.

◆ *verb* **1** put up (sheaves) in shocks. **2** set up peats edgeways. [ILLUS: stook]

[General dialectal and Scots; originally a Scots and Northern English form, from Middle Low German *stuke* "a bundle of flax or grain".]

stook¹

□ **stand like a stook** stand around like a fool.

stookie *noun* an inflated animal skin used as a float by fishermen *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*.

[*Cf.* stooky in the sense "a stucco figure; a dull, slow-witted person".]

stooky *see* stocach.

stooky *noun* a thick, red substance used in French polishing.

[*Cf.* Scots "plaster of Paris", form of *stucco*. *See also* stookie.]

stool *verb* set up (peats) to dry.

□ **stooling** the first growth of oats or wheat when covering the ground; second blades.

[South-Western English, probably the same word as Standard English "a chair without a back". *See also* finger, steel.]

stoon *see* stound.

stoop:**stoop** *see* stoup.

- **I wouldn't stoop so low to lift so little** a rejection of unsuitable terms.
- **stoop shouldered** round shouldered.

stoopit: **for a stoopit** for a little while *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

stoor, stour *noun* **1** bustle, commotion, a fuss. **2** a row, a disturbance; a quarrel. **3** dust, *especially* in motion. **4** fine powder, such as (**a**) driven snow; (**b**) smoke particles. **5** a strong smell, not necessarily unpleasant. **6** steam. **7** fine rain.

◆ *verb* move rapidly.

- **have stoor on you** be in the huff, sulk.
- **kick up or raise a stoor** make a disturbance, start a row.
- **knock the stoor out of someone** "dust someone's jacket", thrash someone.
- **like stoor** *of something moving or disappearing* swiftly; rapidly, quickly.
- **put someone in a stoor** make someone angry.
- **stoury of a room.** **1** dusty. **2** smoke-filled.
- **throw stour in someone's eyes** "throw dust in someone's eyes", hoodwink someone.
- **you can't see his tail for the stour, I couldn't see a sign of him wi' the stour** said of someone walking away quickly.
[Scots and English dialectal, from Old French *estour* "tumult".]
- **only tae lay the stoor** said of slight showers during a dry spell.
- **smiling like stoor**

stooray *noun* a bold, forward girl.**stoory** *see* stoury.**stooter** *noun* a heavy blow with the fist.[Obsolete English slang from Dutch *stooter* "a violent blow".]**stop, stap** *verb* **1** stop. **2** stammer, stutter.◆ *noun, also stoppage, stappage* a stammer, *frequently* a stoppage in his or her speech; *cf.* halt.

- **be stopped for** (*e.g. water*) *of work* be at a standstill for lack of (*e.g. water*).
- **have a stappage** stammer, stutter.
- **it's little use thryin' to stap the tide with a pitch-fork**
- **stappage: stap-the-clock** a name for a pessimistic person [from the old custom of stopping the clock when there was a death in the house].
- **stop it Ah luv it** jovial resistance to cuddling.
- **stop to do something** hesitate before doing something *e.g. I wouldn't stop to do it myself*.

[Scots, also South-Western English and Hiberno-English, form *stap*.]**stopple** *see* staple.

stopple, stapple *noun* **1** a bunch of straw (usually folded over or tied at one end) for thatching. **2** a knot of bristles in a brush.

◆ *verb* patch (a thatched roof).[South-Western English *stopple*, Scots *stapple*; apparently from Dutch *stoppel* "stubble".]**stor** *noun* a term of endearment.**stor** *see* stir.**store:** **set a great store by** think very highly of; admire; set great store by.

- **store-fed** *of cattle* stall-fed.
- **store-heifer** **1** a heifer in first calf. **2** a young cow that has not had a calf.
- **store-pig** a pig between 9 weeks and 5 months old.

storge *see* sturge.

stork *noun* a bird: the grey heron *Ardea cinerea* [in Standard English, a different wading bird, *Ciconia*, not found in the British Isles].

stork *see* stirk.

storm *noun* a spell of snowy, frosty or wet weather.

- **storm cock** a bird: the mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. *Illustration see* shriek.
- **storm lamp** a hurricane lamp, a storm lantern.
- **storm-stayed**; *also* **storm-sted**, **storm-steaded** held up by bad weather [*sted* is an older past participle of *stead*, now replaced by *steaded*].
- **storm thrush** a bird: the mistle thrush.

story:

- **a good story goes as fast as a bad wan, if it gets the right start**
- **that's a quare story** said to a burbling baby, usually by whoever is nursing him.

stot *see* stoat.

stot, stoat *noun* a bullock.

[Scots and Northern English *stot*; from Old English *stott* "a poor horse", influenced in sense by Old Norse *stútr* "a bull".]

stound, stoun, stoon, stun *verb* **1** throb; ache. **2** tingle, smart.

- ◆ *noun* **1** a violent, throbbing pain. **2** a spasm of pain; a sudden sharp pang. **3** an ache.

[Scots and Northern English *stoon(d)*, also spelled *stoun(d)*; from Old English *stund* "a period of time; especially a time of distress".]

stoup, stoop, stope *noun* a wooden vessel for carrying water.

[Scots *stowp, stoop*; Northern English, also Orkney and Shetland, *stoop*; Renfrewshire *stope*; from Old Norse *staup* "a drinking vessel" and Middle Dutch *stoop* "a jug".]

stour *see* stoor.

stoury *see* stoor.

stoury, stoory *adjective* robust.

- ◆ *noun* a scolding woman, a virago.

[Formed on obsolete Standard English *stour* "stalwart": from Old Norse *stórr* "great", apparently influenced in sense by Middle Low German *stur* and Middle Dutch *stuur* "wild, furious".]

stout *adjective* strong, healthy.

stove *verb* **1** suffocate with smoke; *specifically* smoke (bees) with sulphur.

2 fumigate. **3** bleach with sulphur. **4** reek with smoke or steam.

- ◆ *noun* a strong smell.

□ **stoving, stovin** drunk, intoxicated.

stow: stow your whistle! stop talking!

stra *see* strath, straw².

strachle, strauchle *verb* **1** walk with difficulty. **2** walk in a slouching way.

3 struggle ineffectually with a piece of work. **4** potter about.

[Scots; blend of *struggle, straggle* and *trachle*.]

straddle, stredle *noun* a small saddle for supporting a pair of creels or the back-band of a cart, *etc.*

- ◆ *verb* bestride. [ILLUS: straddle]

□ **straddle-legs, strad-legs, stred-legs, straddle-legged, strad-legged** astride; *specifically, of a woman* astride (a horse), as opposed to side-saddle; *see also* stride.

[The same word as Standard English "to sit astride".]

strae, stray *noun* straw, a straw.

- **lang straes are nae worth, as the wife said when she pulled the suggaun out of the brochan**

□ **strae-rape** a straw-rope; *see* rope. *Illustration see* garhook.

□ **you could have tied me etc. wi' a strae** I *etc.* was so helpless (*e.g.* with laughter) as to be incapable of doing anything.

[Scots and Northern English; from Old Norse *strá*, corresponding to Old English *strēaw*, which gives **straw**².]

straggle: strag anything arranged in a straggled way.

- **straggle-legs, strag-legs** astride, straddle-legs.
- stragh** *noun* a tall, ungainly woman.
- straight, straught, strecht, stright** *adjective* straight.
 - ◆ *verb* straighten.
 - **straight as a yard of pump-water** very straight.
 - [Scots forms *straught, strecht*.]
- strail** *verb* sprain (the ankle, *etc.*).
- straimer** *see* strame.
- strain**
 - **never forget the strain you came of** an injunction to bear yourself honourably.
- straitch** *see* stretch.
- strake** *see* stroke.
- strake: have a strake of blue in you** *of a Roman Catholic* have some Protestant ancestry.
 - **straky, strakety** streaky, streaked.
 - [The same word as Standard English *strake* "a stripe, a streak".]
- stral** *noun* **1** a wisp of hay. **2** a dangling mat of hair.
 - [*Cf.* Irish *sraoill* "a ragged garment".]
- stram** *verb* **1** bang, beat with the fists. **2** flog.
 - ◆ *noun* a single stroke (*e.g.* with a whip).
 - [South-Western English; origin unknown, probably onomatopoeic.]
- stramagh** *noun* an uproar, a commotion.
 - [*Cf.* Scots and Northern English *stramash*, Orkney form also *stram*; origin unknown, possibly from Old French *escarmoche*, which also gives English *skirmish*.]
- strame** *noun, verb* stream.
 - **straimer** *in plural, literally* streamers: the northern lights, the aurora borealis.
 - [Older form in Scots and English.]
- strampeen** *noun* a felter.
- stran, strant** *noun* the stream of milk drawn from a cow's teat at one pull.
 - [Scots *strin(d)*; from Middle English *strunde* "a stream", origin unknown.]
- strand** *noun* **1** the lower part of the beach when exposed at low tide, *thus broad strand, no strand, etc.* **2** a beach, a shore. **3** *loosely* the sea-coast.
 - [Archaic in Standard English.]
 - **strand-cabbage** a wild flower: sea kale *Crambe maritima*; *see* kale.
 - **strand-curlew** a bird, the whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*.
 - **the shore-bird can't attend to the two strands at once**
- strange** *adjective* shy, *frequently* **don't be strange**
 - ◆ *verb* **1** wonder, be surprised *e.g.* *I strange very much that you didn't come.* **2** wonder at *e.g.* *I wouldn't strange it.*
 - **anything or nothing strange or startling?** any news? no news?
 - **he or she knows you strange** *of a child* he or she is shy because he or she does not know you.
 - **make strange** *of a child* become upset in the presence of someone he or she does not know.
 - **stranger** **1** someone who is not a family member, even if well-known. **2** anyone not resident in the immediate neighbourhood. **3** various things supposed to foretell the arrival of a stranger: **(a)** a piece of straw sticking to a hen's feathers and being pulled about by her. **(b)** a coal falling from the fire. **(c)** a small piece of tea-leaf floating in a cup.
 - **You're a great stranger** said to someone visiting after failing to do so for some time.
- strap, strop** *noun* **1** a straw band used to bind a sheaf of corn. *Illustration see* gait. **2** *abusive* a bold girl.
 - **sthrapin'** a stroke with the tawse.
 - [Older form (still English dialectal) *strop*.]

strapper *noun* a fine, large, able-bodied person, *usually* a woman.

strar *noun* **1** a straddle. *Illustration see straddle.* **2** a pack-saddle.

[Irish *srathar*.]

strath, stra *noun* **1** a valley with a stream flowing through it. **2** a piece of level ground bordering a river.

[Hiberno-English *strath*, from Irish *srath*; *strath* also Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *srath*.]

strathspey *noun* a type of Scottish dance; the music used to accompany this dance.

strauchle *see* strachle.

straught *see* straight.

stravaig, stravage, stavaig *verb* **1** *also stravaigle* wander aimlessly about; go about idly. **2** stroll, saunter.

[Scots *stravaig, stravage*; shortened form of obsolete Scots *extravaig*, from Medieval Latin *extravagari* "to wander beyond limits".]

straw¹ *verb* strew.

[Archaic in Standard English, old form.]

straw², **stra**, **stroe**, **sthroe**, **stro** *noun* straw, a straw.

- as happy as pigs in new straw** quite happy.
- a straw would trip him or her** said of a person very weak from age or illness.
- break a straw with someone** make a pact with someone.
- for two sthroes** "for two pins": for very slight provocation.
- fother well at home an' ye'll have no stroe to share**
- hardly able to go over a straw** said of a person very weak from age or illness.
- he wud fin' fault wi' ye for the turnin' o' sthroes** trifles.
- like a bag o' stroe tied in the middle** applied to a carelessly-dressed person.
- long sthroes is no motes, as the ould woman sayd when she pulled the back suggawn aff the donkey, long sthroes is no motes, as the ould woman sayd when she pulled the back suggawn out of the stirabout**
- on the straw** "in the straw", in childbed.
- stop at a straw and jump over a mountain** be penny wise, pound foolish.
- straw-binder** a straw rope; *specifically* straw rope for thatching ricks.
- straw-foot:**
- straw-headed** blonde-haired.
- straw night** the night on which relays of men carried straws round the island of Ireland in support of a claim made by Daniel O'Connell, the Home Rule agitator, that he could raise Ireland in one day.
- stroo-rape, strow rape, strow rope** a straw rope; *specifically* straw rope for thatching ricks.

[English dialectal forms *stroe, stro*. *See also strae*.]

stray *see* strae.

stray: stray-by-the-lough a wild flower: purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*; *cf.* lough-shule. *Illustration see fox*.

streaker *noun* a strapping, big woman *Co. Antrim*.

strecht *see* straight.

streck, strecken *see* strike.

streckle *see* strickle.

streddle, stred-legs *see* straddle.

streek *see* stretch.

streek *see* strick.

streek *verb* **1** stroke (*e.g.* a cat). **2** smooth wrinkles out of cloth.

◆ *noun* a stroke; the act of stroking.

[Mainly Northern English; possibly from Old Norse *striúka* "to stroke", but perhaps due to confusion with *streak*.]

streeker *see* strick.

strel¹ *verb* **1** wander aimlessly about; loiter. **2** *of the tail of a skirt, etc.* drag, trail along the ground.

◆ **noun** **1** a stroller. **2** a slovenly, untidy person, *especially* a woman.

□ **streeler** a prostitute.

[Hiberno-English; from Irish *sraoilleadh*.]

strel² *noun* a tall, thin, wiry woman.

[Irish *sraoill* "an untidy, awkward person". *See also* streelamon.]

streelamon *noun* a tall, lanky person.

[Irish *sraoilleamán*, formed on *sraoill* (*see* strel²).]

streepach, strapach *noun* a whore.

street *noun* **1** a road through a village or hamlet; a by-road to a cottage or farmhouse. **2** a village. **3** the part of a road immediately outside farm buildings. **4** a farmyard. **5** the back-yard of a house. **6** a passage between buildings.

□ **he's a street saint, an' a home or house divil**

□ **up another street** another thing, a different matter.

streetch, streetcher *see* stretch.

streeve, strieve *verb* seal a leak in a structure such as a sluice; *cf.* steeve.

stren *verb* strain (a muscle, *etc.*).

strength: science is better nor strength, cunning is better nor strength

stress *verb* subject (something) to stress or strain, fatigue (something).

◆ **noun** **1** a strain on the nerves *e.g.* *The cow got a stress and dropped her calf.* **2** a violent fever brought on by physical fatigue.

stretch, straitch, streetch, streek *verb* **1** stretch. **2** *specifically* streek stretch yourself at full length. **3** lay out (a dead body).

◆ **noun** **1** a stretch; a stretching out at full length. **2** stretch the lengthening of days *e.g.* *There's a queer stretch in the evenings;* *cf.* drop.

□ **clothes stretcher: I'll see her stretched first**

□ **streeker** a "stretcher", an exaggeration.

□ **stretcher, streetcher** **1** *masonry* a stretcher (a stone laid lengthwise).

2 a person stretched on the ground (*e.g.* by death or by a blow).

□ **stretch side** lie down in bed.

[Scots and Northern English form *streek*, also accepted as Standard English in the seventeenth century; Scots also *streetch*.]

strib *verb* drain the last drops from a cow in milking.

□ **sribber** a cow that is giving little milk.

□ **sribbings, sribbins** the last drops of milk taken from a cow at a milking.

□ **sribblings** ragged strips, tatters.

[Scots and Northern English form of *strip*¹.]

strick, streek *noun* **1** a strick (a handful of flax in the process of scutching). *Illustration see* targe. **2** a clove. *Illustration see* clove.

◆ *verb* arrange (flax) in stricks ready for scutching.

strick: as soft as a strike of flax

□ **as white as a strick of lint** said of a girl who has very fair hair.

□ **like stricks a-brakin'**

□ **stricker, streeker** the person (usually a girl) who made the flax into small bundles or twists and carried it from the rollers to the scutchers.

[Scots form *streek*; from Old French *estrique* "a roller for levelling grain", itself of Germanic origin, with the basic meaning "to strike" (*see* strike).]

strickle, streckle *noun* **1** *also* **strickle-board** a strickle (an implement for whetting a scythe). *Illustration see* stroke. **2** an implement for beating flax.

[Shropshire form *streckle*.]

stricklyback, stricklybag *see* stickleback.

striddle *see* stride.

striddly *noun* any very small freshwater fish; *cf.* sprickly-back, stickleback.

stride: *past tense* **strud**

□ **striddle** *verb* **1** straddle, sit astride (*e.g.* a horse). **2** walk with the legs bowed apart. **3** walk carelessly or awkwardly.

◆ *noun* the saddle of a reaping machine.

□ **stride-legs, stride-leg** astride, with legs apart; *see also* straddle.

[Past tense: Lancashire *strud*.]

strieve *see* streeve.

□ **strife is better nor loneliness, fighting is better nor loneliness**

striffin, striffan *noun* **1** a thin skin or membrane, such as that inside an eggshell. **2** a small length of anything.

□ **as thin as the striffin of an egg** *of thinly-spread butter*.

□ **that wake it couldn't break through the striffin of an egg**

[Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *sreabhainn*.]

strig *verb* draw off liquid; *specifically* strip (the last drops of milk from a cow).

[*Cf.* Standard English "to remove the strig (the stalk) from (blackcurrants, *etc.*)", origin unknown. The action of the hand is similar to milking a cow. *Cf.* stripe².]

stright *see* straight.

strike, streck *verb* **1** strike. **2** arrange (flax) in stricks ready for scutching.

◆ *noun* **1** a strick (a handful of flax in the process of scutching). **2** an iron-shod instrument for removing the shows from flax.

□ **if ye sthruck a match near him, he wud go on fire** he takes drink.

□ **strike a stroke** begin work, make an effort.

□ **strike hands** shake hands over a bargain.

□ **strike-up** *noun* a casual meeting.

□ **strike-up** a casual meeting.

□ **strucken, strecken** stricken.

□ **strucken hour, stricken hour** a whole hour, *especially* when time seems to be going slowly [from the idea of the hour being struck by a clock].

[Hiberno-English, also Western Scots, form *streck*. Past participle: *stricken* archaic in Standard English (still Scots and Northern English); Scots and Northern English also *strucken*, obsolete Scots also *strecken*. *See also* strick.]

strill *noun* a tale, a yarn.

string *noun* a long, thin person, *usually* a string of a fellow

□ **have the right end of the string** put a thing correctly; be right.

□ **string-a-malairy** a rigmarole; *see* a⁴, whigmaleerie.

□ **string(s)-of-sovereigns** a wild flower: creeping jenny *Lysimachia nummularia*, also called moneywort and herb twopence [from the glossy, rounded leaves].

strinkit *adjective* **1** *of a muscle* sprained. **2** *of sinews* contracted as a result of a burn *Co. Antrim*.

[Possibly an altered form of *shrink*.]

strinkle *verb* sprinkle.

□ **strinkling, strinklin** a sprinkling.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal); origin unknown, possibly an altered form of *sprinkle*.]

strip¹ *noun, quarrying* the soil or clay that is stripped off the surface before the rock can be quarried.

□ **stripper** a cow that is giving only a limited amount of milk and is not in calf for the next season, a cow going dry.

□ **strippings, also striplins** **1** the strippings, the last drops of milk taken from a cow at a milking. **2** the stringy milk of a cow that is going dry.

See also srib, stripe².

strip² *noun* a stripling, a young fellow.

stripe¹ *noun* a small channel on a beach.

[Scots, "a small stream"; origin unknown, possibly the same word as Standard English "a narrow strip". *See* **stripped**.]

stripe² *verb* strip (a fruit tree).

[Scots "strip (the last drops of milk from a cow)", form of **strip¹**; for the sense development, *cf.* **strig**.]

striplins *see* **strip¹**.

stripped [two syllables] *adjective* striped.

[Scots form *strippit*. Standard English *strip* and *stripe* are probably from two closely related Middle Low German words *stripe* "a striped fabric", and *strippe* "a strap, a thong, *etc.*". *See also* **stripe¹**.]

strit *noun* a rush, *Juncus lamprocarpus*.

strive: *past tense* **struv**, **striv**

□ **striving** a competition between members of a band of workers doing communal farmwork.

[Past tense: Hiberno-English and English dialectal *struv*, Nottinghamshire also *striv*.]

stro *see* **straw²**.

stroan *see* **strone**.

stroan¹ *noun, historical* the provision by a householder of food and drink for soldiers *Co. Donegal*; *cf.* **sorn**.

stroan² *noun* a three-cornered oatcake with a hole in the centre, traditionally made on Candlemas Eve, February 1st.

[Scots *struan* "a cake made from the various cereals grown on a farm, ritually baked on Michaelmas Eve, 20th September"; from Scottish Gaelic *sruan*.]

stroap *see* **stroop**.

stroe *see* **straw²**.

stroke, strake *noun* **1** a stroke. **2** a measure of potatoes: two bushels (72.74 litres). **3** a strickle (an implement for whetting a scythe).

◆ *verb* stroke. [ILLUS: stroke]

□ **stroked spoonful** a level teaspoonful, the surplus being stroked off with a finger.

□ **stroke-haul** an illegal fishing implement: a line, with hooks attached, drawn across a river.

□ **stroke of business** an indefinite quantity; used as a comparative term of augmentation.

□ **stroker** a person who has the **cure** for erysipelas. He or she rubs the patient with bog-moss and then pours bog-water over him or her.

[Scots and Northern English form *strake*.]

stroll *noun* **on your stroll** out visiting neighbours.

strone, stroan *verb* **1** *of liquid* spout, gush out. **2** milk laboriously.

◆ *noun* **1** the stream of milk drawn from a cow's teat at one pull. **2** a small quantity of milk poured out. **3** the sound of each draw of milk in the pail at milking. **4** a small jet of water or other liquid. **5** a pour (of tea). **6** *also*

struan a stream *also in place names* *see* *g.*

[Scots and Northern English *strone, stroan*; origin unknown.]

strong *adjective* well-to-do; in comfortable circumstances.

□ **that strong you could stand on it** *of tea*.

strool *noun* a stroll.

stroop, stroup, stroap *noun* the spout (of a kettle, tea-pot, pump, *etc.*); the lip (of a jug).

□ **stroopie** a simple oil lamp.

[Scots and Northern English *stroop, stroup*; from Old Norse *strípe* "the throat".]

strop *see* **strap**.

stroup *see* **stroop**.

struan *see* **strone**.

strucken *see* **strike**.

strud *see* stride.

strugs *noun* a small amount (of liquid).

strumpet *noun* a bold girl; not a harlot.

strunt *noun, frequently plural* a sulky fit; *also* **have the strunts, take the strunts**

◆ *verb* sulk.

□ **strunted** huffed, sulking.

[Scots; possibly a form of Northern English *stunt*, which may be the same word as Standard English *stunt* "to irritate, provoke to anger (obsolete); to check the growth of". *See also* stunkart.]

struv *see* strive.

stub *noun* **1** a stake, a post. **2** the stump of a tree.

□ **stubber** an instrument for grubbing up plants by the roots.

□ **stubbin aal** a bradawl.

□ **stubbly** strong, healthy, sturdy.

See also stob.

stubbies *noun* porridge.

stubble, stibble *noun, also in plural* stubble.

□ **stubble-hook, stibble-hand** *in cutting grain with sickles* the shearer working nearest the part of the field already cut.

□ **stubble-moon** the moon after the harvest.

[Scots form *stibble*.]

stubbly *adjective* strong, healthy; hardy; firm in constitution.

stuck *noun* a drop *e.g.* *I have not a stuck of milk.*

[Irish *stioc*.]

stuckan *noun* a high, usually pointed, rock.

[Irish *stuacán*.]

stucker *noun* **1** a person who goes to a place uninvited in the hope of getting something. **2** a dog that sits watching a person eating, in the hope of getting food.

◆ *verb* **1** follow a person around in the hope of getting something.

2 covet, desire enviously.

[Irish *stocaire* *noun*, *stocaireacht* *verb*.]

stucky *noun* a bird: the starling *Sturnus vulgaris*.

[Scots, probably onomatopoeic, with influence from *starling*.]

stud *see* stand.

studdy¹ *adjective, verb* steady.

[Scots, also Cornwall, form.]

studdy² *noun* an anvil.

[Scots and Northern English form of archaic Standard English *stithy*, from Old Norse *steði*.]

study *verb* think, ponder, consider carefully.

□ **put on your studying cap** think deeply.

stuff: **a stuffed sleeve is the best cure for a young girl** *i.e.* her sweetheart's arm round her neck.

□ **stuffing** a choked-up condition of the chest.

stug *verb* cut (hair) unevenly.

[Scots "to cut unevenly with a sickle"; origin unknown, *cf.* Scots *stog*, *stug* "to stab", from French *estoquer* "to stab".]

stughie, staghey, styaghie, styachie, skyaghy, skahy, skyachie, scaughey, staughie, styughy *noun* **1** an unappetising mess of food; a mixture of left-overs cooked together. **2** thin porridge or scalded meal for feeding pigs. **3** a mess.

◆ *adjective, of tea* watery; *of porridge, etc.* thin.

◆ *verb* **skahy something up** prepare a hurried meal.

[Rare Scots *stughie* "solid or satisfying food"; probably from Scots *stech* "to cram the stomach with food", origin unknown.]

stuked *adjective* very thirsty *Co. Donegal*.

□ **stuking** gasping.

[Formed on Irish *stiúgtha* "gasping with thirst; famished; exhausted".

See also stiggened.]

stum *noun* a dumb person.

□ **stand like a stum** behave like a dumb person.

[Also found in Ayrshire in the sense "a blockhead". Possibly a form of stump¹.]

stumer *noun* a state of perplexity.

stumer *noun, slang* a foolish person.

stumple *verb* stumble.

◆ *noun* **1** a stumble. **2** an attempt.

[Scots and English dialectal form, from Old Norse **stumla*. The *b* in Standard English *stumble* is an insertion.]

stummy *noun* a stolid type.

stump¹ *noun* **1** a well-built, well-developed young fellow. **2** a fair-sized fish. **3** an apple core.

◆ *verb* **1** dock the tail of (a dog). **2** walk stoutly and briskly. **3** be in a bad temper.

□ **in the stumps** in the huff, sulking.

See also stum.

stump² *noun* a swoon, a faint.

[Hiberno-English, origin unknown.]

stun *see* stound.

stunkart *adjective* huffed-looking, sulky.

[Scots; possibly formed on an altered form of Northern English *stunt*, *see* strunt.]

stunner *verb* astonish, shock.

[Wiltshire *stunner*, also Orkney and Caithness *stunder*; extended form of *stun*.]

stupe *verb* **1** bathe, sponge (part of the body). **2** apply cloths soaked in hot water to (a wound or inflammation).

stupit *adjective* stupid.

[Scots form.]

stur *see* stir.

sturdy *noun* **1** giddiness caused by eating or drinking something contaminated with the fungus ergot. **2** a grass: **(a)** darnel *Lolium temulentum*; *specifically* the seeds of darnel [host to the ergot fungus]; **(b)** the soft brome *Bromus hordeaceus*. **3** an unidentified cornfield weed, formerly dried and used as tobacco.

□ **take the (buck) sturdies** become sulky or obstinate; *see* buck².

[Scots and Northern English, from Old French adjective *estourdi* "dazed; reckless, violent"; hence Standard English "fierce in combat (*obsolete*); robust".]

sturge, storge *verb* **1** boast, brag. **2** walk arrogantly into a place.

◆ *noun* a boaster.

[Origin unknown.]

sturk *see* stirk.

sturn *see* stir.

sturrup *noun* a stirrup.

[East Midland form.]

sturt *noun* a start, a sudden fright.

[*Cf.* Middle English form *stort*.]

stu stu, st-st *exclamation* a call to pigs.

stutter, stuther, stitter *verb* stutter, stammer.

□ **have the stutters** stutter, stammer.

□ **stuttery** affected by a stutter.

sty:

sty *see* stey.

□ **the pig in the sty doesn't know the pig goin' along the road**

styachie, styaghie *see* stughie.

styall, styawl *see* steal.

styen, stian, styng *noun* a sty on the eye-lid.

[Older form (still Scots) *styan*, from Old English *stl̥zēnd*.]

styme *see* stime.

styughy *see* stughie.

subs *noun plural* footwear, especially old footwear *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

subumptious *adjective* "comme il faut".

succour *noun* the tawse.

such, sich, sech, sic *adjective* such.

□ **no such a thing** no such thing.

□ **siccan, sichan, suchan, such an** *adjective, emphatic* such *e.g. Siccan a day to be sure; also sicna* such a [*sic* + kind].

□ **such and such like** *derogatory* much of a muchness.

□ **such a one** so-and-so [archaic in Standard English].

[Hiberno-English, English dialectal and sometimes Scots form *sich*; Midland English also *sech*; Scots and Northern English *sic*.]

suck, sook *verb* **1** suck. **2** smoke, pull at a pipe.

◆ *noun* **1** suck. **2** a pull at a pipe, a smoke. **3** a "suck", a sycophant, a crawler. **4** a sponger.

◆ *exclamation* **suck-suck, sook-sook, also sook-a-sook-a-sook, soog-soog, sick-sick** a call to calves, pigs or sheep.

□ **don't fret yer suck about that** said to a person annoyed about something unimportant but unpleasant.

□ **like a sook-ed cat** not in good health.

□ **sookin bottle** a baby's bottle.

□ **suck-blood** the common leech *Hirundo medicinalis*, also called the blood-sucker.

□ **sucker** an unweaned piglet.

□ **suck foal** a young horse.

□ **suck in** *noun* a deception, a disappointment.

□ **suck in** *verb* deceive; cheat; mislead.

□ **suck in with, suck up to, also sucky in with, sucky up to** fawn upon someone, curry favour with (someone).

□ **suck the brown cow** *euphemism* drink alcohol.

□ **suck the butts** a person who tries to get as many puffs as possible from a cigarette.

□ **sucky, suckie, sookie** *noun* **1** also **soogy** a pet name for a calf. **2** also **suckie-calf** a young calf. **3** also **suckie pig** a sucking pig.

◆ *exclamation* **sucky-sucky, sookie-sookie, sucky-suck-suck, also soogie, suggie-truggie** a call to a calf.

[Scots and Northern English form *sook*.]

sucka *noun* a kiln-rib, a stone bar across a kiln *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

suckaun *see* suggan.

sucken *noun, historical* **1** a mill's monopoly on grinding corn within a certain district. **2** the territory subject to this monopoly. **3** the trade attached to a mill, shop, *etc.*

[Scots, from Old English *sōcn* and Old Norse *sókn* "a jurisdiction".]

sucker *noun* a home-made toy.

suckoo *noun* a push or dull blow, such as one given by an animal with its head *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

sud *see* should.

sudden, suddent *adjective* sudden.

◆ *adverb, also suddenly* suddenly.

□ **(all) on a sudden** (all) of a sudden, suddenly.

□ **as sudden as a soot-drop** like a bolt from the blue.

[General dialectal and Scots form *suddent*.]

sudna *see* should.

suet: **neither blood nor suet** *of a family* neither pedigree nor property.

suffer: **suffer a recovery** dry out after a bout of drunkenness.

sugerys horsey *noun* a wild flower: sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella*.

suggan, sugaun, sughan, suckaun, soogan, soogawn *noun* **1** a straw rope. *Illustration see garhook.* **2** a straw horse-collar. **3** a straw collar put round a dunce's head. **4 jocular (a)** a neckcloth; **(b)** an apron. **5** a protective straw pad on a horse's or donkey's back for carrying loads; *cf. illustration at bardock.* [ILLUS: suggan]

- as hungry as the man that ate the back sugan aff the donkey or ass**
- suggan to gad, rise upon suggan and fall or sink upon gad** dancing or drill instructions. A suggan was tied on one leg and a gad on the other to distinguish left from right.

[Hiberno-English *suggan, sugaun, soogan*; from Irish *súgán*. *Suggan* also found in Galloway, from Scottish Gaelic *súgan*.]

suggie-truggie *see* suck.

suggy-soo *see* shog.

sugh *verb* 'sock' (a nail into something).

sugley *adjective* shaky, unsteady.

sulock *see* sour.

sum, soom, soum *noun* **1** the number of grazing animals apportioned to a piece of pasture. **2** the amount of pasture allowed to a certain number of grazing animals. **3** the grazing area required per animal, usually estimated on the basis of a three-year-old cow.

◆ *verb* fix the number of grazing animals to be kept on the land during a particular season.

- soom and room** the summer pasturing and winter keep of an animal.

[Scots form *soom, soum*.]

summaghaun *noun* a heap of hay; a large heap of hay, usually about six feet high, left standing in a field before stacking.

summer, simmer *noun* summer.

◆ *verb* graze and herd (cattle) on mountain pasture during the summer months.

- as light on the foot as a summer tinker**
- be off on the side of your foot, like a summer tinker**
- summer-blink** a passing gleam of sunshine.
- summer snipe** a bird: the common sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* [this bird is a summer visitor]. *Illustration see sea.*
- summer tinker** *historical* a person who went round the country begging and tinkering during the summer months only, between the planting and the harvesting of the potato-crop.

[Scots form *simmer*.]

summons *verb* summon, *especially* to appear before a court of law.

sumph *noun* a stupid person, a fool.

[Scots and Northern English; onomatopoeic.]

sun, sin *noun* the sun.

- a sunshiny shower doesn't last half-an-hour**
- sun-burnt** deep-dyed.
- sun-dawn** the dawn.
- sun-dog 1** an incomplete rainbow; *see dog.* **2** a ray of the rising or setting sun reaching down to the sea.
- sundown** sunset.
- sun-kep** a sunbonnet.
- sunshiny:**
- the sun drawing up the water** the phenomenon of long rays of the sun shining through gaps in the clouds.
- what an'onther the shinin' sun?, what under the shining sun?** what on earth?

[Scots form *sin*.]

suncock *noun* the medial hay-heap for meadow hay.

Sunday: a month of Sundays a long time.

- **a year of Sundays** "a month of Sundays", a long time.
- **come day, go day and God send Sunday, come day, go day, but God sends Sunday to him or her** said of a spendthrift; said of a careless, negligent, easy-going person.
- **some Sunday in the middle of next week, Sunday come never** "when two Sundays meet", never.
- **Sunday-go-to-meetin, Sunday-go-to-meetin clothes** Sunday best
e.g. I see you're out in your Sunday-go-to-meetin!

sunder: sundered *adjective* asunder, in bits.

sundhry, sundry *see* sinder.

sunk, sonk *noun* **1** a bag of straw used as a bed. **2** a seat, a couch.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

sunry *see* sinder.

sunsy *see* sonse.

sup¹ *verb* **1** take long sips. **2** swallow in sips. **3** eat (liquid food, *e.g.* porridge) with a spoon.

◆ *noun* **1** an indefinite quantity of liquid *e.g. a good sup of rain*. **2** a quantity of drink.

- **he or she has got a sup, get a sup in** he or she is drunk.
- **sup sorrow (with the spoon o grief), sup sorrow in spoonfuls, sup sorra wi' a spoon of grief, sup sorra** **1** experience sorrow; lead a sad life. **2** *specifically* regret your actions.
- **ye may sup yer sowens or drink them** something that must be done one way or the other.

See also soop, sope, sowlp.

sup² *noun* a wisp (of hay, *etc.*) *Co. Donegal*.

[Irish *sop*.]

sup³ *noun* soapsuds.

supersade *verb* supersede.

- **supersaded spellin' book** *obsolete* "The Spelling-Book Supersaded": a textbook formerly in widespread use in the National Schools in Ulster.

superstition **1** a pigeon coming alone to a place indicates illness; a superstitious servant will put it away. **2** if a person moves from one part of the country to another and the crows follow, it is considered very lucky (W. Barbour coming to Hilden). **3** in shellin' (shelling) peas, if you find 9 peas in a pod, put the pod with the peas on a window-sill outside the house or barn, or over a door, and let them wither up; this will bring good luck.

suppaney, suppainy *noun verb, literally* subpoena: summons.

supper *verb* feed (horses or cattle).

◆ *noun* a feed for horses or cattle.

supple *see* soople².

support: support (a person) by money

supturate *verb* suppurate.

sur *noun* sir, as a term of address to a horse.

[Scots form.]

sure, shuir, shair, shure *adjective* sure.

◆ *adverb* to be sure (**a**) *also* **sure and** at the beginning of a sentence *e.g. Sure I tould ye*; (**b**) at the end of a sentence

- **as sure as gun is iron, as sure as gun's iron**
- **as sure as the hairs on a goat's back** saying.
- **be sure** certainly.
- **better be sure than be sorry**
- **for sure** certainly.
- **I am sure!** *sarcastic* indeed! really!
- **I'm sure** indeed! really!; I say!
- **make sure and be** be.

- **sure an(d)** sure that *e.g. A'm sure an A'll no* I certainly won't.
- **surely 1** [sure-ly] *emphatic* **2 surely that!** indeed so!
- **surely to goodness, surely to patience** *emphatic* surely.
- **to be sure** of course *e.g. To be sure I will.*
- **well, to be sure** expressing surprise, assent.

[Scots forms *shuir, shure* (pronounced *shair*), *shair*.]

surface: surface-man a road-man, a labourer working on the roads; the man who sweeps the mud off the roads.

surfeit *noun* a chill caught after profuse perspiration.

surree *see* swarry.

surrock *see* sour.

survendible *see* sevendible.

suspeck *verb* suspect.

[Scots form.]

sut *see* sit.

suther *see* souther.

swaap *verb, noun* swap.

- **never swap horses while crossing a stream**
- **swappin' spittles** kissing.

[Scots and English dialectal, also Hiberno-English, form.]

swaard *see* sward.

swab *noun* an abusive term for a person.

swad¹, swod *noun* a wet bandage.

[Possibly a form of *swath*, itself an obsolete form of Standard English *swathe* "a band of material; a surgical bandage". *See also* swad².]

swad², swod *noun* a pod.

[Northern English *swad*, Lincolnshire form also *swod*; possibly the same word as swad¹.]

swaddie *see* swade¹.

swaddy, swaddie, swadda *noun* a plump, healthy-looking person, animal or fowl, *frequently* as a term of endearment.

[*Cf.* English slang *swaddy, swaddie* "a soldier"; possibly the same word as Northern English *swad, swaddy* "a bumpkin", origin unknown.]

swaddy¹ *noun* a soldier *e.g. That I may never, if a finer swaddy ever crossed my hands.*

swade¹, swaddie *noun* a type of turnip: the swede.

[Scots form *swade*, Caithness also *swaddie*.]

swade² *noun* a swathe (the quantity of grass falling at one sweep of a scythe).

[Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire, also rarely Scots, form. *See also* sward.]

swag *noun* the contents of a money-bag.

swall *see* swell.

swalla *see* swally.

swalla, swally *noun* a bird: the swallow *Hirundo rustica*, also loosely applied to martins.

[Scots and English dialectal form *swalla*, Scots also *swally*.]

swalled *see* swell.

swallog *noun* a kiss.

[*Cf.* Yorkshire and Lancashire *swallock*, probably formed on *swallow* (*see* swally).]

swally *see* swalla.

swally, swalla *verb* swallow.

◆ *noun* the throat, the gullet.

- **have a bad swally** be a fast eater.

[General dialectal and Scots form *swally*, Scots and English dialectal also *swalla*.]

swalt *see* swell.

swamp *adjective, also swamped* of a swelling reduced in size.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

swan: **one of your pet swans** said of a good patient or client of a doctor or solicitor.

- **swan-drops**, **swan-shot** very large shot.
- **swan-weed** Canadian pondweed *Elodea canadensis*.

swang *noun* a low-lying meadow.

[Mainly Northern English; possibly an extended form of Northern English *wang* "a meadow", itself from Old English *wang*.]

swank *noun* a tall, thin man.

[Scots adjective "lithe, agile; lean", from Middle Dutch *swanc*.]

swanken, **swankin** *noun* a big meal.

swanling *noun* a slight faint; a sensation of vertigo.

[Possibly formed on Southern English *swang*; of Old English origin, related to *swing*.]

sward, **swaard** *noun* **1** a swathe (the quantity of grass falling at one sweep of a scythe). **2** *rare*, also **swad** the first small roll into which hay is gathered. *Illustration see hedge*¹.

[English dialectal forms *swaard*, *swad*; senses confused with *swathe* (*see swade*²) and *swathe*.]

swarry, **sworry**, **soree**, **surree**, **siree**, **sharee** *noun* a soiree (a social gathering in the evening).

- **sharee dance** a supper dance.

[General dialectal and Scots form *swarry*, Scots also *soree*, *surree*, *siree*.]

swat *see* sweat.

swatch *noun* a pattern.

swate *see* sweet.

swathe, **swath** *noun*, *rare* the first small roll into which hay is gathered. *Illustration see hedge*¹.

[The same word as Standard English "a band of linen, *etc.*; a surgical bandage", old form *swath*. *See also swad*¹, *sward*.]

Swatragh: **Swatragh fever** a non-existent illness, *only in the phrase twice as lazy as sick, like a man with the Swatragh fever*

[Swatragh is in Co. Londonderry]

swats *noun* drink.

swatter, **swatther** *verb* **1** dabble, splash in water. **2** *of a duck* eat in a messy, noisy way.

- **swatterin** **1** the noisy, slopping way that ducks feed. **2** the noise made by a duck searching for food in shallow water; *also, figuratively, of a person*

[Scots and Northern English; onomatopoeic, *cf.* Dutch dialectal *zwadden*.]

sway *verb* upset, overbalance.

- **swayed** *of a wall* leaning to one side.

swear, **sweer**; *past tense and past participle* **sore**; *past participle also* **swore**; *verb* swear.

- **swear against drink, be sworn again the liquor** take the pledge.
- **swear a hole through a plank** have little regard for truth, *especially* in court.
- **sweer your life agen (someone)** swear that (a person) has intended to kill you; *see again*.

[Scots and Northern English form *sweer*. Past tense: Northamptonshire *sore*. Past participle: Southern English *swore*.]

sweat, **swate**, **swat**, **sweet**; *past tense* **swat**; *verb* sweat, perspire.

- ◆ *noun* **1** sweat, perspiration. **2** a sweat, a state of perspiration. **3** a state of anxiety or excitement.
- **swatty** *of the weather* moist.
- **sweeting, sweetin** *of the weather* very hot *e.g.* *That's a sweetin day*.
- **sweeting like a brock**

[Scots and Northern English forms *swate*, *swat*; Scots also *sweet*. Past tense: Scots and Northern English *swat*.]

swedge, swadge *verb* make the groove for receiving the nails in a horse-shoe.

□ **swedging hammer** the tool used to make the groove in a horse-shoe.

swee *verb* sway, influence (a person).

◆ **noun** **1** a sway, a sideways movement. **2** an act of veering *e.g.* *The car took a swee*. **3** sway, controlling influence.

[Scots form.]

sweel¹ *noun, in plural*, puttees (strips of cloth wrapped round the lower legs as leggings).

◆ **verb** **1** swaddle, wrap round. **2** bind with twine or rope.

[Scots, from Old English *sweþel* "swaddling clothes".]

sweel² *noun, also turn-sweel* a swivel.

◆ **verb** **1** swivel. **2** tie up (*e.g.* a goat) with a rope attached to a swivelled ring at the neck.

□ **like two goats sweeled on opposite sides of a ditch** badly matched.

[Scots form.]

sweel³ *verb* **1** whirl round; *specifically, of water when the tide turns eddy*. **2** turn suddenly. **3** swing something about with the hands. **4** rinse clothes through in water.

[Scots form of *swill*.]

sweem, soom *verb* swim.

◆ **noun** **1** a swim. **2** the swim-bladder of a fish.

□ **sweemin** "swimming", very wet.

[Scots forms.]

sweep, past tense and past participle swep, noun, also sweepit the smallest possible thing, a particle, *usually not a sweepit*

◆ *verb, also soop* sweep.

□ **be swept off your legs** be captivated (with someone of the opposite sex).

□ **sweep it off!** drink it up!

□ **sweep the floor with** overcome completely.

[Scots form *soop*. Past tense: English dialectal *swep*. Past participle: Hiberno-English and English dialectal *swep*.]

sweer *see* swear.

sweer *adjective* reluctant, unwilling.

□ **sweerarse** a game: two children sit on the ground, holding a stick between them, and try to pull each other up from the sitting position; *also*

draw sweerarse play this game.

[Scots, from Old Northumbrian *swǣr* "lazy".]

sweet *see* sweat.

sweet, swate *adjective* sweet.

□ **as sweet as honey, as sweet as shuggar**

□ **sweetener** a bid at auction made solely to raise the price.

□ **sweet grass** eel-grass *Zostera spp.*

□ **sweetie, swiddie** a sweet, an item of confectionery.

□ **sweetie-shop** a confectioner's.

□ **sweetie-wife** an old woman who sells sweets.

□ **sweet Jane** a wild flower: the cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis*.

□ **sweet-lippit** sweet-toothed.

□ **sweet mince** mincemeat.

□ **sweet oil** unboiled linseed oil.

□ **sweet water** fresh water as opposed to salt.

□ **too sweet to be wholesome** insincere.

Sweeten *proper noun* Swithin.

□ **St. Sweeten's Day** 15th July.

swell, swall *verb* swell.

□ **swalled jaws** a disease: mumps.

- **swallin** a swelling.
 - **swalt, swalled** swollen.
 - **sweller 1** a rolling wave. **2** *in plural* a disease: mumps.
 - **swellin** mumps.
- [Scots form *swall*. Past participle: Scots *swalt, swalled*.]

swep *see* sweep.

swick *noun* a very small candle *Co. Armagh*.

[Origin unknown.]

swiddie *see* sweet.

swig *noun 1* a drink. **2** a small amount of liquid.

◆ *verb* drink.

swine: **swine-thistle**, *also* **swine's thistle** a wild flower: the sow-thistle *Sonchus spp.*

Swiney: **be Swiney to the back-bone** be meticulous about family traditions *Co. Donegal*.

swing

- **a swing by the back** a type of wrestling fall.
- **let someone have his or her swing** allow someone a certain amount of freedom of action.
- **swing-plough** a type of plough.
- **swing-swong** a child's swing.
- **swingtree** the swingletree of a plough.

swinge¹ *verb* beat up, thrash [archaic in Standard English].

- **swingein, swingin** *adjective 1* *of a blow* thumping, enormous.
- 2** *figuratively* excellent *e.g. He got a swingin price for his horse.*

◆ *adverb* very, exceptionally *e.g. a swingin hot day.*

- **swinger, swindger, swunger 1** something exceptionally big [*swinger* archaic slang]. **2** *specifically* a whopper, an outrageous lie.

[Scots form *swunge*.]

swinge², swunge *verb 1* singe, scorch; *specifically* burn the down off a plucked fowl. **2** smart with pain. **3** beat, flog. **4** be habitually shivery as a consequence of sitting at the fire too much.

[English dialectal form *swinge*.]

swingletree *noun* a swipple (the part of a flail that strikes the grain) [in Standard English, part of a plough]. *Illustration see* soople².

swipe *verb* swing (*e.g. a stick round the head*) with a circular motion.

- **swipe-the-gutter** *nickname* a person with an out-turned foot; *see* gutter.

swipe¹ *verb* drink up quickly.

- **swiper 1** someone who drinks greedily. **2** a hard drinker.

swipes *noun plural* poor, thin beer.

swirl, swurl, sworl *verb, noun* swirl [*swirl* also adopted in Standard English].

- **swirly** *quarrying* a large fossil ammonite. *Illustration see* snake.
- **swurl-wind, swurl-blast** an eddying wind carrying dust.

[Scots and mainly Northern English *swirl*; Scots also *swurl, sworl*; onomatopoeic.]

swish-swish *exclamation* a call to a cat.

[Onomatopoeic.]

switch *see* scutch¹.

switch *noun* a distance, a journey *e.g. It's a long switch to thon place.*

- **switcher 1** a curved metal blade mounted on a wooden shaft and used for cutting bushes and undergrowth. **2** a swear-word.
- **switch the primer** take an oath by kissing the Bible, usually implying that the person is swearing falsely.

See also squitch.

switch¹ *noun* a wish *e.g. The rock of an old spinning-wheel, and a switch or two of lint, grown yellow with age.*

Switcherland *proper noun* Switzerland.

swither, swuther *verb* hesitate, be unable to make up your mind.

◆ *noun* hesitation, indecisiveness.

□ **in (the) swithers, in a swither, also swithering, switherin**

1 hesitating, in doubt. **2** wavering, undecided.

[Scots and Northern English *swither*, Scots also *swuther*; possibly of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *svindra* "to move about restlessly".]

swiz¹ *noun* a prize in the form of alcohol.

[Possibly a shortened form of slang *swizzle* "a cocktail".]

swiz², swizz *noun* **1** the act of swinging a child round and round. **2** a quick-spreading rumour.

◆ *verb* **1** whizz, buzz. **2** catch fire and blaze up quickly.

[Lincolnshire, also Orkney and Shetland; onomatopoeic.]

swiz³ *noun* a drove (of goats) *North Antrim*.

[Origin unknown.]

swod *see* **swad¹, swad²**.

sword, swoord *noun* **1** a sword. **2** a cultivated flower: the gladiolus, also called the sword lily.

□ **sword-mackerel** a fish: the garfish *Belone belone*; *see* **mackerel**.

[ILLUS: sword/ml]

[Northern Scots form *swoord*.]

swore *see* **swear**.

sworl *see* **swirl**.

sworry *see* **swarry**.

swotty *adjective* well-dressed.

swunge *see* **swinge²**.

swunger *see* **swinge¹**.

swurl *see* **swirl**.

swutch *see* **scutch¹**.

swuther *see* **swither**.

syboes *noun plural* shallots, spring onions.

[Scots, from French *ciboule*.]

sylamander, sooleymander *noun* **1** a large quantity or number of anything *e.g.* a *sylamander of biscuits*. **2** a blow with the open hand.

[Origin unknown.]

syllabub *noun* a mixture of wine, milk and sugar.

synavug *noun* a soft crab.

syne, sine, sin *adverb* ago.

◆ *conjunction* **1** of time since. **2** since, because. **3** then.

□ **as well soon as syne, as soon as syne** meaning that a thing might as well be done or said right away.

□ **auld lang syne** *literally* old long since: long ago, bygone days; *see* **long, old**.

[Scots and Northern English *syne, sine*; Scots and English dialectal unstressed form *sin*; from Old English *sippan*. Standard English *since* is from an inflected form *sippanes*. *Syne* is often, but incorrectly, sung *zyne* in the song *Auld Lang Syne*.]

ta *see* **to**.

taak *see* **talk**.

table *noun* the table spread for the sacrament of the communion.

tache *see* **taich**.

tache *noun* a stain, a blot; a blemish.

[Scots, from Old French *tache*.]

tacht: in tacht with something taken with, attached to something.

tack *see* **take**.

tack¹, teck *noun* **1** the least possible amount of work *e.g.* *They didn't do a tack of work*. **2** frequently *negative* a stitch of clothing.

□ **keep close tack to someone** keep close behind someone.

□ **keep tack with 1** keep in step with. **2** keep company with.

□ **new tack** a new line of argument.

[Cumberland form *teck*. *See also tongue*.]

tack² *noun* a taint, a bad taste in food; a rancid taste.

□ **tacked** *of food* rancid.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still English dialectal); origin unknown, possibly related to *tache*.]

tack³, teck *noun* **1** a time, a spell (of a particular kind of weather). **2** a situation, a steady job.

[Scots and English dialectal *tack*; probably from Old Norse *taka* "revenue; tenure of land", corresponding to *take*, *see also cot¹*.]

tack⁴ *verb, only past tense tacked* *literally* attacked: accused, scolded.

tack⁴: hard tack whiskey.

□ **soft tack** minerals, soft drinks.

[Rare and obsolete in Standard English (still Cheshire), shortened form of *attack*.]

tacket *noun* a hob-nail.

□ **tacketed: tacketed boots** hob-nailed boots.

[Scots and northern English, *tack* "a nail" (the same word as *tack¹*) + *-et*.]

tackle, teckle, taickle *noun* **1** tackle. **2** *derogatory, applied to a person:*

(**a**) a child or adult who is a "handful", difficult to manage or deal with; a scolding woman; (**b**) a person whose behaviour is unusual or extreme; (**c**) **useless tackle** a useless person. **3** an amusing, hearty character. **4** a loud, hearty laugh.

◆ *verb* tackle.

□ **tackling, teckling, taickling** **1** the equipment for making poteen. **2** *in plural* tackle, harness for a horse.

[Scots forms *taickle, teckle*.]

tacked *see tack⁴*.

taddy *adjective* untidy, tossed about; *cf. tat*.

tadious, tadiusness *see tedious*.

tae, taen *see take*.

tae *see tea, to, toe*.

taen *noun* a scold.

Taestament *noun* a Testament.

taffy, tuffy *noun* a sweetie: (**a**) toffee; (**b**) yellow-man.

[Older form (still Scots and Northern English, also U.S.A.) *taffy*, Yorkshire also *tuffy* (possibly influenced by *tough*).]

taft *see thaft*.

tag *noun* a coat.

[English slang *tog*, the same word as colloquial English *togs*; shortened form of obsolete slang *tog(e)man* "a cloak", itself formed on Latin *toga*.]

tageen *noun* a "Johnny" of whiskey.

taich, tache; past participle taught; verb teach.

□ **tache someone with a stick**

[Older form in Scots and English *taich, tache*. Past participle: English dialectal and Scots form *taught*.]

taickle, taickling *see tackle*.

taig *see teague*.

taigle: yer tongue's taigling yer feet

tail: as happy or proud as a dog with two tails very happy or proud.

□ **have the wrong sow by the tail** cajole or wheedle the wrong person.

□ **pull well by the tail** **1** *of a horse* be manageable. **2** *of a man* have a subdued appearance.

[From the old practice of attaching a plough to a horse's tail.]

□ **tail-draught, tail-draft** **1** a person who holds others back, a nuisance, a hindrance. **2** a number of people following someone about. **3** a

tail-draught of a family a large number of children.

tailor, tailyer, taylor *noun* a tailor.

□ **it takes nine tailors to make a man**

- **steam-tailor** *nickname* a man who introduced a sewing machine into a country district.
- **tailor's yard, tailor's yard-measure** *astronomical* Orion's belt.
[Scots and Northern English form *tailyer, tailyor*.]
- taint¹, tent** *verb* **1** *of wood* become rotten, be affected by dry rot. **2** belittle, speak disparagingly about (a person).
- **tint, also tented** *of wood* partially rotten, affected by dry rot.
[East Midland form *tent*. For the form *tint*, *cf.* *taint²*.]
- taint², tent** *noun* a small quantity.
[Scots *taint, tint*; also Cornwall *tint*; probably the same word as *taint¹*.]
- taise** *verb* tease.
- **taizle** entangle; throw into disorder.
[Older form in Scots and English.]
- taisge: mo thaisge 'stor** a term of endearment; dear.
- tait, tate** *noun* **1** a tuft or wool or hair. **2** a small amount.
[Scots and Northern English; probably of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Icelandic *tæta* "a shred", itself related to the source of *tatter*. *See also* *tate*.]
- taiver, teeveer** *verb* **1** tease, vex, irritate. **2** perplex, confuse with talk.
3 become mentally deadened by monotonous work.
- **taiversome, teeversome** **1** annoying. **2** tedious, fatiguing.
- **taivert, tavered** bewildered; harassed.
[Scots *taiver* "to wander in mind or speech"; extended form of Middle English *tave* "to struggle"; probably of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *tava* "to falter in speech", *tavra* "to go about in a daze".]
- taizle** *see* *taise*.
- tajersome** *see* *tedious*.
- take, tak, tack, tae; unstressed tick; past tense tuck, taen; past participle tuck, took, taken, taen; verb** **1** take. **2** take something of someone take something from someone [obsolete in literary English]. **3** take and (do something) start in, stir yourself to (do something). **4** understand, get the point *e.g.* *I told them all your plan. Well, did they take?* **5** clear (a jump) *e.g.* *She took it with a run.* **6** undertake (to do something).
◆ *noun* **1** a take (of fish). **2** a holding, a small farm taken on lease.
3 *specifically* a communal holding or leasing of land. **4** a lease.
- **be ill taken** be disturbed or upset about something.
- **be taken away** **1** die suddenly. **2** *of a child* be taken or changed by the fairies.
- **be taken bad** take ill; be taken ill.
- **be taken (in a particular way)** affected (in a particular way).
- **it'll take it all its time** a doubt as to the weather being fine.
- **it will or would take (someone to do something)** **1** it is necessary for (someone to do something) *e.g.* *It'll take you to be on your guard and watch well.* **2** *in negative* it is necessary for (someone) not (to do something) *e.g.* *It would not take Anna to hear you.*
- **tae' care** take care.
- **take a breath** catch your breath.
- **take a fall out of (someone)** give someone a fall in wrestling
[translation of Irish *titim a bhaint as duine*].
- **take after** run after, pursue.
- **take again** take a dislike to.
- **take a hand at someone** **1** impose upon someone. **2** make fun of someone, pull his or her leg; take a hand out of someone.
- **take a hand out of** **1** take a hand out of something borrow something. **2** take a hand out of someone "take a rise out of someone", mislead, make fun of someone.
- **take airs on yourself** put on airs.
- **take an eyeful out of** stare at, look searchingly at [translation of Irish

lán do shúl a bhaint as rud].

- **take a person above (the boot, knee, etc.) of water** reach above (the boot, knee, etc.).
- **take bad, take badly** be taken ill; *also* **take worse** become worse, become more ill.
- **take badly with something** dislike something.
- **take fear** become frightened.
- **take harm** suffer harm.
- **take her kindly** pleasantly, not masterfully.
- **take hunger** become hungry.
- **take ill 1** be taken ill, fall sick. **2 take ill with something** take badly to something.
- **take in verb** cheat, impose upon.
- ◆ *noun* an imposition, a fraud.
- **take in hand** undertake (to do something) [archaic in Standard English].
- **take in with someone 1** take up with someone of the opposite sex.
- 2** catch up and fall in with someone.
- **take it ill** be disappointed.
- **take it till yourself** take something to heart.
- **take learning** receive (an education).
- **taken: taken-away** a child stolen by the fairies.
- **taken back** taken aback.
- **taken on with someone** charmed, captivated by someone.
- **take notice of an infant** show awareness of its surroundings.
- **take off, tak aff noun, take-off 1** a mimic. **2** a person who pretends to be something he or she is not. **3** a satirical valentine.
- **take off you 1** undress. **2 take off yer feet** take your footwear off.
- **take on**
- **take on fire** catch fire.
- **take out 1** start out, depart. **2** suddenly "let the hair down" and run wild.
- **take someone by the neb before he can open his mouth** put someone down in argument before he has time to speak.
- **take someone off**
- **take someone over short** take up someone's words too severely.
- **take someone to the fair** astonish someone.
- **take something by the end** go into something thoroughly. *specifically* **take the day by the end** begin early.
- **take soup figuratively, of a Roman Catholic** change religious denomination [during the Famine, some Roman Catholics were induced to become Protestants in exchange for food].
- **take stock** observe, take notice.
- **take the air** go out for an airing.
- **take the ball at the hop**
- **take the good of** make the best of, take advantage of.
- **take the hunger** become hungry.
- **take the law agin someone** take legal proceedings against someone.
- **take the road, take to the road 1** go. **2** become a vagrant.
- **take the sails and lay them with her** hoist the sails.
- **take the taste of something** spoil the pleasure of something.
- **take til, take till** take a liking to.
- **take to your beaters** take to your heels.
- **take to your bed** go to bed on account of illness or vexation.
- **take to your scrapers** take to your heels.
- **take up 1** make (a collection). **2 take yourself up** improve in character or health; *specifically* stop drinking.
- **take with 1** catch fire *e.g. Keep that clothes-horse back, or it'll take with; hence taken with of fuel* alight. **2** endure, tolerate, put up with.
- 3 take with your age usually negative** not acknowledge or not look your age.

- **take with someone** take a drink with someone.
- **take yer aise** be quiet.
- **take yer tobacco!** *slang* take your time, don't hurry.
- **take your bed** fall sick.
- **take your death, take your dead end** die *especially figuratively* of laughter.
- **take your fair end** "die with laughter".
- **take your foot** *of an obstruction* trip you up *e.g. Something took his foot and he capsized.*
- **take your fun off someone** make fun of someone.
- **take your hurry (in your hand)!** take your time, don't hurry!
- **take your pumps off** lay aside all restraint.
- **taking, takin** **1** taking, pleasant. **2** infectious.
- **tuk for death** affected by a terminal illness.
- **well taken with** popular.
- **what has taken (a person's) toe?** what has "got into" (a person)?, what has suddenly altered (a person's) behaviour?
- **You may take one,/And you may take two,/But if you take three,/I'll take you** an unwritten law in farming, said of someone who takes a turnip from a field for his own consumption.

[Scots and English dialectal forms *tak, tack, tae*. Past tense: general dialectal and Scots *tuck*, Scots and Northern English also *teuk*, Scots also rarely *taen*. Past participle: Hiberno-English and English dialectal *tuck*; Hiberno-English, English dialectal and Scots *took*; English dialectal and Scots also *token*; Scots and Northern English also *taen*. *See also* misbetuk, mistake.]

takes *see* make¹.

talan *noun* a character trait.

[Irish *tallann* "an impulse".]

talavogue *verb* beat.

- **talavoguing** a beating.

talian: **talian-iron, tally-iron** *historical, noun* an Italian iron, a goffering iron (an iron for ironing frilled lace).

◆ *verb* **tally-iron, also tally** goffer, crimp (a lace border) with an Italian iron.

- **tally-heater** the heater that goes inside an Italian iron. [ILLUS: talian]
- **tally-whackin** a beating, a thrashing.

[Scots and English dialectal form *talian*; Hiberno-English, Scots and Northern English *tally*.]

talk, taak *verb* **1** talk. **2** talk to court (a girl).

- **are ye talking ti' me or blowin' yur nose?, are ye talking ti' me or chewin' a brick?**

- **have talk for two rowsa teeth**

- **talk fine** speak Standard English; speak affectedly.

- **talk like a machine** be very loquacious.

- **talk's chape** said of a man boasting unduly, or using foolish threats: talk does not much assist a man in difficulty.

- **talk the leg o' a chair, talk the bottom out of a pot, talk the hind-legs off a chair, talk the hind-legs aff a goat** be very loquacious.

- **talk through your hat** be discursive in a story; *sometimes* embellish with lies.

[Scots and Northern English, also South-Western English, form *taak*.]

talla *noun* tallow.

[Scots and English dialectal form.]

tally *see* talian.

tally *noun, in the game of hand-ball* a point.

- **tally-man** the man appointed to keep score, *e.g.* in hand-ball or in counting goods in or out of storage.

- **tally-stick** a piece of wood on which the scores in hand-ball were

notched.

See also tully².

tally-bogy *noun* a scarecrow.

tally-eyed *see tully³.*

tallygram *noun* a telegram.

talooral: **that's a different talooral** that's another matter, that's a different thing altogether.

[A nonsense word, as in the refrain of many traditional songs.]

Tam *see Tom.*

tam, tyam, cham *noun* a sudden feeling of faintness; a sudden attack of illness.

[Scots and Northern English *taum*, from Old Norse *talme* "faintness".]

tambo *see Tom.*

tame: **tame bee** a domesticated bee.

tamerlyen *noun* an awkward person.

tamis *noun* a sieve.

[Obsolete in Standard English, from French *tamis*.]

tammock *see tummock.*

Tammy *see Tom.*

tamper *noun* a post-rammer.

Tamson: **(John) Tamson's news** stale news, unimportant news.

[Scots form of *Thomson*.]

tan, tann *verb* beat, thrash *e.g. I'll tan your hide.*

Tanderagee Tandragee.

tane *pronoun* the one, *usually tane ... tother*; *see tother.*

[Scots and Northern English, originally *the tane*; redivision of *that + ane* (see *one*).]

tang *noun* **1** the tag of a boot-lace. **2** *in plural* a *tawse*.

tangle *verb* **1** ensnare, entangle. **2** traverse by a zig-zag course.

□ **tangler** a jaffler.

□ **tangling, tanglin** the act of substituting for a buyer at an auction.

tangs *see tongs.*

tanker *noun* a cheeky girl or young woman.

tankle *noun* **1** a seaweed: *tangle Laminaria digitata*. **2** *figuratively* a tall person.

[Scots form, influenced by Scottish Gaelic pronunciation.]

tanks *noun* "loads", a large amount.

tanny *noun* a dark-complexioned person.

[Scots, also South-Western English, form of *tawny*, archaic in Standard English in this sense.]

tant *verb* taunt.

◆ *noun* **1** a mock Valentine. **2** a taunting person.

[Old form (still Scots, also Worcestershire).]

tantrum *see tantrum.*

tantravitus *noun* a temper *Co. Antrim*.

[Apparently a jocular extension of *tantrum*.]

tantrum, tantrum *noun* **1** a tantrum, a display of petulance; *see also* *tantravitus*. **2** a whim, a vagary.

tap *noun* a tack, the least possible amount of work.

◆ *verb* give someone a sharp stroke.

tap, tapitoorie, tappan, tappany, tappin, tappit *see top.*

tappy *see tawpie, top.*

tapselteery, topsalteery, tapsie-teerie, topsy-teerie *adjective, adverb*

1 head over heels. **2** topsy-turvy.

[Scots *tapselteery, tapsie-teerie*. The first element is probably *top*, as in English *topsy-turvy*, and there may also be some connexion with Middle English *topsayles ouer*, literally "topsails over" *i.e.* "topsy-turvy".]

tar: **spoil (or lose) the ship for a ha'porth o' tar**

□ **tar-rope** a rope made from the fibres of old ropes.

tarbillest, tarble *see* terrible.

tare *noun* a good deal, a large amount.

tare-an-age *see* tear.

tare-an-ouny *see* ounds.

targe *verb* **1** scold loudly. **2** beat, strike. **3** scutch (flax). **4** make vigorous progress (through work). **5 targe along** hurry.

◆ *noun* **1** a virago, a scolding woman. **2** a brawling woman. **3** a bold, brazen woman.

□ **targer** **1** a virago, a scolding woman; an argumentative woman. **2** a flax-scutcher. [ILLUS: targer/P]

□ **targing, targin** *noun* a loud scolding.

◆ *adverb* strapping, large; very good.

[Scots, origin unknown. *See also* Tom.]

tarlach *see* thallagh.

tarms *noun plural* terms (of employment).

[Probably an old form; *cf.* terrible, *sarten* (*see* certaint), *etc.*]

tarnal *see* eternal.

tarnation *noun* a disguised oath: "damnation".

◆ *adjective, adverb* a disguised oath: "damned".

taros *see* turas.

tarpolion *noun* a tarpaulin.

[Old, altered, form.]

tarra *noun, literally* a terror: something terrible.

◆ *adjective* terrible.

[Probably an old form; *cf.* terrible, *sarten* (*see* certaint), *etc.*]

tarrach *adjective glassan tarrach of a glasan* roasted on hot coals with the melt replaced in the fish after cleaning.

tarradiddle *noun* a lie told jokingly. *in plural* nonsense.

tarragon *noun* ? a termagant.

□ **by the tarragon of war** *e.g.* *By the Tarragon of war, I'll whale ye.*

tarrible *see* terrible.

tarriffic *adjective* terrific, terrible, terrifying.

[Probably an old form, *cf.* terrible, *sarten* (*see* certaint).]

tarrint-er-eigin *noun* seems to be a flower, one variety of the species *Carix*.

tarrock *noun* a bird: the common tern, *Sterna hirundo*. *Illustration see* fish.

[Scots; of Scandinavian origin, as is *tern*, with the addition of the diminutive ending *-ock*.]

tart *adjective* **1 of a person's temper** harsh, severe. **2 of a person's disposition** acid, fierce-tongued.

tartle, tirtle, tertle *noun* **1** a clot in hair or wool; *specifically* a clot of manure on an animal's coat. **2 in plural** sheep droppings. **3** a tatter. **4** a small amount. **5 in plural** ragged clothes. **6** a slovenly woman.

◆ *verb* rend; tatter.

□ **tartled** tattered.

[Scots *tartle, tirtle*; from Old English *tyrdel*, a diminutive form of *turd*.]

tash *noun* a moustache.

task *noun* a piece of homework for school.

taste *noun* **1** the least portion *e.g.* *a taste of yarn*. **2** a little. **3 brave taste, good taste** a good deal, a large quantity.

□ **tasty** *adjective* **1 of a person** neat, well-groomed. **2 of a person** having dainty habits; tidy (about the house) [rare in Standard English].

□ **your taste is in your mouth, your taste is all in your mouth**

tat, tit, tot *noun* a tangle in hair; a tuft of matted hair or wool.

□ **tatty, tautie of hair** tangled, matted; unkempt, tousled; *see also* taddy.

□ **tatty-head** a head of unkempt hair.

□ **tauted, tawted** tangled, matted.

[Scots *tat, taut*; probably of Scandinavian origin and related to **tatter** (from Old Norse **taturr*, Icelandic *tǫturr* "tatters"). There is also an Old

English *tattec* "a rag", which may be related to *tat*.]

ta-ta *exclamation, childish* "ta", thanks.

tate *see* tait.

tate *noun, historical* a division of land; in Co. Fermanagh and Co.

Monaghan the basis of the modern townland; elsewhere half the size of a townland.

[Origin unknown, possibly the same word as tait. Borrowed into Irish as *táite*.]

tater *see* potato.

tathery, tatherly, tautherly *adjective* **1** untidy, unkempt. **2** *of hair* uncombed.

[Cheshire and Shropshire *tather* "a tangle", origin unknown. However, in some cases *tathery, tatherly* might represent Ulster pronunciations of tattery, tatterly.]

tatie:

tatoo *verb* scold, verbally abuse.

tatta *noun, childish* "dada", father.

[Lancashire form.]

tatta¹ *exclamation* said to reprove naughty children.

tatter, tather, totter, tother *verb* tatter, reduce to shreds.

◆ *noun* **1** *in plural* tatters, rags. **2** a shred of clothing.

□ *in tothers* *e.g.* *You'd be ashamed to meet him, he's in tothers.*

□ **tattering, tatherin** *noun* a tattering, the act of reducing something to tatters.

□ **tattermallions** rags [alteration of Standard English *tatterdemallion*].

□ **tattery, tatterly, tothery** *of clothes* tattered, ragged; slovenly, untidy.

See also tait, tat, tatteration.

tatteration, totteration *noun* a disguised oath: "damnation".

[Hiberno-English, *cf.* tatter.]

tattie *see* potato.

tattle *noun* a bird: the meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis*; *cf.* tit².

tatty *see* tat.

taud, taul', tauld *see* tell.

taunt *verb* dare (someone to do something).

taupie *see* tawpie.

tauted *see* tat.

tautherie *adjective* rough.

tautherly *see* tathery.

tautie *see* tat.

tavered *see* taiver.

tavishun *noun* television.

taw *see* tawse.

taw¹ *noun, literally* a large marble: a testicle.

taw² *noun, in plural* roots growing on stored potatoes.

[Rare and obsolete in Standard English (still Scots), apparently from Old Norse *tágar* "roots"; *see also* teou.]

tawdry *noun* cheap finery.

tawm *verb, usually tawm over* fall gently asleep.

[Scots and Northern English; Middle English *talm*, origin unknown.]

tawpen, tawpened, tawpenny *see* top.

tawpie, taupie, tappie, tappy *noun* **1** a foolish, thoughtless girl or woman; *rarely* applied to a man. **2** an awkward person, usually a girl. **3** an idle or slovenly girl; an unkempt, untidy person. **4** a person pretending to be naive.

◆ *adjective* awkward-looking.

[Scots; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Norwegian *tåp* "a halfwitted person, usually a woman", Danish *taabe* "a simpleton".]

tawse, taws, taz; *rarely in singular taw*; *noun* **1** *also a pair of tawse* a leather strap, cut into thongs at one end, formerly used by schoolteachers

as an instrument of punishment. **2** a lash for a dog. **3** a few strips of leather tied to a stick, used for spinning a top.

[Scots and Northern English, formed on English *taw* "to prepare (leather)". *See also* *tew*.]

tawted *see* *tat*.

tay *see* *tea*.

taz *see* *tawse*.

tchan *adjective* self-confident, self-satisfied.

t'chay *see* *chay*.

tch-tch, tck tck, tcht-tcht *exclamation* a call to cows, horses or pigs; *cf.* *chay*.

tea, tae, tay *noun* tea.

□ **as oul as tay**

□ **go out for your tea 1** go on a terrorist murder errand which might result in your own death. **2** be "kneecapped".

□ **no one between her and the tay-cannister** said of a woman who is mistress in her home, without the intervention of her mother-in-law.

□ **pitcher of tea** a cup of tea.

□ **tay-tree** a cultivated shrub: the tea-tree.

□ **tea-brack** a form of *barnbrack*, made with dried fruit soaked in tea.

□ **tea-drawer** a large tin mug with a lid, in which tea was left to draw beside an open fire. [ILLUS: *tea-drwr*]

□ **tea-man** a travelling seller of tea.

□ **teapit** a teapot.

[Older form in Scots and English *tae, tay*.]

teague, taig *noun, abusive* a Roman Catholic.

[Irish *Tadhg*, a personal name formerly popular as a boy's name amongst Irish-speaking Roman Catholics. *Cf.* *Billy*.]

teal *noun* a bird: the red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator* [in Standard English, the teal is a duck, *Anas crecca*].

□ **teal duck** a bird: the teal.

teann *adjective* firm, tightly held.

teapit *see* *tea*.

tear, teer; *past participle* **tore**; *noun* a large quantity.

◆ *verb* **1** tear. **2** give change for (a banknote).

□ **on the tear** on the spree, on a drinking bout.

□ **she'll not tear in the pluckin** *of a woman* meaning that she is no pullet and implying age and toughness.

□ **tear about in a rage** get in a passion.

□ **tear an ages, tare-an-age!** an oath.

□ **tear away** *noun*, **tear-away 1** someone who is smart or striking in some way. **2** an active, energetic worker.

□ **tear-away 1** someone who is smart or striking in some way. **2** an active, energetic worker.

□ **tearing, tearin** *adjective* active, energetic; strong; violent *e.g. in a tearin rage*; *adverb* used intensively; extremely, very *e.g. That's a tearing fine day*.

□ **tear-lathers** *literally* tear-leathers: shreds, tatters; *see* *leather*.

□ **tear off (something)** do something with great skill and energy.

□ **tore** drunk, inebriated; *see also* *half*.

[Scots form *teer*. *Past participle*: Hiberno-English, English dialectal and Scots *tore*.]

tear¹: A wud look for my tears I would not be sorry (if such-and-such were the case).

□ **enough to bring tears from a stone** said of something heart-rending.

□ **the tears were running down his cheeks like beetles up a hill** *sarcastic* said of a child who is crying for no reason.

teathins *noun plural* tufts of luxuriant grass in pasture ground, which spring up where dung has been dropped.

- [Scots and Northern English *tathe*, Northern English also *teath* "to manure"; from Old Norse *teðja*.]
- teazy woolsey**: *e.g. Your honour and pig's wool would make fine teazy woolsey.*
- teck** *see* tack¹.
- teckle, teckling** *see* tackle.
- ted** *noun* the intermediate hay-heap.
- tedder** *noun* a tea-drawer *Co. Down. Illustration see tea.*
[Origin unknown.]
- tedious, tadius** *adjective* **1** tedious, wearisome. **2** *of a person* trying, aggravating *e.g. a tedious body.*
- tadiusness** *in a horse* slowness.
 - tajersome** tedious.
- [Old form (still Shropshire) *tadius*.]
- tee** *noun, curling* a mark serving as the target.
[Scots, the same word as *tee* in golf (borrowed into Standard English); origin unknown.]
- tee¹** *verb* go, go quickly *e.g. Tee out of my way.*
- teedle** *verb* to toddle, to walk with short steps *Co. Antrim.*
[Onomatopoeic.]
- tee-hee** *verb* laugh at (a person).
- teehle, teeshle** *verb* snigger.
[Onomatopoeic, *cf.* tee-hee.]
- teem¹** *verb* **1** empty out, pour. **2** strain water off (boiled potatoes, *etc.*).
3 *of rain* pour.
- ◆ *noun* a heavy downpour of rain.
 - toom up** *e.g. Toom them up; i.e. potatoes.*
[Hiberno-English, Scots and Northern English, also Cornwall; from Old Norse *tæma* "to empty", related to the adjective which gives *tim*. *Teem* also arises as a Scots form of *tim*. Also in Irish as *taomadh*, probably from Old Norse.]
- teem²** *noun* a sudden feeling of faintness; a sudden attack of illness.
[Irish *taom*.]
- teeny** *also teeny-weeny* *adjective* small, tiny.
- teer** *see* tear.
- teeras** *see* turas.
- teeshle** *see* teehle.
- teestafoga**: could be a rather testy old woman. I'm not sure if it is a nickname or if it refers to a legendary character
- teeth, teethache** *see* tooth.
- teetotal** *adjective* total, absolute *e.g. teetotal strangers.*
- teever, teeversome** *see* taiver.
- tell**; *past tense and past participle* **tole, tul, tould, toul', towl, tauld, taul', taud, telled, tellt**; *verb* **1** **tell on** tell tales of (a person). **2** count, calculate [archaic in Standard English].
- it 'ill tell a bad tale** applied to wet weather.
 - it's telling you, it will or would be telling you** it is or would be to your advantage.
 - it would be no tellin** it would not count in your favour.
 - not tell your name for** not consider it worth your while *e.g. I wouldn't tell my name for it.*
 - teller: telling:**
 - tell on** inform against, tell tales on.
 - to itself be told** **1** said after telling of a misfortune that has happened to someone, implying a wish that it should not happen to anyone else. **2** **to myself be it told** used at the mention of some disaster or affliction, to ward it off.
 - ye tell me that, aye?** I'm not sure if I believe you.
 - you're a teller** expressing the suspicion that someone is telling a tall

story.

□ **you tell me so!, you don't tell me that!** *exclamation* *s* expressing surprise.

[Past tense and past participle: English dialectal form *tould*, Scots *tauld*, *taul'*; English dialectal *telled*; Scots and Northern English *tell't*. Past tense: Southern English also *tole*.]

temp *verb* tempt.

□ **it would tempt a saint** provoke much *e.g.* *It would tempt a saint to see the way they go on.*

[Scots and Northern English form.]

temper, timper *noun* temper.

□ **temper-pin** a wooden screw for tightening the band on a spinning-wheel. [ILLUS: temper-pin]

□ **tempery** short-tempered.

tempering nail *noun* a shiny nail.

ten: ten o'clock a snack taken during harvest time at ten o'clock in the morning.

□ **ten-penny nail** *obsolete* a strong nail.

tenant *noun* a tenon.

[Old form, influenced by Latin *tenentem* "holding".]

tenant¹: a toome house is better than a dead tenant, better a bad tenant than an empy house *proverbial* an excuse for farting.

tend *verb* *e.g.* *tend the light*; a command to look after a rush-light, which needed to be constantly pulled above the nippers or jaws and renewed as it burned.

tender *verb* make tender.

tension *noun* attention.

tent *see* taint².

tent *noun* care, heed; notice, attention, *usually* **take tent of** or **to pay** attention, mark carefully; **take tent** be careful.

□ **tentless** heedless, inattentive.

[Scots and Northern English; shortened form of obsolete *attent* "attention" (itself from Old French *atente*) or obsolete *intent* "to be intent" (itself from Old French *ententer*).]

teo-boy *see* keo.

teou *noun* **1** a small twist of hay (made by hand) at the bottom of a haystack, to which the stack-ropes are fastened. **2** *in plural, also keous* rootlets growing on a potato; *cf.* **taw²**. [ILLUS: teou]

[Somerset *tew* "a hempen string", origin unknown.]

tep *noun* a tip, a gratuity.

terble, terbly *see* terrible.

termon *noun, historical* church lands affording the right of sanctuary.

[Irish *tearmann*, itself from Latin *terminus*.]

terrible, terble, tarrible, tarble; superlative tarbilliest; adjective 1 terrible.

2 "terrible", very great, excessive.

◆ *adverb* used as an intensive; "terrible", terribly.

□ **terbly** terribly.

[Old form (not in Scots) *tarrible*; English dialectal, also Shetland, *tarble*; English dialectal, also Ayrshire, *terble*.]

tert *adjective* tart, sour.

[Scots, also South of England, form.]

tertle *see* tartle.

tester, testher *noun* one-fourth of a florin.

testher, taister *noun* wooden covering over a bed.

□ **bed testher** a bed-cover.

□ **tested bed** a tester bed.

tether: give a person length of tether give a person full scope.

□ **go the length of your tether** come to the end of your resources, whether mental, physical or financial.

- **go your tether-length** pursue a reckless course.
- **graze beyond your tether** live beyond your means.
- **tetheration** tethering *e.g.* *A witness, on giving evidence as to his own personal experience of the scarcity of milk, was asked why he did not keep a goat, and replied he had one but he could not keep it from wandering. "Why did you not tether it?" said one of the commissioners (Milk Commission), to which he replied: "I was heart-broke with the tetheration of that goat".*
- **tether stab** a long, thin person; *see stab.*
- **tether yer horse by the teeth an' he'll not go astray**
- **there's a kink on his or her tether** he or she has a stammer.
- **tighten someone's tether** restrict, restrain someone.
- tetherin** *adjective* **1** furious *e.g.* *He was in a tetherin rage.* **2** outrageous.
[English dialectal and Scots *tatter* "to chatter; to scold", from Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *tateren* "to babble".]
- teugh, teuch, cheuch, tyough, chough, chugh, togh, toch, chuff** *adjective* tough.
- **teuchle: teuchle out** of a sick person last a long time.
- **this meat's ower teuch: ye cud sole yer boots wi' it**
[Scots *teugh, teuch, cheuch, tyough, chough*; Western Scots also *toch*; Northern English *chuff*.]
- tew** *verb* toil; struggle hard.
[Scots and English dialectal; possibly an altered form of *taw* "to prepare (leather)". *Cf.* *tawse*.]
- th'** *see* the.
- thack, theck** *noun, verb* thatch.
- **thacked** of a house thatched.
- **thacker** a thatcher.
[Scots and Northern English *thack*; Northern English, also Northern Scots, also *thack*; from Old English *þæc* *noun*. *Thatch* is from the Old English *verb*.]
- thae** *demonstrative adjective, demonstrative pronoun* those.
[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *þá*. *See also they*².]
- thaft, taft** *noun* a thwart, a seat in a rowing boat.
[Scots *thaft*, Shetland *taft*; forms of Northern English *thoft*, from Old English *þofte*. Also borrowed into Irish as *tafta*, which may be the source of the form *taft*.]
- thair** *see* their.
- thairm** *noun* **1** *in plural* guts. **2** catgut; *specifically* a fiddlestring.
[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *þarm*.]
- thallage** *noun* a half-loft in a traditional house; a loft to one or other side of the chimney canopy.
[Irish *tálóid, táláid*.] [ILLUS: thallage]
- thallagh, tarlach** *noun* soreness or stiffness caused by unaccustomed work.
[Irish *tálach, trálach* "a pain or swelling in the wrist caused by labour".]
- thammerlyeen** *noun* a glass of porter.
- thank, thank** *verb, noun* thank.
- **be thankit** be grateful *e.g.* *Ye ought to be thankit that ye're naw oot this mornin.*
- **Dear or God be thankit** thanks be to God.
- **in any thank** in proper time, timely.
- **in someone's thank** indebted to someone.
- **thanky** thank you.
[Northern English and Scots form *thank*.]
- thar** *see* there.
- tharawan** *noun* a male crab.
[Apparently Irish *tarbhán* "little bull", from *tarbh* "bull" + diminutive ending *-án*.]
- tharis** *see* turas.

that *demonstrative pronoun* **1** used in some contexts where Standard English prefers *this*, e.g. *That's a brave day.* **2** that place, there e.g. *Go on out of that!*

◆ *adverb* so, to such a degree e.g. *The tea's that strong you could stand on it.*

◆ *adjective* such e.g. *I was in that fear, I daren't budge* [archaic in Standard English].

□ **that I may nivver stir (if something is the case)** an imprecation e.g. *That I may nivver stir if I'm tellin' ye a word of a lie.*

□ **that same** the same, it e.g. *He came by the road and that same was in a bad way.*

that-a-way *see* a⁴.

thatch, theek *verb* thatch.

□ **as many as would thatch a house**

□ **thatched house** *specifically* a house in which the thatch is held in place by ropes as opposed to scolbs; *cf.* *sew*. [ILLUS: thatch/h]

□ **thatcher: the day of the storm is not the day for thatching** make no changes until a crisis is past.

□ **work like a thatcher** work like a Trojan.

[Scots and Northern English form *theek*. *Thatch* and *theek* are from different parts of the Old English verb *þeccan*. *See also* thack.]

thaveless *see* thieveless.

the, *sometimes before a vowel* **th'**, *definite article* **1** used in some contexts where Standard English has no article: **(a) the County Down, the County Antrim, etc;** **(b) the school;** **(c) the church;** **(d) the hospital;** **(e) the bed** e.g. *lying in the bed;* **(f) in bed with the doctor** *bull* **(g)** branches of learning, crafts or sciences e.g. *the sums, the dress-making, the carpentering, the chemistry, the Latin;* **(h)** commodities e.g. *The tea is cheaper;* **(i) the Christmas** e.g. *at the Christmas;* **(j) the both** both; **(k) the noo** now; *see* *noo*; **2** substituted for *to-*: **(a) the day** today; **(b) the morn** *see below*; **(c) the morra, the morrow** tomorrow; **(d) the night** tonight; **(e) the year** this year. *See also* thegither. **3** followed by an adjective: how e.g. *Look at the far out thon ones has went in that wee boat.*

□ **keep the bed** stay in bed.

□ **the day and the morra 1 as fussy as the day and the morra 2 his tongue is as long as the day and the morrow** *i.e.* he talks too much.

□ **the morn (a)** this morning; **(b)** tomorrow morning.

□ **the morra** tomorrow.

□ **the morra night, the morrow night, the morrow's night** tomorrow night.

□ **the morrow morning, the morrow's morn** tomorrow morning.

□ **the now, the noo** at present, now e.g. *Where are you going the noo?*

□ **the one of us** *in a negative context* neither of us e.g. *The one of us had not a thing in our head.*

[*Th'* archaic in Standard English.]

theek *see* thack.

thee: *2nd person singular pron only in the phrase* **fare thee well**

thee *see* three.

thee *noun* the thigh.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

theek *see* thatch.

theemle *see* thimle.

thegither *adverb* together.

[Scots, altered form; *cf.* *the*.]

their, thair, thir *possessive pronoun* their.

□ **theirsel** themselves (collectively).

□ **theirselves, theirsels, thirsels** *reflexive pronoun* themselves (each individually).

[Scots forms *thair*, *thir*. The distinction between collective *theirsel* and individual *theirsels* is Scots.]

them, thim *personal pronoun* **1** them. **2** they *e.g.* *Them's very good things.*

◆ *demonstrative*, also **them there** those *e.g.* *them dogs.*

□ **them here** these.

□ **themsel** themselves (collectively); *cf.* **their**.

□ **themselves** they [as an emphatic usage, archaic in Standard English].

□ **thom 'uns** those ones.

[Scots and Northern English form *thim*; Scots, also Cornwall, form *thum*.]

then: oh, then oh, indeed!

there, thar *adverb* there.

□ **only half there** half-witted.

□ **thereaway** thereabouts.

□ **there's it (there)** there it is (there).

□ **there were** followed by a noun in the singular: there was.

[English dialectal, also U.S.A. colloquial, form *thar*.]

these *demonstrative* used before plural nouns relating to time: *e.g.* *He's gone these ten years.*

thew *see* throw.

they¹ *pers pronoun* used as an indefinite pronoun: one *e.g.* *A person wouldn't believe it if they didn't see it.*

they¹: they are there is; **are they** is there *e.g.* *Are they anybody at hame?*

[Scots, probably originally by wrong division of *there*, meaning "there is" (*is* is frequently omitted after *there* in Scots).]

they² *demonstrative adjective* those *e.g.* *Where did all they books come from?*

[Southern English use of *they* personal pronoun. However, in some cases it probably represents *thae*.]

thick *adjective* **1** stubborn, obstinate. **2** rude, ill-mannered.

3 bad-tempered; ill-natured, vicious.

◆ *adverb* in quick succession [in Standard English now only *thick and fast*].

□ **as thick as blackberries**

□ **as thick as herrings in a barrel**

□ **as thick as mud, as thick as champ, thick as poundies**

□ **as thick as thieves** intimate, on very friendly terms.

□ **the thickening of the clearing** describing a shady transaction.

□ **thick end** the greater part, the lion's share *e.g.* *He has the thick end of the potatoes*; *cf.* **big**.

□ **thickening: thick in the lug** hard of hearing.

□ **thick-made** thick-set, short, squat.

□ **thick milk** hot milk thickened with flour and sweetened.

□ **thick-pelted** thick-skinned.

□ **thick-winded** bad at breathing; husky; *of a horse* short-winded.

□ **thick-witted** not having proper control over the passions.

thief *noun* a flaw in the wick of a candle that causes it to burn wastefully.

□ **thief o' the world** *abusive*

thieveless, thaveless *adjective* **1** feckless, ineffectual; lacking energy, listless. **2** clumsy, awkward, useless. **3** annoyed, disgusted (**at** someone).

4 thieveless scornful.

◆ *adverb* drily, scornfully.

[Scots *thieveless*, rarely *thaveless*; form of Scots and Northern English *thewless* (itself formed on *thew* "strength, vigour"). *See also* **thraveless**.]

thillog *noun* a tree: the willow.

thim *see* them.

thimle, thummle, theemle *noun* a thimble.

◆ *verb* steal (something) a tiny amount at a time.

□ **thimleful** a thimbleful.

[Older form (still Scots and Northern English) *thimle*, Scots form *thumme*.]

thin *adjective*, of the weather cold, piercing.

□ **that thin, he could tramp meal in the barrel of a gun** said of a very thin person.

□ **thinner than you an' me stuck together** *bull*

thing, in compounds **-thin** *noun* **1** a thing. **2** a little, some *e.g. I've no butter, but I'll get thing in town*.

□ **a thing and a half** said of a conceited person, who thinks himself worth more than other people.

□ **a wee thing** *noun* a little, a small amount.

◆ *adverb* somewhat *e.g. a wee thing drunk*.

□ **it's a thing** **1** used to introduce a statement *e.g. It's a thing I intended to churn before tea-time* [translation of Irish *Is é rud a ...*]. **2 when it's a thing** since, seeing that *e.g. Let's make a day of it when it's a thing we're going at all* [translation of Irish *Ós rud é ...*]. **3 if it's a thing that** if it's the case that [translation of Irish *más rud é go*].

□ **not the thing** not what it, he or she should be.

□ **the things ye see when ye haven't a gun!** *jocular* said when meeting an old friend by chance.

□ **thingmajig, thing-em-jig, thing-im-wee** thingummy, a thingummyjig.

□ **thingum-derry** a nonsense name used when the speaker cannot remember a person's actual surname.

□ **warm** or **coul' thing** hot or cold tea; *see* cold.

think, *past tense and past participle* **thocht**, *verb* **1** in the progressive aspect with reference to the state of holding an opinion *e.g. They're not here, I'm thinking*. **2 think on** think of. **3 I think** I think so, I agree.

□ **I think not, a body would think not** *emphatic* a contemptuous answer to a question.

□ **think back on** recall to mind.

□ **think long, think it long** **1** be lonely. **2 think long for** long or wish for; feel weary (for want of something or someone). **3 think the time long**, be bored. **4 think long for** be homesick for.

□ **think no small potatoes of yourself** have a high opinion of yourself.

□ **think on** think about, concerning; think of *e.g. I'll think on them, The people don't think much on it now, I could not think on sending him to hospital*.

□ **think pity of, think a peety o** pity, take pity on [*think pity of* archaic in Standard English]; *see* pity.

□ **think shame** feel ashamed.

□ **think well** or **ill** approve or disapprove *e.g. I'll go if you think well*.

□ **to my thinking** in my opinion.

[Past tense and past participle: Scots form *thocht*.]

thir *see* their.

thir *demonstrative* these.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

thiraw, thoraw *noun* a hubbub *Co. Donegal*.

□ **have a thiraw with you** be noisy, boisterous.

[Origin unknown.]

third *noun* a big, fat woman *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

third¹: **third cock** the medial hay-heap.

□ **thurdan** the medial hay-heap.

thirl *see* tirl².

thirsels *see* their.

thirtage *noun* **1** thirlage, thraldom, bondage. **2** the obligation to grind corn at a particular mill. **3** the multure paid to a miller. **4** *historical* a mortgage.

thirteen *noun, historical* an English shilling [formerly worth thirteen pence of Irish currency].

this¹ *demonstrative pronoun* this time.

- **this day and this night!** *exclamation* expressing astonishment.
- **this here** *emphatic* this.
- **this how** in this way.
- **this while back** for some time past.
- **who is this that is?** who is that?

this² *demonstrative adjective* these, *only in expressions of time* (a) **this hours** for some hours; (b) **this years** this many a year.

[Old form (still Northern Scots).]

this-a-way *see* a⁴.

thistle, thristle, thrissle, trisle *noun* a thistle.

- **thistle cock** a bird: the corn bunting *Miliaria calandra*.
 - **thistle grey** a bird: the redpoll *Carduelis flammea*.
- [Scots and Northern English form *thristle, thrissle*.]

thoat *see* throat.

thocht *see* think, thought.

thole *verb* **1** bear, endure. **2** allow, permit of. **3** *understatement* stand *e.g. It would thole a patch.* **4** wait, *usually* **thole a wee** wait a short while; *see* wee. **5** **thole on** wait patiently. **6** **thole at** suffer on until the pain ends [*at* here possibly represents *out, cf. worry*].

◆ *noun* patience; endurance; capacity for bearing pain.

□ **a ha'p'orth o thole-well, an a pennorth o niver-let on-ye-hae-it** *jocular* the cure for minor ailments.

□ **the best medicine is tae thole-at**

□ **thole a wee** wait a while.

□ **tholer** someone who bears pain, *frequently* **a good tholer**.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *polian*. *See also* untholable.]

tholter *noun* cross-ploughing; harrowing.

thom *see* them.

thon *see* yon.

thonder *see* yonder.

thong *verb* beat, thrash.

□ **thongin'** a beating.

thonner *see* yonder.

thoo *see* through.

thooharleen *noun* an awkward, clumsy fellow *Co. Donegal*.

[*Cf. Irish tuthaire* "a foul-smelling person; a farter".]

thooka *noun* a plant rather like thyme, used as a medicine.

thoom *see* thumb.

thoosan *numeral* a thousand.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

thoraw *see* thiraw.

thorn, thoarn *noun* **1** a thorn. **2** *specifically, also* **thornbush** the hawthorn (as opposed to the blackthorn) [as in England]. *Illustration see* fairy.

□ **thorn grey** a bird: (a) *also* **thorny grey** the redpoll *Carduelis flammea*; (b) the linnet *Carduelis cannabina*. [ILLUS: thorn/gr]

[Scots form *thoarn*.]

thorough, thorra *adjective* sane, *frequently in negative*.

[Scots form *thorra*.]

thorr *see* torr.

thorra *see* thorough.

thorrit *noun* an oul' fella of not much account.

thought, thocht *noun* **1** a very small quantity. **2** a short distance. **3** a short time.

□ **have a thought to 1** intend to. **2** take thought for *e.g. We must have a thought to tomorrow*.

□ **next thought** on second thoughts.

□ **wee thought** a very little *e.g. a wee thought more, please*.

[Scots form *thocht*.]

thousand: a **small thousand** a great number *e.g. a small thousand of flies*.

thow *noun, verb* thaw.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

thowal-pin *noun* a thole-pin in a rowing boat.

[Old form (still Scots) *thowal*, possibly influenced by *dowel*.]

thraa *see* throw.

thrace *verb* **1** trace. **2** track (an animal *especially* a hare) in the snow.

□ **thracin'** tracing.

thrack *adverb* in disorder.

[*Cf.* Northamptonshire verb "to pack full", origin unknown.]

thra-crook *see* throw.

thraik *see* traik.

thrake *noun* a cough.

thram *see* from, tram¹.

thran *see* throw.

thraheen *see* traneen.

thrang *see* throng.

thrap *see* thropple.

thrape *see* threap.

thrapple *see* thropple.

thrapsticks: **while he or she'd be sayin' thrapsticks** "before he or she could say Jack Robinson".

thrash *see* trash.

thrashel *see* threshel.

thrasher, thrasher *noun*:

thravally *see* trevally.

travel *see* travel.

thraveless *adjective* **1** careless, silly. **2** restless. **3** inactive because of physical weakness.

[Also Northumberland and Glasgow, probably an altered form of *thieveless*.]

thraw, thrawed, thrawn *see* throw.

thrawneen *see* traneen.

thrawnness *see* throw.

thrawnyeen *see* traneen.

thrayten *verb* threaten.

[Older form in Scots and English. *See also* *threat*.]

thread, thrid; *past tense* **thrid**; *verb* thread.

□ **he could take the thread off a screw, he cud take the thread aff a screw** *pun* describing a miser.

□ **thread the long needle and sew** a children's game.

[Northern English infinitive form *thrid*.]

threap, threep, treap, thrape, trape; *past tense* **threaped, threp, throp**;

verb **1** assert strongly. **2** insist on, swear to the truth of something;

specifically persist in a false accusation or assertion. **3 threap something on someone** try to persuade or convince someone of something untrue.

4 threap at nag, verbally abuse.

□ **threap something down someone's throat** force your opinion on someone, try to make someone believe something.

[Scots, Northern and West Midland English *threap, threep, thrape*. Past tense: Scots form *threaped*, Northern English forms *threp, thrope*. From Old English *pr̥ēpian* "to rebuke".]

threat *verb* threaten.

[Archaic in Standard English (still Scots, also Southern English), from Old English *pr̥ēatian*. *See also* *thrayten*.]

threave *noun* a measure of straw, corn, *etc*: usually twelve sheaves.

[Scots and English dialectal; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Middle Swedish

brave.]

thred *see* tread.

three, they, tree, thee *numeral* three.

□ **three-go** a measure of spirits: (a) a glass and a half; (b) a glass and a third; (c) one sixth of a pint. *See also* British.

□ **three-plet** three-ply; threefold; *see* plet.

□ **three threads an' a thrum** the song of a cat.

□ **thrippence, thrum, trum 1** threepence. **2** *historical* a commission of threepence per stone on flax, paid by a flax-buyer to a person who brought the buyer and seller together in the open market [Scots form *thrippence*, slang form *thrums*.].

□ **thrupenny:**

□ **thrupenny loaf** your head.

threep, threeped *see* threap.

threeshal *see* threshel.

threp *see* threap.

thresal *see* threshel.

thresh *verb* thrash, beat.

□ **threshin-board** one of a set of boards on which grain was threshed with a flail.

□ **you might as well thrash the water** meaning that it is an impossible task.

[Older form (still Scots). In Standard English *thresh* is now only applied to beating the seed from grain, making *thrash* and *thresh* into different words.]

threshel, thresal, thrashel, threeshal *noun 1* the threshold. **2** a "saddle", a wooden bar fixed under a door, inside a house, to keep out draughts.

[Old form (still Scots and Northern English) *threshel*, Northern English also *thresal*, Scots also *thrashel*.]

threstle *noun* a trestle.

[Northern English, altered form.]

throws *see* trews.

they *see* three.

thribble *adjective* treble.

[Northern English form.]

thrid *see* thread.

thrig *see* trig².

thrimble *see* tremble.

thrimmel *verb* trundle, wheel.

[Obsolete Standard English *trindle*, from Old English *tryndyl*-. *Trundle* is an alteration of this.]

thrimmin *noun* a trimming.

thrimmle *see* tremble.

thrinter *noun* a three year old sheep.

[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *pri-winter*, literally "three winter".]

thrippence *see* three.

thrisknagh *noun* a loud noise, *e.g.* of things falling.

thrissle *see* thistle.

thrist *verb* thrust.

[Scots form.]

thristle *see* thistle.

thristle *noun* a trestle.

[Old form *tristle*.]

:**hrive:** *past tense and past participle* **thruv bad thrive** an animal that does not thrive.

□ **better a late thrive than never do well** said of someone who marries or prospers late in life.

□ **it has a thriving grunt** *of a child* it is doing well.

[Past tense: Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire form *thruv*. Past participle: English dialectal form *thruv*.]

throat, thoat *noun* the throat.

□ **run down the wrong throat** *of food* go the wrong way, go into the windpipe.

□ **to hev yer stomach or bowels think yer throat's cut**

throch *see* through.

throg *see* trog.

throgan [**throw-gun**] *noun* a mischievous child, *especially* a boy.

throgmullion *see* thrugmullyon.

throgs *see* trogs.

throllop *noun* a trollop.

throm *see* from.

throng, thrang *adjective* **1** *of a place* crowded; very busy. **2** *of a person* busy, occupied, absorbed in work. **3** *also* **thronged** *of a period of time* busy. **4** *of work* pressing. **5** *of people* "thick", very friendly.

◆ *noun* **1** *of time* the busiest period. **2** the greater part *e.g. the throng of twenty pounds*. **3** a throng, a crowd of people.

□ **the happiest day is the throngest day**

□ **the throngest day in Wall**

[Scots and Northern English form *thrang*.]

throo *preposition* through.

throo-gaun, throo-ither *see* through.

throp *see* threap.

thropple, thrapple, thrap *noun* the wind-pipe, the throat.

◆ *verb* throttle, choke; seize by the throat.

□ **a bone in the thropple** "a thorn in the side", an annoyance.

□ **a neck like a goose's thrapple**

□ **full to the thropple** having eaten as much as you could.

□ **stop your thropple** shut up.

□ **wet your thropple** drink.

[Northern English and Scots *thropple*, Scots usually *thrapple*; origin unknown.]

throistle *noun* a bird: the song thrush *Turdus philomelos*.

[Archaic in Standard English (still general dialectal and Scots), from Old English *prostle*.]

throth *see* troth.

throttle-car *see* trottle-car.

through, thoo, throch *preposition* **1** through. **2** during, in the course of *e.g. If I don't see ye through the week, I'll see ye through the window*.

◆ *adjective* through, done, finished.

◆ *adverb* with omission of a verb of motion *e.g. One got a cold and it through the whole of them*.

□ **be through your head** be mixed up in your head.

□ **friends through-other** relations.

□ **go through 1** go through with (something). **2 go through the count (a)** go wrong in counting; **(b)** become confused.

□ **go through the floor** walk the floor, *especially* to pacify a restless infant.

□ **I'll see you through the week - or through the window, if I don't see you through the week, I'll see you through the window**

□ **marry through-other, marry through each other** *of families* intermarry.

□ **put someone through** make someone forget (what he or she was about to say).

□ **take (a person) through hand** take (a person) in hand, discipline (a person).

□ **through-going, through-goin, throo-gaun 1** thorough-going. **2** *often, of children* active, boisterous; mischievous. **3** active, energetic.

4 persevering, thorough. *See go.*

- through hands** under consideration.
 - through land** *of a horse* (work) in the fields, plough.
 - through-other, throo-ither** *adjective 1* *of a place, etc.* messy, untidy, badly arranged. **2** *of a person* disorderly, untidy; unmethodical. **3** flurried, agitated; mentally confused. **4** harum-scarum.
 - ◆ *adverb* in a disorderly way; in a confused way. *See other.*
 - through-pittin** harsh treatment; *see put.*
 - through time** gradually; in the course of time *e.g. We'll get it finished through time.*
 - through with something** done, finished with something.
 - through yourself** confused (*e.g.* by loud, intrusive noise).
- [Scots form *throch.*]

throuncin' *noun* a trouncing.

throw, thow, thraw, thra, thraa; *past tense and past participle* **throwed, thrawed**; *past tense also* **thew**; *verb 1* throw. **2** turn (a vehicle) sharply into a stopping place; *also* **throw her roun'** **3** *also* **throw a brash** "throw up", vomit; *see brash*. **4** place (a person) in a set of circumstances.

5 thwart, oppose; argue with, contradict; anger. **6** *usually* **thraw (a)** twist; turn (*e.g.* your head); **(b) thraw a rope** be hanged; **(c)** wrench, sprain; **(d)** wring (someone or something's neck).

◆ *noun 1* **throw of money** a great deal of money. **2** a casting-place on a salmon river. **3** **in a thraa with someone** in a huff, in a state of quarrelling with someone. **4** **thraa** a twist, a perversity in a person's character.

◆ *adjective* **thraw, thraa** twisted, thrown.

- as thrown as a dug's hin'-legs**
- be thrown back** suffer a relapse in illness.
- go and throw slack** *or* **peat-moul' on yourself** go and cool down.
- lying heads and thraws 1** lying head to toe; *also, figuratively, of shoes 2* in disorder, mixed up.
- not have a word to throw to a dog** not have a word to say; be uncivil.
- she'd be keen to throw her clothes with his**
- thra-crook** a thraw-hook.
- thrawed** ravelled.
- thraw-hook, thry-hook, tra-hook, throw-hook** an implement for twisting ropes from straw or hay. *Illustration see garhook.*
- thraw mule** a perverse and obstinate person.
- thrawn, thran, trawn** *adjective 1* twisted, distorted. **2** perverse, twisted in character. **3** ill-natured. **4** obstinate, stubborn.
- ◆ *verb* behave in a stubborn, wilful way.
- thrawn body, thran-body** a cross person; someone who would be at cross purposes.
- thrawn-faced** having the features distorted by ill-humour.
- thrawnness** perverseness; obstinacy; contrariness.
- thraws**:
- throw a light on** *or* **off** switch a light on or off.
- throw by** cast aside, throw away.
- throw off, throw aff, throw up 1** vomit, bring up. **2** *rare* show off.
- throw off you** undress hastily.
- throw on you** throw on your clothes.
- throw's length** "a stone's throw", a short distance.
- throw someone the sign** "tip someone the wink", give someone a sign.
- throw up the head** lose your temper and change your course of action completely.
- throw your leg over a horse** mount.

[Scots and Northern English forms *thraw, thra, thraa*. Past tense and past participle: Scots, also South-Western English, *thrawed*; English dialectal *throwed*.]

throw *verb*: e.g. *He throwled on until night without dinner.*

through *noun* a flat grave-slab.

[Obsolete Standard English *through*, Scots form *threuch*; from Old English *þrūh* "a stone coffin".]

thrugmullyon, throgmullion *noun, abusive* an immoral woman.

[Obsolete English slang *trugmullion*, from obsolete *trug* (possibly from Italian *trucca*) + a fanciful ending as in *tatterdemalion* (*cf.* *tatter*).]

thrum

thrum *see* three.

□ **two threads on a thrum** imitating the purr of a cat.

thrumgullion *noun* a big-boned, loose-jointed, untidy woman; *cf.* *thrugmullyon*.

thrummin *noun* a tree: the elder.

[Irish *tromán*.]

thrush¹: thrushed *of a horse's foot* tender from the effect of dry, hot weather.

□ **thrushin** thrush, an inflammation in a horse's foot.

thrush² *noun, figuratively* an odd person.

[Northumberland form of Northern English *thurse* "a hobgoblin"; from Old Norse *þurs*, Old English *þyrs*; or short for obsolete Standard English *hobthrush* "a hobgoblin" (*Hob* "Robert" + *thurse* as above).]

thrush³

thrush⁴ *noun* a bird: the song thrush.

□ **thrush-legs** narrow legs, a description of a man dressed in a body-coat and knee breeches.

□ **thrush-legs** thin legs.

thrust, thurst *verb* **1** thrust. **2** fold.

[Scots form *thurst*.]

thruv *see* thrive.

thry-hook *see* throw.

thuck *exclamation* a call to cows.

[*Cf.* Northern English *thickey* "an exclamation to call attention to anything", origin unknown.]

thud *noun* a heavy blow, a thump.

□ **thudding** a thumping, a beating.

thuggy *adjective* left-handed; *cf.* *fyuggy*.

thumb, thoom *noun* the thumb.

□ **beyond your thumb, beyon' your thumb** beyond your power to change.

□ **butter-thumbs** a "butter-fingers", a person who drops things.

□ **by or beyon your thumb 1** beyond your power; *see by. 2 specifically* beyond your power to change.

□ **chew your thumb** give a matter serious consideration.

□ **have your fingers all thumbs** be awkward, clumsy.

□ **lick thumbs 1 lick thumbs upon (a)** agree to (a bargain); **(b)** agree on (an issue). **2 they might lick thooms tae the elbows, they may lick**

thumbs and touch elbows one is as bad as the other.

□ **not cut your thumb for a shilling** not do something involving personal risk unless you are properly paid.

□ **over the thumb** out of a person's power.

□ **place your thumb on the eye of your friend** a last act of kindness.

□ **the thumb-hand side (when you turn the corner where the sack of broth stands)** a fool's errand: a non-existent place.

□ **thumb-bottle** a small bottle.

□ **thumb-fingered** awkward.

□ **thumb-hand:**

□ **thumbo, lispie, longman, pingle tree and little Jack o' Dandy,**

thumbo, lispie, longman, jinny tree and little Jackadandy the fingers rhyme.

- **thumb-pot** *gardening* the smallest-sized flower-pot.
- **thumb-rope** a cord of straw or hay rope tied round the trouser-leg below the knee to keep it out of the mud.
- **thummack** a pinch taken with the finger and thumb.
[Scots and Northern English form *thoom*.]

thumple *see* thimle.

thump *noun* stek.

- **thumper 1** a post-rammer. **2** a "smasher", something very good.
- **thumping** *adjective* very large, "whopping".
- ◆ *adverb* very, extremely.
- **thump-the-cushion** *derogatory* a "cushion-thumper", a preacher.

thunder, thunner *noun* thunder.

- **the farder the thunner, the nearer the rain** said of close weather.
- **thunder and thumps!** *exclamation* "thunder"!
- **thundergub** a name for a noisy, persistent talker; *see* gob¹.
- **thunder-shower** a heavy thunderstorm.
- **thunder-speal, thunner-spell** a toy: a long, flat piece of wood or an ox's rib, with notches along one edge, which is whirled round the head on the end of a piece of string, to produce a sound like thunder; *see* spale, spell¹. [ILLUS: thundr/s]

[Scots and Northern English form *thunner*. The *d* of Standard English *thunder* is an insertion.]

thuras *see* turas.

thurken *noun* a crude form of oatcake.

[*Cf.* Northern English *tharf-cake, thar-cake* "an unleavened cake of flour or meal", formed on Old English *þeorf* "unleavened".]

thurrish *verb* be friendly, be accommodating *e.g.* *These people would not thurrish together.*

[Origin unknown.]

thurroo *noun* noisy talk.

thurst *see* thrust.

thwarter, twarter *verb* thwart, plough or harrow (land) cross-wise.

[Scots *thwarter*, shortened form of *thwart* + *ower* (*see* over).]

ti *see* to.

tiadle, tyaddle, toyadle *noun 1* a useless person; an easy-going, unreliable person. **2** a disreputable person, *usually* a woman or girl. **3** a self-consciously eccentric person.

[Origin unknown.]

tibaccy *noun* tobacco.

[Scots form.]

Tib's eve, also Tib's Eve, an that's neither before Christmas nor after;

St. Tib's Eve *adverb* a day that will never come *e.g.* *I'll marry you on Tib's Eve.*

ticht *see* tight.

tick *see* take.

tick¹ *noun* a nit (the egg of a louse).

- **as full as a tick** in a state of repletion.

tick²: tick and toy, tic-toy "to flirt", to trifle with a person's affections, toy (with a person); *see also* tig.

ticket: hard ticket a tough character, a street fighter.

- **the ticket for soup** the exact thing; the right thing, the correct thing.

tickieman *noun* a salesman offering goods "on tick" (on credit).

ticking *noun* a disease in flax.

[*Cf.* *tick* "a small speck".]

tickle: ticklesome 1 difficult; *specifically* requiring care or tact.

- 2** uncertain, dangerous.

tic-toy *see* tick².

tid, tidge *noun 1* good, *etc.* **tid** the proper season or conditions for growing *e.g.* *Them begonias couldn't get a better tid.* **2 in good, etc.** **tid of soil** in

good, *etc.* condition for planting.

[Scots *tid*, a form of **tide**.]

tiddler *noun* a tadpole.

tiddlehoy *noun, jocular, euphemism* the private parts.

tide *noun* a time, an occasion.

□ **tide-line** a "tide-mark", a line of dirt left after careless washing.

See also *tid*.

tidge *see* *tid*.

tidy *adjective* **1** *of a person* active; well-made, handsome. **2** *of a thing* nice, desirable. **3** *of a cow* in calf.

◆ *noun* a child's pinafore.

tie: **fit to be tied** very angry.

□ **tie a knot with your tongue that can't be undone with your teeth, tie a knot with yer tongue which yer teeth couldn't loose, tie a knot with your tongue that you'll not undo with your teeth** get married.

□ **tie on you** dress yourself, make ready.

□ **tie up** *figuratively, of a clergyman* marry.

tift¹ *noun* a tiff, a minor quarrel.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

tift² *noun* **1** mood, state of mind *e.g. in great tift with themselves*. **2** fashion, style, way of dressing.

[Scots and Northern English form of obsolete Standard English *tiff* "a state of dress", from Old French *tiffer* "to adorn".]

tift³ *noun* a small amount.

□ **have a wee tift of money** be well-off.

[*Cf.* Scots and Northern English *tift* form of colloquial or slang *tiff* "a small amount of alcoholic drink" (origin unknown).]

tig, *past tense* **tug**, *verb, especially in children's games* tip, give a light tap or touch.

◆ *noun* a light tap or touch, as in the children's game of *tig*.

□ **have** or **give** **tig** be or pass on the role of "it" in chasing games.

□ **tig-toy** flirt, trifle with a person's affections, toy (with a person); *see also* *tick*².

[Past tense: Yorkshire *tug*.]

tigher *noun* a trickle, a dribble.

◆ *verb* trickle, dribble.

[Southern Scots *ticher* "a weeping sore; to ooze", originally meaning "a tear drop"; from Old Northumbrian *tēhr*, corresponding to *tēar* in other dialects of Old English, which gives *tear*.]

tight, ticht *adjective* **1** tight. **2** *of a person* smart, neat [*tight* archaic in Standard English]. **3** *of a person* (a) also **tight-built** well-made, wiry [*tight* archaic in Standard English]; (b) strong, able; (c) alert, active, hardworking.

□ **as tight as a drum, as tight as a fiddle string** drunk, full.

□ **it will tighten the pin of his collar (to do something)** it will give him trouble.

□ **that'll tighten ye** that is just what you deserve.

□ **tighten** get (someone) into shape, toughen (someone) up; *hence* **that'll**

tighten ye that is just what you deserve.

□ **tightener** a tough job, a spell of hard work.

□ **tight fit** a disciplinarian.

□ **tight in the heft** mean, stingy; *see* *heft*².

[Scots form *ticht*.]

tike *verb* pretend to be busy; *cf.* *tyke*.

til, till *preposition* to; also before an infinitive *e.g. Get Mickey Mooney till gie me a lift wi them*.

◆ *conjunction* **till** in order that *e.g. Hand me that spade till I clean out this drain*; *see also* *to*.

□ **bring till** bring round, restore to a normal state.

- **lay or pull (a door) till** pull (a door) "to", close (a door).
[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *til*; *till* also in Standard English in the sense "until".]
- till** *noun* hard, unproductive clay soil.
- **till-midden** a manure-heap in a ploughed field; *see* midden.
[Originally and chiefly Scots, also sometimes English dialectal; origin unknown.]
- till-iron** *noun* a crow-bar *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*.
[First element unidentified.]
- tillivate** *verb, only pres part* pressing to go out of doors.
- tilly** *noun* a bit over the exact measure, given free to a buyer.
[Hiberno-English, from Irish *tuilleadh*.]
- tilly-lamp** *noun* a lamp.
- tilt**:
- tilt** *noun* the beginning hay-heap.
- **tilt your head at someone** look down your nose at someone.
- tim, toom** *adjective* **toom** empty.
- ◆ **verb** **1** empty out, pour. **2** strain water off (boiled potatoes, *etc.*). **3** of rain pour.
- ◆ **noun** **tim** a heavy downpour of rain.
[Scots and Northern English; from Old Norse *tómr* "empty", related to the verb which gives *teem*¹. The spelling *toom* is an alternative to the traditional Scots spelling *tume* or *tuim*, and has sometimes given rise to spelling pronunciations, but the usual pronunciation in Scots is now *tim* (or in some dialects *teem*), and in the North of England *teeyum*.]
- timber, timmer** *noun* **1** timber. **2** *figuratively* the legs of an animal *e.g. There's fine timber under that pig*.
- ◆ **adjective** timber, wooden.
- **there he goes on his timmer-toes** *jocular i.e.* with an active, springy, alert gait.
- **timbering** a beating, a thrashing.
- **timber-toes, timmer-toes**:
[Scots and Northern English form *timmer*.]
- time** *noun, in compounds also -tim e.g. suppertim*
- **a fine time of day** *ironic* a fine state of affairs.
- **be all your time** "take all your time", require the utmost effort.
- **in no time, in less than no time** in a very short space of time.
- **in time** just what is needed.
- **keep time between you and the day** "put off the evil day", put off an unpleasant task.
- **make time, make out time, make out the time** find time.
- **past the time of day for (doing something)** too late for (doing something) *e.g. It's past the time of day for such fooling now*.
- **the time of day** **1** bid someone the time of day give a greeting in passing, such as "good morning". **2** **time of day!** a greeting used when one person meets another.
- **the time the ship left Derry - when she was ready** a reply to a question about when a person will do something.
- **the whole time** all the time.
- **time about** alternately.
- **time-a-clocks** wispy little plants with fluffy heads. You blew the seeds off, counting how many blows to disperse them, and that was the "time".
- **time and again, time and time again** very often.
- **time enough** in time enough *e.g. He'll be here time enough*.
- **time on your hands** leisure.
- **timeous, timish** timely, in good time; early; *see also* untimous.
- **time out of mind** from time immemorial.
- **time(s) out of number** times without number, very frequently.
- **time, tide, or a call from God wait for no one**

- **time tot** a game: rounders.
- **time upon times** now and then.
[Scots unstressed form *tim*.]

timeous *see* time.

timerish *noun* odd jobs, little tasks done in or about the house.
[Irish *timireacht* "light jobs", *see also* *kimmer*.]

timersome *adjective* timorous, timid.
[Obsolete Standard English *timorsome* (still Scots and English dialectal), from *timor-* as in *timorous*, + *-some*.]

timish *see* time.

timmer *see* timber.

timorous *adjective* bashful, shy.

timper *see* temper.

tin *noun* **1** a can, a sealed metal container in which food or drink is sold
e.g. *Coke tin* [the usual term, as in England, whereas *can* is usual in Scotland and the U.S.A.]. **2** *also* **tinnie** a tin mug.

- ◆ *verb* scold, reprimand (someone).

tinder: burnt to tinder ashes; the ashes of burnt paper.

tindherary *noun* a tintamarre, a hubbub.

ting *verb* overeat, "stuff" (yourself).

- **tinged**, *also* **tinged up** "stuffed", full, having over-eaten.
[Western Scots; origin unknown, perhaps the same word as Northern English *ting* "to split" (itself of unknown origin).]

tinker, tinkler *noun* **1** a tinker. **2** *loosely* a tramp, an itinerant. **3** a bad copper coin.

- **A wud rether hev yer work nor yer music, as the Tinker said t' the Jackass**

- **run at tinker's time** be habitually late.
- **tinker's dam**
- **tinker's toast** the crust on the side of a loaf from the outside of a batch.
[Scots and Northern English, also rarely South of England, form *tinkler*.]

tint *see* taint¹.

tip *see* tup.

tip: give someone the tip make a point that settles an argument or silences a person.

- **tip's your keek** a game of street football in which a slight touch of the ball is considered a kick; *see* *kick*.

tip¹: tippy-toe *verb* walk on tip-toe *e.g.* *He tippy-toed up*.

- ◆ *adverb* on tip-toe.
- ◆ *noun, in plural* tip-toes.
- **tipsy-toe** a game played on the edge of the footpath by small children.
thus **Heigh-ho!/Tipsy Toe/Turn yer ship/An' away ye go**

tippy-lamp *noun* an oil lamp.

tirl¹, turl, torl *verb* **1** twirl, whirl. **2** cause to twirl or whirl. **3** ring an old-fashioned bell.

- [Scots and Northern English *tirl*, *turl* forms of obsolete Standard English *trill*; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Swedish and Norwegian *trilla*.]

tirl², thirl *verb, of the wind* strip the thatch or slates off a roof, or the top off a haystack; blow (an umbrella) inside out.

- [Scots *tirl*; apparently an extended form of Scots *tirr*, itself shortened from Scots *tirve*, itself a form of *turf*. From the practice of using *turves*, *i.e.* sods, as a roofing material.]

tirtle *see* tartle.

'tis *see* it.

tishie *noun* tissue, *thus* **tishie paper**
[Scots form.]

tit *see* tat.

tit¹ *noun* **1** a teat, a nipple; *also* **dummy tit**. **2** a growth such as a wart.

- **if the tit grows above the breath don't enthermeddle with it**

□ **suck the hind tit** not get much.

tit²: **titlark** a bird: (a) the meadow pipit. (b) the tree pipit. (c) the rock pipit. (d) the skylark.

□ **titler, titling** a bird: the meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis*; often seen in company with the cuckoo; hence, figuratively **the cuckoo and the titling** an incongruous pair of friends.

□ **titty mouse, also Tam tittymouse, Tam tiddymouse** a bird: the blue tit *Parus caeruleus*, also known as the titmouse [a childish or English dialectal form. *Mouse* in this word is a misunderstanding of Middle English *mose*, Old English *māse* "a bird of the tit family"].

□ **titty wran** a bird: the wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*; see **wran**. [ILLUS: titty/wr]

tither see **tother**.

titter: **a titter of wit** the least amount of sense, frequently **not have a titter of wit**

[Possibly Standard English *titre*, in chemistry and medicine "a measure of dilution".]

tittivate verb: e.g. *Takin' a wee kame oot o' his weskit pokit an' tittivaitin' aff [sic - av?] his heid at the lukin'-glass.*

tittle¹ noun the barb of a fishing-hook.

□ **tittle-hook** a fishing-hook.

[Probably the same word as Standard English *tittle*, as in *jot or tittle* "a tiny stroke of the pen".]

tittle² verb walk in a mincing way.

[English slang *tiddle*, origin unknown.]

tittle³ verb tittle-tattle, gossip.

to, t', ta, ti, tae preposition **1** to. **2** with (your dinner, etc.) e.g. *You can't get butter to your bread.* **3** with omission of a verb of motion e.g. *And both of the bulls to it, and commenced to fight.*

◆ conjunction **1** till, until e.g. *It's long to summer yet.* **2** in order that e.g. *Come here to I see you;* see also **til**.

□ **all to smash, all to smithereens** ruined, failed.

□ **have a child to** have a child by.

□ **have a most to** almost to e.g. *I'd a most to fall.*

□ **not a coat, etc. to your back** not a coat, etc. to wear.

□ **take notice to someone** take notice of someone.

□ **to be sure, tibby sure** certainly, of course.

□ **to bits, to pieces** in bits, in pieces.

□ **to your dinner** etc. for your dinner etc. e.g. *a herring to his dinner.*

[*T'* before vowels obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), English dialectal *ta* (representing the normal unstressed pronunciation in England), Scots *ti* (representing the normal unstressed pronunciation in Scotland); Scots and Northern English stressed form *tae*.]

Toal: **as black as Toal's cloak** very dirty.

□ **Toal's mother** a name for a dirty, untidy woman.

toardst, toarst see **towards**.

toast see **towards**.

toast: **toaster** a gridiron. *Illustration* see **griddle**.

toast¹: **he who is up is toasted, he who is down is trampled on**

toat see **tote**.

tober verb calm (someone) down, bring (someone) to his or her senses so that he or she stops misbehaving *North Londonderry*.

[*Cf.* Scots "to belabour (a person)", a form of *tabour* (the same word as Standard English *tabour* "a drum").]

toch see **teugh**.

tocher see **togher**.

tocher noun a dowry.

[Scots, from Scottish Gaelic *tochar* "a dowry".]

tod¹ noun a fox.

- that'll be a fire when it burns, as the tod said**
- tod's hole** a fox's den.
- when the tod preaches tak' tent o' the lambs** *proverbial*
[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]
- tod²** *noun* a ball of straw rope or hay rope *Co. Fermanagh. Illustration see garhook.*
[*Cf.* English *tod* "a weight of wool, a load (of hay, etc.)", possibly from Dutch *tod* "a rag".]
- today: today morning** this morning.
- toddle** *verb, of an infant* walk with uncertain steps.
- todey: warm as todey**
- to-do** *noun* commotion, fuss; lively or excited proceedings.
- toe, tae** *noun* **1** a toe. **2** *in plural, playing cards* a five.
 - against your toes** unwillingly.
 - as independent as the middle toe of a graip** very independent.
 - he (a child) has brave understandings** *i.e.* legs like myself (his mother) **and my understandings puts the toes out of everything**
 - not a toe** not one step.
 - one toe** the length of a toe *e.g.* *He'll not go one toe to the church the day.*
 - toe-bit** a frost-nail (a piece of iron inserted at the front of a horseshoe to give extra traction).
[Scots and Northern English form *tae*.]
- togh** *see* *teugh*.
- togher, tocher** *noun* **1** an embankment, a causeway; *also in place-names.*
2 a crowd of gulls attracted by a school of fry.
[Hiberno-English, from Irish *tóchar* "a causeway; a shoal of fish".]
- toghil** *noun* a fool.
 - there's a toghil in every family, and the lot fell on you**
[Origin unknown.]
- togs** *noun plural* boots.
[Origin unknown.]
- togs¹** *noun plural* clothes.
 - toggery** clothes.
- toil: toil and moil** work hard.
- toit** *verb, also toitle* topple over.
[Scots and Northern English "to toddle, to totter", onomatopoeic.]
- token** *noun* a small quantity *e.g.* *a token of salt.*
 - by the same token, the same betoken** in support of the point being made [*by the same token* archaic in Standard English in this weakened sense]; *see also more.*
- tolagh** *noun* a sum of money laid by for a rainy day.
[*Cf.* Irish *tóla* "a flood; abundance".]
- tole** *see* *tell*.
- tole** *verb* entice, allure.
[Obsolete in Standard English except U.S.A. (spelled *toll*), from Old English **tollian*. Still English dialectal.]
- toley** *noun* a small cake of bread.
[Scots, origin unknown.]
- toll** *noun* what is due.
- toltie** *noun* a foolish person; *specifically* a light-headed girl.
- Tom, Tam** *proper noun* Tom.
 - tamboy** a tomboy, a lively young girl.
 - Tam fool in the middle, Tom Fool in the middle** a children's game.
 - Tammy long-legs** a crane-fly (family *Tipulidae spp.*), also known as a daddy-long-legs. [ILLUS: Tammy/II]
 - tammy-shop** *historical* a shop in which workmen get goods on credit, for which they settle on pay-day.
 - Tam Targer** a woman who "wears the trousers"; *see targe.*

- **Tam whinny** a bird: the little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* [*Tam* + *whinny*, from its call].
 - **Tom-at-the-tail** a name for a careless person who never finishes a job.
 - **Tommy: Tommy norie** a bird: the puffin *Fratercula arctica* [the second element is a Scots alteration of *noddy* "a fool"]. *Illustration see* bridle.
 - **Tommy's candlestick** the glow-worm *Lampyrus noctiluca* [the glow-worm is not actually found in Ireland].
 - **Tommy tailor** a hairy caterpillar. *Illustration see* hair.
 - **Tommy tit** a bird: a tit.
 - **Tom puddin, Tom puddins** a bird: the little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*.
 - **Tom Thumb** a bird: the willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*.
 - **tom tit** a bird: the blue tit.
- [Scots, also Northamptonshire and Berkshire, form *Tam*.]

tomelty: tomelty pot a round-bottomed pot.

tomorrow: tomorrow come never never.

tongs, tangs *noun* a tongs a pair of tongs.

- **you'll find it where the Highland man left the tongs** you'll find it in the right place.

[Scots and Northern English, also Hiberno-English, form *tangs*.]

tongue *verb* scold, verbally abuse; subject (someone) to an argumentative tirade.

- **a bad or dirty tongue** a foul mouth.
- **a tarble tongue in your head** the power of scolding.
- **a taste of the tongue, a taste of your tongue, a bit of your tongue, a bit of the rough side of your tongue** sharp or strong language; a scolding.
- **a tongue as lang as the day and the morra, a tongue as lang as today an tomorra**
- **get your tongue with you** "find your tongue".
- **have a tongue that would skin a whelk, have a tongue that wud clip a hedge, have a tongue that would shave a mouse, her tongue would shear sheep** have a sharp, bitter, cutting tongue.
- **have the tongue that could clip clouds, have a tongue wud clip iron or brass** **1** have a cutting tongue. **2** be a great talker. *See* cloot¹.
- **have your tongue hung in the middle like a bell** said of a very loquacious person.
- **his or her tongue never lies, past tense his or her tongue never lay** he or she never stops talking.
- **keep a close tongue** keep silence.
- **keep your tongue ahint the teeth** be silent, keep silence.
- **on your tongue** **1** on the tip of your tongue. **2** (do a sum) mentally, in your head.
- **tongue-bang, tongue-thrash** scold, verbally abuse.
- **tongue-grass** garden cress *Lepidium sativum*; cress.
- **tongue-tacked, tongue-tack** tongue-tied: **(a)** having the movement of the tongue impeded because the ligament attaching it to the floor of the mouth is too short; **(b)** *generally* having a speech impediment.
- **tonguing, also tongue-thrashin** a violent scolding.

took *see* take.

tool *noun, abusive* a useless, unreliable person.

toom *see* tim.

toon, toony *see* town.

tooras *see* turas.

toorch *noun* a lamp.

toorie *see* turr.

toorinan *noun* an unreliable person *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

toorish *see* turas.

toot *noun* a pout.

- **tooty** *of the mouth* pouting.

[*Cf.* Scots *towt* "a fit of the sulks", origin unknown.]

tooth: *singular also teeth*: **don't show yer teeth unless ye're goin' to bite, don't show yer teeth unless ye're fit to bite, don't show yer teeth when you can't give a bite**

- **(make) your teeth rin water** (make) your teeth water, (make) your mouth water.
- **not put a tooth in it, not put too fine a tooth on it** give the bare facts, even if "hard to swallow" [*cf.* Irish *gan fiacail a chur ann*].
- **(speak) from the teeth out, talk from the teeth out** be insincere; speak hypocritically.
- **teethache** toothache.
- **the teeth's the safest part of him** said of someone who is totally lacking in compassion.
- **toothful** a small drink.
- **tooth-picker 1** a sharp person who doesn't miss a thing. **2 teeth-picker** a brain-teaser, a difficult problem.
- **tootles** *childish* a tooth *e.g.* *Wuz him's wee tootles sore?*

[Scots singular form *teeth*.]

toother: **in a toother** in disorder.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

toots! *exclamation* nonsense!

[Scots, *see* hoot².]

tootyen *noun* a tuft of hair or feathers.

[*Cf.* Scots and English dialectal *toot* "to jut out, to project", from Old English *iōtian*, **iūtian* "to stick out".]

top, tap *noun* the top, a top.

- **from top to foot** from top to toe.
- **go off like a tap o tow** fly into a rage. *hence tap o tow* a quick-tempered, irritable person.
- **lose your tappin** lose your temper.
- **not make tap, tail or bottom of something** make neither head nor tail of something.
- **tap-dressing** a top-dressing (of manure).
- **tapitoorie** something raised very high to a point [*tap* + *-ie* + *tour* (Scots form of *tower*)].
- **tap o tow 1** the portion of flax or tow put on the distaff of a spinning-wheel at one time. *Illustration see spin*. **2 go off like a tap o tow** fly into a rage; *hence tap o tow* a quick-tempered, irritable person [*tow* is extremely inflammable]. **3** a tousled head of hair.
- **tappit** *literally* tufted: *of a person's hair* shaggy.
- **tappit-heid** a shaggy head of hair; thick hair on the top of the head *e.g.* *Speaking of gipsies, a Glenalla man said: "Every ane o' them was swarthy and sma' with tappit heids"*.
- **the top of the morning to you** a greeting.
- **top-boot** a boot with a long top reaching almost to the knee.
- **top-end** the upper end, the far end (of a field).
- **top of kin** the head of an extended family.
- **top of the market** the highest market price.
- **top o the wind** crazy, insane [translation of Irish *ar bharr na gaoithe*].
- **topped up** dressed up.
- **toppined, tawpened 1** crested. **2** having a top-knot.
- **topping, toppin, tawpen, tappin, tappan 1** a topping: **(a)** a crest of feathers on the head of a bird; **(b)** a topknot; **(c)** the forelock of a person or of a horse. **2** the top of the head. **3** the head. **4** a head of hair. **5** a wig.
- **topping-hen** a toppined hen.

- **toppony, tawpenny, tappany** *adjective* crested.
- ◆ **noun 1** a hen or other fowl with a crest of feathers on its head; *hence* **toppony diver** a bird: the tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*. **2** the hair of the head.
- **topy, tappy** *adjective* crested.
- ◆ **noun 1** a tuft of feathers. **2** a tufted hen. **3** a hen with a heavy comb. **4** a bird: the lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* [from its crest]. [ILLUS: toppy]
[Scots, also South of England and Hiberno-English, form *tap*.]
- topsalteery, topsy-teerie** *see* tapselteery.
- topsy-wopsy** *noun*:
- tor** *noun* a high rock, a cliff *e.g.* *Tormore, Torneady in Tory Island*.
- tór** *noun* a search, pursuit, chase.
- tor¹, thor** *noun* a clumsy man.
- tor bones** *noun plural* the hip bones of a cow.
- tore** *see* tear.
- tore** *exclamation* a shout of encouragement to a bull.
[*Cf.* Argyllshire Scots *tor* "a bull", apparently from Scottish Gaelic *tarbh*.]
- torf** *see* turf.
- torie bird** *noun* the grasshopper warbler *Locustella naevia*.
[Apparently North-Eastern Scots *torie* "the grub of the crane-fly" (*cf.* Scottish Gaelic *toranach* "a grub") + *bird*.]
- torl** *see* tirl¹.
- tormit** *see* turmit.
- torr, thorr** *noun* a row, *thus* **raise a thorr**
[Origin unknown.]
- torry** *see* tory.
- torry** *see* turr.
- torry** *noun* the smallest pig in a litter.
[Origin unknown.]
- torst** *see* towards.
- torterin** *noun, literally* a torturing: a thrashing, a beating.
[Scots form.]
- torus** *see* turas.
- tory, torry** *noun 1* *historical* an Irish outlaw of the seventeenth century. **2** a villain, a rogue. **3** *of a child* a rascal.
□ **tory-whistle 1** *historical* a shrill wooden whistle, used as a signal to gather republican youths. **2** a policeman's whistle.
[Irish *tóiri, tóraí* "a pursuer"; also adopted in the seventeenth century as the name (originally an abusive nickname) of one of the English, later British, political parties.]
- tosh** *adjective 1* neat, tidy; trim, smart; tight. **2** comfortable, snug.
[Scots, origin unknown.]
- toss** *verb 1* knock (something) over. **2** knock down (*e.g.* a tree); level to the ground.
◆ **noun** a tumble, a fall [in Standard English applied only to a fall from a horse].
□ **by the toss of wars** *exclamation* a mild oath.
□ **tossed, tost** upset; distressed; worried.
□ **tossie pit** a group playing pitch and toss.
□ **tossified** ruffled.
□ **toss the cups** tell fortunes by reading tea-leaves.
- tossel** *noun* a tassel.
□ **tossel-head** a bird: the great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, in its summer plumage [from its crest, particularly visible in summer]. [ILLUS: tossel-h]
[Old form (still Scots), possibly influenced by **toss**.]
- tossicate** *verb* ruffle, disturb.
□ **tossication** a disturbance, an upset.

[English dialectal form of obsolete colloquial English *tosticate*, itself an altered form of *intoxicate*; influenced by **toss**.]

tossy ball *noun* the seedhead of the dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*.

[*Cf.* Shropshire "a bunch of cowslips in the form of a ball", itself a form of English dialectal *tisty-tosty* (probably the same word as Standard English *tussie-mussie* "a nosegay", origin unknown); influenced by **toss**.]

tot *see* **tat**.

totam¹ *noun* **1** a small, home-made spinning top. **2** *figuratively* a worthless thing, *thus* **no worth a totam**

[Scots, also London, shortened form of English *teetotam* "a small four-sided top used in games of chance". *See also* **totam**².]

totam² *noun* the smallest and weakest animal in a litter.

[Either the same word as **totam**¹, or Scots *totum* "a term of endearment for a small child" (*tote* + Scots mock Latin ending *-um*).]

tote, toat *noun* **1** a tot, a toddler; **2** something very small.

- totlin** something or someone small.
- toty, totie, totty** very small, tiny.
- wee tottie finger** the little finger.

[Scots form.]

totem *noun* a game, played at Christmas for pins.

tothan *noun* a silly person *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*.

[Origin unknown.]

tother *see* **tatter**.

tother, tither *pronoun* the other, *usually tane ... tother e.g. Tane told tither she leed and the battle riz.*

◆ *adjective, usually the tother* the other *e.g. the tother road.*

- the tother day** the day before yesterday.

[*Tother* obsolete in Standard English (still general dialectal and Scots), originally *the t'other*, by wrong division of Old English *þat oþer* "the other"; Scots and Northern English form *tither*. *See also* **tane**.]

tothery *see* **tatter**.

totie *see* **potato**.

totie, totlin *see* **tote**.

totteration *see* **tatteration**.

totty, toty *see* **tote**.

touch¹ *noun* a moment, a very short space of time.

- it only touches the groun' in odd spots** *jocular* reply to a remark on how quick a pony is.
- touch-and-heal, touch-and-hail** a wild flower: (a) the perforate St. John's-wort *Hypericum perforatum*; (b) self-heal *Prunella vulgaris*. *Cf.* **hale**².
- touch last** the game of tig.
- touch of the revival**
- touchous** touchy, easily offended.
- touchy** touched, mentally afflicted.

touch² *noun* a twitch, a loop of cord put round a horse's tongue or lip to control it.

[Probably a mistakenly "corrected" form of *twitch*, because in Scots and English dialects, **touch**¹ takes the form *twitch*.]

- a bit simple, wants a square of being round, off at the nail, a bit cracked, a slate off, thick-witted, away in the mind, away in the head, not the full shillin', bungalow head**

toul', tould *see* **tell**.

toun *see* **town**.

toura-tourie *see* **turr**.

tousle *verb* romp.

tousy, towsy *adjective* tousled, dishevelled.

[Scots and Northern English; formed on the rare English verb *touse*, Scots and Northern English form *toose*, from Old English **tūsian*.]

tove *verb* boast, brag.

◆ *noun*, also **tover** a boaster, a braggart.

□ **tove someone up** fill someone with conceit.

□ **tovy 1** also **toved** self-important, conceited; proud, boastful. **2** easily flattered. **3** over-dressed.

[Scots "to gossip, to chat"; possibly the same word as Scots *tove* "to emit smoke or flames", figuratively "to puff up with flattery", itself a shortened form of *stove*.]

tow *see* two.

tow: **be like tow in fire** said of a very quick-tempered person.

□ **go like fire and tow** *especially of a rumour* spread quickly.

□ **have another tow in your rock** have another purpose in mind.

□ **have other tow to tease** "have other fish to fry", have other business to attend to.

□ **no tow-rope** *of a person* dependable [a rope made of short fibres, or tow, is not as strong as one made of the long fibres of flax].

[Scots pronunciation rhyming with "plough".]

tow² *noun* a ewe.

tow³: **in tow** under your influence, power or direction.

towards, towardst, towarst, toardst, torst, toarst, toast *preposition*

1 towards. **2** in comparison with; *cf.* to.

[Scots forms *towardst, towarst*, Lincolnshire *torst*; and *cf.* Lancashire *toard* form of *toward*.]

tower *verb* tour.

[Scots, mistakenly "corrected" form as *tower* has the Scots form *toor*, *cf.* *tapitoorie* (*see* top).]

towl *see* tell.

town, toun, toon *noun* **1** a town. **2** a hamlet, a clachan. **3** a townland.

4 *in children's games* "home", the base.

□ **the town's talk** the talk of the town.

□ **toony** *derogatory* a "towny", a person brought up in a town or city.

□ **town ball** a game: rounders.

□ **town-ball** the game of cap-ball.

□ **townland** a division of land, of varying size, but averaging about 350 acres. In much of Ulster, it is based on the **ballyboe**, but in Co.

Fermanagh and Co. Monaghan it is based on the **tate**.

□ **town-park** land held in connection with a town-house.

□ **town stinker** a game: a circle is drawn on the ground, and two parties of boys take possession of it alternately when they succeed in striking a ball in particular directions.

□ **town tot** a game: rounders.

[Scots and Northern English form *toun, toon*.]

towsy *see* tousy.

toyadle *see* tiadle.

tracer *noun* an extra horse placed before the horse in the shafts.

trachle *verb* drag the feet; drag yourself along.

◆ *noun* a slow-moving person.

[Scots *trachle, trauchle*; *cf.* Flemish *tragelen, trakelen* "to trudge". *See also* strachle.]

track: *past tense and past participle trackted*: **leave the track of your feet** pass through a place.

□ **make good tracks** make good time, keep up a good pace.

□ **take track off (a marble)** *in a game of marbles* become entitled to another shot, because of having hit one of the marbles.

[Past tense and past participle: *cf.* Scots *tracked* form of the noun, mistakenly "corrected" form, as Scots generally drops *t* following *c* or *k*.]

tracle *see* treacle.

tracter *noun* a contractor. *thus* **tracter dacter** a locum.

traddle-car *see* trottle-car.

trade: **every man to his trade** said when one man alleges he would not work at another's business.

- **have the trade back with you** master, be master of your trade.
- **tradesman** an artisan, a skilled craftsman.

tragh uisge *noun* a "water-horse", an aquatic monster having the appearance of a horse.

trahoneyon *noun* a man who lives by his wits; a crafty beggar.

[Origin unknown.]

tra-hook *see* throw.

traik, trake, thraik *verb* **1** walk slowly, stroll. **2** make a tiring journey by foot. **3** be sickly, fail to thrive; decline, waste away.

◆ *noun* **1** a long walk; a long, tiring journey by foot. **2** an epidemic disease; *specifically* (a) the 'flu; (b) diarrhoea and vomiting. **3** an unidentified illness. **4** *in plural* a disease of domestic fowl. **5** a big, awkward person. **6** a dirty, lazy person with disgusting habits; *see also* trokie.

- **traiky, trakie** **1** unkempt. **2** slow-moving and apparently unwell. **3** *of a hen, etc.* sickly.

[Scots *traik, trake*. More than one word may be involved, *cf.* Norwegian dialectal *tråka* "to labour at some difficult task", and Dutch *trekken* "to go, to travel".]

trail: **trailach**, *usually* **trailach about** go about in a slovenly, lazy manner [*trail* + Scots intensifying ending *-ach* (modelled on Scottish Gaelic *-ach*)].

- **trail-haul** **1** trail, drag (something) about. **2** pull (clothing) about, disarrange (clothing).

trail¹ *noun* a tall, lanky woman, usually untidy.

trail²: **trail the wing** sulk so as to evoke sympathy.

train *verb* **train it** travel by train.

trake, trakie *see* traik.

trallap *noun* a trollop, an untidy woman.

tram¹, thram *noun*, *also* **back-tram** the part of a cart-shaft projecting at the rear. [ILLUS: tram]

- **long trams** a name for a long-legged person.

tram² *noun*, *sprat fishing* a line of three nets joined together.

[*Cf.* Middle English *tram(s)* "an ingenious contrivance", from Old French *traime* "a cunning device".]

tramp: **he could tramp meal in the barrel of a gun** he is very thin.

- **on tramp**
- **she cud tramp male in the barrel of a gun** said of a long, skinny person.
- **tramp-cock**, *also* **tramped cock, tramp rick, tramped rick** a large haycock tramped with the feet to make it more compact.
- **tramper** a turkey cock.
- **trampish** in a great hurry.
- **tramp ower** trample over; tread on, step on.
- **tramp the road, and knock noise out of it**

traneen, thraneen, thrawneen, thrawnyeen *noun* **1** a rush, a straw. **2** a hay rope tied round the trouser legs. **3** something of very little value, *frequently* **not care a traneen, not worth a traneen** **4** the least possible amount. **5** a small piece of something.

- **traneen-picker** someone who picks up the stalks of cut corn.

[Hiberno-English, from Irish *tráithnín*.]

trannion: **trannion suit** a new suit.

transmew *verb* transmute.

[Archaic in Standard English; from French *transmuer*, itself from Latin *transmūtāre*, which gives *transmute*.]

trap: **thrapsticks:**

- **trap-door** a false door; a hatch.

- **trap-dyke** a trench marking a field boundary.
- **while ye'd be saying 'thrapsticks'** in a short time.
- trap¹, thrap** *noun plural* baggage, personal belongings.
- ◆ *verb* **trap out, thrap out** deck, decorate.
- trapand** *verb* stop (someone).
- trape** *see* threap.
- trapeze** *verb* **1** trudge, plod along. **2** gad about in an untidy or slovenly way. **3** walk quickly.
[Scots form of *traipse*, influenced by *trapeze*, from the idea of hurtling about.]
- trasby** *noun* a row, a quarrel.
- trash, thrash: trash-bag** a series of pockets connected in a long strip and rolled up.
- trate** *noun* a treat; *specifically* a drink of alcohol.
- ◆ *verb* treat.
[Older form in Scots and English.]
- travally** *see* trevally.
- travally** *noun* a task set as a punishment.
[*Cf.* *trevally*, but possibly a form of *travail*. *See also* *trawallye*.]
- travel, thrael, trevel** *verb* **1** *also* **travel it** go on foot, walk *e.g.* *Are you going to travel or go by train?* **2** live as a wandering tinker, beggar, *etc.*; *also* **travelling woman, etc.**
- ◆ *noun* a journey *e.g.* *a day's travel*.
- **a tear in his e'e like a threv'lin' rat** in a great hurry, a frantic rush.
- **traveller** a pedestrian.
[Scots form *trevel*.]
- trawallye** *noun* a heavy blow.
[Probably a form of *trevally*.]
- trawl** *noun* a workshy and untidy person.
- trawn** *see* throw.
- tray¹** *noun, playing cards* the three of any suit.
- tray²: tray-bake** a sweet cake made in a rectangular baking tray and cut up into squares, not necessarily baked in an oven (*e.g.* *fifteens*).
- treacle, traicle** *noun* treacle.
- **tracle-sulphur** a medicinal tonic made of treacle, sulphur and cream of tartar.
- **treaclesome** pleasant, pleasing; flattering.
[Older form in Scots and English *traicle*.]
- tread, thred** *noun* a bed or ridge on which seeds are sown broadcast.
- treap** *see* threap.
- tree: plural treeses, Co. Donegal**
- tree** *see* three.
- **tree sparrow** a bird: the house sparrow.
- treech** *exclamation* a command to a cow to stand still.
[Scots *treesh* "a call to cattle, especially calves", probably onomatopoeic.]
- tremble, trimble, thrimble, trimmle, thrimmle** *verb* tremble.
- ◆ *noun* a tremble; a fit of trembling.
- **thrimbling, thrimblin** trembling, a fit of trembling.
- **trembling grass** the quaking grass *Briza media*.
[Scots form *trimmle*, rarely *trimble*.]
- tremenjous** *adjective* tremendous.
- ◆ *adverb* tremendously, very.
[Old form in Scots and English *tremenduous*, with *-uous* as in *conspicuous, etc.*]
- **side trench** a gutter beside a paved street.
- trencher** *noun* a game.
- trenle** *see* trundle.
- treun** *noun* a bird: the corncrake.

treuss *noun* a tuck in a garment.

[Scots *trouss* form of *truss*.]

trevally, travally, thravally, trevellye *noun* **1** a disturbance, an uproar.

2 an outburst of cursing or scolding. **3** a rumbling noise; the sound of an explosion. **4 fall a trevally** fall in a very conspicuous way. **5** a crowd, a large number.

[Scots *trevally, trevellye*; from obsolete Standard English *trevally, travally*, apparently an altered form of *reveille*.]

trevel *see* travel.

trevellye *see* trevally.

trews, throws *noun plural* trousers.

[Scots *trews*, from Scottish Gaelic *triubhas*. In an earlier pronunciation, English borrowed this from Irish *triubhas* (now spelled *triús*), giving archaic Standard English *trouse*, of which *trousers* is an extended form. *See also* troosers.]

tributes *noun plural* various small purchases.

trice *see* tryst.

trick: sarve someone out a thrick pay someone for having caused some injury.

- **take a trick out of** make temporary use of, borrow.
- **the whole trick** the whole lot, the whole family.
- **trick-o-the-loop** a trickster, a cheat [Hiberno-English "the game of fast and loose"].
- **tricky** mischievous, playful.

tricker *noun* a trigger.

[Older form (still Scots and Northern English); from Dutch *trekker*, altered in Standard English.]

trifle: trifle flirt with (someone).

trig¹ *noun* the starting line in a race; the mark from which to jump in a competition; *also* **break trig, come up to trig**

◆ *verb* **1** take your place at the starting line. **2 in jumping** spring from a mark.

[English dialectal; origin unknown, *cf.* Dutch *trekken* "to draw a line".]

trig², thrig *adjective* **1** neat, tidy, smart; in good order. **2** active, alert.

3 nimble; quick, clever. **4** precise, clear-cut.

◆ *verb* **1** make tidy. **2 trig away** tidy up. **3 trig yourself up** dress smartly.

- **trigged up** **1** trimmed up, settled. **2** dressed up.
- **well-trigged:**

[Scots and English dialectal, from Old Norse *tryggr* "faithful, trustworthy".]

trig³ *noun* a wedge.

◆ *verb* wedge (a wheel, door *etc.*).

triggs *noun plural* the traces of a plough-team.

trimble *see* tremble.

trimmin *noun* a thrashing, a beating.

trimminan *noun* a girl or woman who can hold her own in an argument.

trimmle *see* tremble.

trinch *verb* trench, dig (the ground) so as to turn up the subsoil.

[Obsolete Scots form. *See also* trinket.]

trindle *see* trundle.

trinket *noun* **1** a small artificial channel; a gutter. **2** the drainage channel in a byre.

- **have no trinket in your lip** be expressionless.
- **trinket peat** a peat dug from a trench.

[Hiberno-English, also Scots; from Northern French dialectal *trenque*, corresponding to obsolete Central French *trenche*, which gives *trench* (*see* trinch).]

trinkle *see* trundle.

trinkle *verb* trickle.

[Scots and English dialectal, extended form.]

trinnel *noun* a gutter.

trinnle, trintle *see* trundle.

trip: **there's a lot of tripping about the house** there are many jobs to be done in and around a house.

trip¹ *noun* sound; noise.

tripe *noun, in plural* tripe.

tripper *noun* **1** a plank with strips of wood nailed onto it to make a crude ladder; *also* **hens' tripper** a slatted ramp from the ground to the door of a hen-house. **2** something remarkably good or bad. [ILLUS: tripper]

trips: **be trips to someone** be just what someone likes, be delightful to someone.

trisle *see* thistle.

trist *see* tryst.

trittle *verb* toddle, walk with short steps *Co. Antrim*.

[Onomatopoeic.]

trochy *see* trough.

troddle-car *see* trottle-car.

trodge *verb* walk.

□ **trodger** a traveller on foot.

[Scots form of *trudge*.]

trog, throg *verb* **1** barter, exchange; bargain. **2** *of a man* consort (with women). **3** **trog in** deal in (any kind of goods). **4** steal, acquire fraudulently.

◆ *noun* **1** a situation where there is only slow and petty dealing in a market. **2** a beggar. **3** a gremlin, an imaginary person blamed for stealing biscuits, *etc.*

□ **trogger** **1** a situation where there is only slow and petty dealing in a market. **2** a thief; a fraudster.

[Scots form of *truck*.]

trog² *noun, abusive* a "dog", an ugly woman.

trogs, throgs *exclamation* a disguised oath: "troth"; *also* **upon my trogs, by my trogs**.

[Scots, *cf.* *fegs*².]

troh *see* trough.

trojan, Trojan *noun* **1** used as a type of an active, sturdy person; a big, strong worker. **2** *of a boy* a sturdy little fellow. **3** a big, overgrown person. **4** a big, rough person.

□ **have legs like a Trojan** *of an active, sturdy person*.

□ **work like a Trojan** *of an active, sturdy person*.

trokie *noun* a slovenly woman; *cf.* *traik*.

troll *noun* a big, awkward girl.

[Scots and English dialectal form of *trull*.]

troning *noun* playing truant.

trooh *see* trough.

troosers *noun plural* trousers.

[Scots form. *See also* *trews*.]

trossans, treeyons, tryheens *noun plural* footless socks.

trot: **at a scholars' trot** *e.g.* *She was hookit on his arm going along at a scholar's trot*. **1** skipping and hopping like a schoolchild. **2** at a slow pace because reluctant to reach your destination.

□ **have the trot on** *or* **under you, have the long trot under you** **1** be in a hurry. **2** go on an unnecessary journey out of restlessness.

troth, throth, also incorrectly trough, exclamation in truth, indeed; *also* **faith and troth, heth and troth, in troth, troth and soul**

[(*in*) *troth* archaic in Standard English]

trotter *noun, usually in plural* legs.

trottle-car, throttle-car, troddle-car, traddle-car *noun* **1** a cart-car (*see* *car*¹). *Illustration see* *car*¹. **2** a wheel car (*see* *car*¹). *Illustration see*

car¹. **3** a low vehicle for moving hay. *Illustration see bogie.*

[Scots *trottle, troddle*; also Cornwall *troddle*; forms of *toddle* influenced by trot.]

trouble *noun*, *in plural, usually the troubles* a period of civil unrest in (Northern) Ireland.

□ **it's too much trouble** said by a person who receives a gratuity for some small service; "it's too good of you", "you shouldn't have bothered".

□ **troublesome** requiring care and attention, without any negative implication.

trough *see* troth.

trough, troch, trowch, trow, troh, trooh *noun* **1** a trough. **2** *in plural trowse* a mill-race (a waterway supplying a mill-wheel). **3** *figuratively* a slattern, a dirty woman.

□ **trochy** untidy.

□ **two pigs don't fatten out of the wan trough**

[Scots form *troch*, Southern Scots *trowch*; Scots and English dialectal also *trow*, Southern English also *tro*, Southern English *troo*.]

trouncer *noun* a "smasher", an attractive girl.

trouse *verb* trounce, beat up.

trout, troot *noun* a fish: the trout.

□ **as healthy as a trout in the river**

□ **trout-height** a measure of height: as far as a trout can leap out of the water.

[Scots and Northern English form *troot*.]

trow *verb* believe [archaic in Standard English].

trow *see* trough.

trowch *see* trough.

trowl *verb* troll (fish for pike by drawing a line through the water).

[Scots and English dialectal form *trowl*.]

trowse *see* trough.

troy *noun* a trait, a characteristic.

[Irish *tréith*.]

truckle *noun* **1** a small farm-cart. **2** *usually old truckle* a dilapidated vehicle.

[Hiberno-English, the same word as Standard English *truckle* "a pulley wheel".]

true: as true as truth has been this long time

□ **true for you** agreeing with a previous speaker: quite true [translation of Irish *is fíor duit*].

□ **truth:**

truff *see* triumph¹.

truff *verb* steal, pilfer.

□ **he'd truff the eye from your head**

□ **truff-the-ducks** *nickname* a tramp, a beggar.

[Scots, the same word as obsolete Standard English *truff* "to deceive", from Old French *truffer* "to mock".]

truggy *exclamation* a call to calves; *cf.* proo.

trule *noun* a trowel.

[Scots form *truel*.]

trum *see* three.

trummicky *adjective* upside down, topsy turvy.

[*Cf.* Irish *tromach*.]

trump *noun* a musical instrument: a jew's harp.

trumph¹, **truff** *noun, in playing cards* a trump.

□ **have trumps for tricks for someone** give as good as you get.

□ **put someone to his truff** make someone look sharp to escape; "put someone to his trump card".

[Scots form *trumph*.]

trumph² *noun* stolen goods.

[Possibly a blend of *truff* and obsolete Standard English *trump* "to deceive" from French *tromper*.]

trumphery *noun* trumphery, worthless stuff.

[Scots form.]

trundle, trunnle, trindle, trinnle, trintle, trinkle, trenle *verb* **1** trundle, wheel. **2** roll (something) along; *specifically* roll (an Easter egg).

◆ *noun* **1** a wheel; *especially* the wheel of a barrow. **2** the axle of a wheelbarrow. **3** a trip in a vehicle.

[Scots and Northern English form *trunnle*; old forms *trindle* (still Scots and English dialectal), *trendle* (still Scots); Scots and English dialectal also *trinnle*; Scots also *trintle*.]

truss *see* trust.

truss¹ *noun, historical* a measure of hay or straw: (**a**) twelve score pounds (108.86 kilogrammes) of hay; (**b**) nine score pounds (81.65 kilogrammes) of straw.

trust, truss *noun, verb* trust.

□ **trust auction** *historical* a ruse for borrowing money: neighbouring farmers pretended to buy and sell each other's cattle. The "seller" received money from the auctioneer, who gave credit to the "buyer" at a high rate of interest. The "seller" and the "buyer" then split the borrowed money between them.

trustle *noun* a swing horse.

truth: truth bites sore the truth is often unpleasant.

try: not try a leg make no attempt at all, be lazy.

tryst, trist, trice *noun* **1** an appointment [also adopted in Standard English]. **2** a bargain, an arrangement.

◆ *verb* **1** *also* **tryst with someone** make an appointment to meet someone. **2** bespeak, order (clothing or footwear) in advance. **3** make an agreement or bargain. **4** *of a couple* get engaged.

□ **be trysted with someone** be appointed, engaged, to meet someone.

□ **keep tryst** keep an appointment to meet at a certain time and place.

□ **trysted** **1** *of clothes or shoes* made to order. **2** engaged to be married.

[Scots and Northern English *tryst*; from Old French *triste* and late Latin *trista* "a spot where hunters lay in wait for their quarry".]

tub *noun* a measure of coal: one sixteenth of a ton (63.504 kilogrammes).

tubbing *adverb* very, remarkably *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

tube *noun, abusive* a useless person.

□ **tubed** *of a piece of equipment etc.* worn out, finished.

tubog *noun* a covering of rushes.

tuck *see* take.

tuck *noun* a blow, a slap.

□ **tucker** a child's pinafore.

□ **tuck-in** a good feed.

[South-Western English, from Old Northern French *toker* "to strike".

See also tuck-mill.]

tuck¹: **tuck-stick** a sword-stick.

tuck-mill *noun* a fulling mill for finishing linen.

[Hiberno-English and West of England, probably from **tuck** + *mill*.]

tuffy *see* taffy.

tug *noun* **1** a strip of hide or eelskin connecting the swipple and the handstaff of a flail. *Illustration see* **soople**². **2** dried raw cow's hide. *See also* chug.

tug *see* tig.

tukey *see* chuck.

tul *see* tell.

tullicing *noun* loud but insincere crying, blubbering *Co. Antrim*.

[Origin unknown.]

tully¹ *noun* a hillock; *also common in place-names*.

[Irish *tulaigh*, dative form used in place of the nominative singular *tulach*.]

tully² *noun* a term used in counting fish: forty.

[A form of *tally*.]

tully³: **tully-eye** a squinting eye.

□ **tully-eyed, tally-eyed** squinting, cross-eyed.

tumble, tumble *verb* tumble.

□ **the aisiest way of tumbling is the best, as the showman said**

□ **tumblejack, tumbling Jack, tumbling Paddy** a type of horse-drawn rake for turning hay; *see also* Paddy. [ILLUS: tumblejk]

□ **tumbler, tummler 1** a tumbler, a type of drinking glass. **2** the harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*.

□ **tumilty**:

□ **tumilty-led, heels over head** describing a somersault.

□ **tummler carlie** go head over heels; *see* carl.

[Scots and Northern English, also Devon, form *tummler*; from Middle Low German *tummeln*. The *b* in Standard English *tumble* is intrusive.]

tummock, tammock *noun* **1** a little knoll in a bog or in damp grazing land. **2** a bundle of three sheaves set on top of a haycock.

□ **tummocky** *of a meadow* having tussocks of grass.

[Scots; either from Scottish Gaelic *tom* "a knoll" + Scots diminutive ending *-ock*, or from Scottish Gaelic **tomag*.]

tun: **tun-dish** a funnel for pouring liquid [originally a shallow vessel with a tube fitting into the bung-hole of a tun or cask, used in brewing].

tune: **I sent for tunes and they brought me drones** I was not given the real thing.

□ **the tune the old cow died of, is that the tune the owl' cow died of?**

□ **you were a good size before tunes came into the fashion** applied to someone who sings badly.

tunnog *noun* a two-handed cane basket for carrying peat or potatoes.

tunshie *see* turmit.

tup, tip *noun* a ram.

◆ *verb, of a ewe* take the ram.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown. *Tup* also adopted in Standard English as a technical term.]

tur *see* turr.

turas, turris, thuras, torus, tooras, toorish, teeras, taros, tharis *noun*

1 a tour, a journey. **2** *usually* a pilgrimage to a holy well.

□ **teeras well, thuras well, tooras well** a well-known holy well ascribed to St. Colmcille.

□ **turas day** St Colmcille's Day: June 9th.

□ **turas Thursday** the Thursday before Easter.

[Irish *turas*.]

turd, tord

□ **he or she wouldn't give his or her tord till a dog**

turf, torf, tour; *plural* **turf**; *noun* **1** a turf: (a) a green sod; (b) *also* **turf**

clod, turf sod a turf, a peat, a piece of peat for fuel. **2** turf, peat.

Illustration see peat.

□ **about as high as two turf and a clod**

□ **burn your turf and not warm yourself** make a bad marriage.

□ **he couldn't hit a turf-stack flying** said of a bad shot.

□ **no' the size o' two turfs**

□ **turf bank, turf bink, also turf-sod-bank** a bank from which peat is cut; *see* bink. *Illustration see* peat.

□ **turf bog** a peat-bog.

□ **turf briquette** a briquette of compressed peat.

□ **turf-cart** a cart for conveying peat.

□ **turf clamp** a peat stack; a small stack of turf.

□ **turf cutter** a person who cuts peat.

- **turfing out** *of a housewife* going out for the day, leaving the household duties undone.
- **turf-mould** leftover dust and fragments of peat.
- **turf reek** the smoke from burning peat.
- **turf spade** a spade for cutting peat.
- **turf stack** a small stack of dried peat.
- **turf water** peaty water.
- **turn turf** soft, light peat cut from the surface of a bog.
[Lancashire form *torf*, Scots form *tour*. See also *tirl*?.]

Turk *noun* a savage animal or person.

- **turn Turk, turn Turk to someone** grow savage or cross with someone.

turkin *noun* a piece of oatcake.

turl *see* *tirl*¹.

turment *noun* a torment.

[Lincolnshire form; Middle English *turment* from Old Northern French *turment*, corresponding to Central French *torment*, which gives *torment*.]

turmit, tormit, tunshie *noun* **1** a turnip. **2** a "turnip", a large old-fashioned watch.

- **turmit-head** a stupid person.

[Scots and English dialectal *turmit*, Northern English also *tormit*, Scots jocular form *tumshie*.]

turn *noun* **1** a sudden attack of illness; a fit of faintness. **2** a piece of work; *specifically* (a) **odd turns** odd jobs; (b) **turns of the house** housework, routine tasks in the home; (c) the least possible piece of work, *usually* a **hand's turn** **3** **turn of turf** a load of turf.

- ◆ *verb* **turn a tune** render a tune, *frequently* **he or she can't turn a tune** he or she has no ear for music.

- **get the turn, take the turn** pass the crisis point of illness and begin to recover.
- **have a good turn of mind** be capable, sensible.
- **he or she wouldn't turn for ye** describing a person who is indolent and indifferent.
- **it'll turn ti' a pig's fut** an unsympathetic reply to someone who complains of their wounds.
- **not turn a wheel** not do a stroke of work.
- **on the turn** *of daylight hours* beginning to lengthen.
- **take a turn again something** take a dislike to something; *see* **again**.
- **the turn of the sun** **1** about three or four o'clock on a summer afternoon. **2** twenty-four hours *e.g.* *He has only four hours sleep in the turn of the sun.*
- **turn an arch** form or build an arch.
- **turn cheeses** *of girls* make cheeses (*i.e.* spin round and drop suddenly to the ground, so that a full skirt will settle in a balloon or "cheese").
- **turned East and West** *of the feet* out-turned.
- **turn-footin** *noun* a small stack of cut peat.
- ◆ *verb* the act of setting up peats into castles. *See* **foot**.
- **turn-hole** a deep, dangerous hole in a river-bed, hollowed out by an eddy.
- **turn in the eye** a squint.
- **turn in useful** come in useful.
- **Turn-out** the Rebellion of 1798.
- **turns about** turnabout, alternately.
- **turn someone in the brain** drive someone insane.
- **turn someone's blood** alarm someone.
- **turnspit-Jack** a game at a dance: young men compete for their partners in the next dance by singing.
- **turn-table** a water channel at the side of a road.
- **turn-tail** a coward.
- **turn the word on or with someone** answer back.

- **turn trencher**
- **turn-up 1** a debate, an argument. **2** a fight between two people; *especially* a boxing match.
- **turn up your forked end** turn head over heels.
- **turn your cup** turn your cup upside down to show that you have finished.
- **turn your tongue** answer back when told off.
- **you're a good turn** expressing disbelief.
- turney** *noun* an attorney.
[English dialectal form.]
- turr, tur, tyurr, exclamation, also turry, torry, toorie 1** frequently **turr-turr, toura-tourie, turrie-tur, etc.** a call to pigs; a call used in driving pigs. **2** also **turrie** a pig.
[South-Western English *turr*, onomatopoeic.]
- turris** *see* turas.
- tush** *Co. Antrim, noun* a suck *e.g. I'll gie the ba a tush o the bottle.*
□ **tush-bottle** a baby's bottle.
[*Cf.* English dialectal *tush* form of **tusk**, in the childish sense "a tooth"; *cf.* also English dialectal *tush* "to drag" (origin unknown).]
- tusk: tusk** *of a person* toothy, having prominent teeth.
- tussock** *noun* a tuft of rushes or grass forming a small mound in a bog.
□ **tussocky** abounding in tussocks.
- tuthorer** *noun* an instiller of depraved morals.
- tutor:**
- tuts** *exclamation* tut-tut.
[Scots form.]
- tut-tut** *exclamation* a call to pigs.
- tuy** *noun* a potato stalk *Co. Antrim; cf. teou.*
- twa, twaa** *see* two.
- twainty** *see* twenty.
- twal, twalmonth, twalt, twalth** *see* twelve.
- twamle** *see* dwam.
- twang** *noun* a leather loop at the back of a boot for picking it up by.
[Scots *thwang* form of *thong* (see **whang**¹).]
- twang**¹ *noun* a bad taste in food.
- twangle** *noun* a tall, thin person *Co. Armagh; cf. twang.*
□ **twangley:** *of an osier sett.*
- twanty** *see* twenty.
- twarter** *see* thwarter.
- twat** *noun 1* *Pudendum muliebre.* **2** *contemptuous* a useless woman.
- twaw** *see* two.
- twoe: put the twee on the English** speak English with a polished accent.
- tweel** *Co. Donegal, verb 1* twirl. **2** **tweel on** wind on. **3** *knitting* turn (the heel of a sock).
□ **put a good tweel on something** put a good finish on something, complete something well.
[*Cf.* Scots *tweel* form of *twill*.]
- 'tween** *preposition* between.
□ **'tween whiles** between times.
- tweet** *exclamation* a call to ducks.
- twelve, twal; rarely kwal; numeral; twelve.**
□ **twalmonth, plural twelvemonthses**, a twelvemonth, a year.
□ **twelfth, twalt, twalth; rarely kwalt, kwalth 1** twelfth. **2 the Twelfth** *Protestant* the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne: July 12th; the celebrations held on that day.
[Scots form *twal*.]
- twenty, twinty, twunty, twonty, twanty, twainty** *numeral* twenty.
□ **twenty legs** a centipede [the species commonly found in Ireland, *Lithobius forficatus* and *Lithobius variegatus*, actually have thirty legs; *cf.*

forty]. *Illustration see da.*

[Hiberno-English, also Scots, form *twinty*; Scots also *twanty*, *twunty*, *twonty*.]

twice, twict, twicet *adverb* twice.

□ **twice-footin** turn-footin, the action of setting up peats into castles.
[General dialectal and Scots form *twict*, *twicet*.]

twig *noun* **1** a divining rod for finding water. **2** a broom made of twigs; *generally* a sweeping-brush.

◆ *verb* use a **twig**, sweep.

□ **new twigs sweep clean**

□ **twigging** a sweeping.

twig¹ *verb* comprehend, understand.

twilley *verb* subject (someone) to a torrent of verbal abuse.

◆ *noun* a loud argument.

[Scots *tulyie*, *tweelie*, *twellie* "a quarrel; to quarrel; rarely, to scold" from Old French *touillier* "to stir up; to strive" (hence English *toil*).]

twin, twine *verb* part *e.g.* *The lowlands of Holland have twined my true love from me (Old Scotch Ballad).*

twine: **in bad twine** in bad **twist**, in bad spirits.

twink *noun* a bird: the chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. *Illustration see chaff.*

[West of England; onomatopoeic, *see also spink²*.]

twinty *see* twenty.

twist, quist, twust *noun* **1** in good, bad, *etc.* **twist**, in a bad **twist** in good, bad, *etc.* spirits. **2** a quarrel, a disagreement.

◆ *verb* **1** twist. **2** act in a contrary or awkward way.

□ **a twist in the guts** stomach ache.

□ **a twist to someone's tongue** describing a sharp, cruel tongue belonging to someone.

□ **twist and twine** whine, be peevish and out of temper.

□ **twister**, *also hay-twister, straw-twister* an implement used for making hay or straw ropes. *Illustration see garhook.*

□ **twister** a difficult or annoying type.

□ **twist-rope** a straw rope. *Illustration see garhook.*

□ **twisty of a child** fidgety; cross, peevish.

[Scots form *twust*. *Quist* also found in Cheshire.]

twit *verb* tease (someone).

twitch *noun* couch-grass.

twitter *noun* **1** a thin place in unevenly-spun thread. **2** *figuratively* something very slender, small or feeble.

□ **twittery of crops** having weak, slender stalks.

[Scots and Northern English, origin unknown.]

twitter¹: **in the twitterin' of a sheep's tail, in the twitterin' of a bed-post** very quickly.

twix *preposition* 'twixt, betwixt.

□ **twixt and between** neither one thing nor the other, mongrel.

[English dialectal, shortened form.]

twizzle *verb* twist.

two; tow [rhymes with "now"]; **twa, twaa, twaw** *numeral* **1** two. **2** at variance, disunited *e.g.* *They are two.*

□ **have two words about something** discuss something briefly.

□ **just the oul' two and sixpence** just the same: an answer to an inquiry after someone's health [*i.e.* two shillings and sixpence in old money].

□ **not worth tuppence, not worth tuppence in bad ha'pence** taken weak or very nervous, useless.

□ **no two ways about something** no doubt about something.

□ **the two ends of nothing** **1** very little. **2** *of a person* short, not tall.

3 mean, miserly.

□ **tuppence**: **tuppenny**:

□ **twa-faced** two-faced.

- **twa or three prices and frae that doon** extraordinarily dear; two or three times the right value.
- **twa-three** two or three, a few.
- **two-double**, *also bent two-double* bent double, bowed with age or pain.
- **two-end briar** a bramble which shoots at the tips of the branches.
- **two-eyed (beef)steak** a herring.
- **two faces under one hood** a wild flower: the forget-me-not *Myosotis palustris*.
- **two-hand boy** a capable fellow.
- **two-handed** capable, handy.
- **two-in-one** the intermediate hay-heap.
- **two-milk whey** a drink made by mixing roughly equal amounts of warmed milk and buttermilk, and straining.
- **twopenny ticket** *historical* a copper token used as unofficial currency; *hence not worth a twopenny ticket* worthless.
- **two steps of a lame louse** a moment.
- **two-storied** *of a house* double.
- **two's up on ye** a request for a smoke of a cigarette.
[West Midland form *tow*; Scots forms *twa*, *twaa*, *twaw*.]
- twenty** *see* twenty.
- twun** *noun, verb* twin.
[Scots form.]
- twunty** *see* twenty.
- twussle** *noun* a tussle.
- twust** *see* twist.
- tyaddle** *see* tiadle.
- tyam** *see* tam.
- tyarr, tyar** *exclamation* a command to a sheep to turn back; *cf.* turr.
- tyke** *noun, derogatory* a rough, ill-mannered fellow.
[Mainly Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *tīk* "a female dog, a bitch". *See also* tike.]
- tyough** *see* teugh.
- Tyrone: sweet Tyrone among the bushes**
- tyurr** *see* turr.
- uch** *see* och.
- uchanee** *see* ochanee.
- ug** *exclamation* ugh!
[Possibly influenced by Scots and Northern English *ug* "to feel disgust" (from Old Norse *ugga* "to dread").]
- ugly** *adjective* awkward, inconvenient *e.g.* *It's an ugly country for a motor.*
- uillean pipes** *noun plural* a type of bagpipes.
[Irish *pīb uilleann* literally "bagpipes of the elbows", so-called because the bellows is worked with one elbow, and the other controls the bag.]
[ILLUS: uillean]
- ulaloo** *exclamation* a cry of lamentation.
- 'ull** *see* will.
- ulster** *noun* an open sore.
- Ulsther** *proper noun* Ulster.
- um** *see* be.
- umbrell, umberella, rumberella** *noun, also umberstick* an umbrella.
[Scots forms *umbrell*, *umberella*. *See also* numbrell.]
- un** *see* one.
- unacquaint** *adjective unacquaint with* unacquainted with, not familiar with.
[Scots form.]
- unacustomed** *adjective, of goods* uncustomed.
- unafear'd** *adjective* unafraid [archaic in Standard English].
- unaise** *noun* **1** unease, uneasiness. **2** a state of unease *e.g.* *They got into an*

unaise when they heard about it.

- **Am sure you're unazy** you're not worried at all.
- **unaisement** unease, uneasiness.
- **unaisy, onaisy** uneasy.

[*On-* is an old form of *un-*. For *-aise*, see **ease**.]

unanimous *noun* the spindle tree, *Euonymous*.

unatable *adjective* uneatable, inedible; *see eat*.

- **what's totally unatable gie tae the poor** giving what is no use.

unbatable *adjective* unbeatable; *see beat*¹.

unbecoming *adjective* disgraceful.

unbeknown *adjective* unknown to.

unbethink *verb* **unbethink you** think (that something is) not (the case)

e.g. They unbethought them they'd ever see Belfast.

[Obsolete Standard English "to bethink (yourself); to call to mind" (alteration of *umbethink*, obsolete prefix *umbe-* "around" + *think*), influenced in sense by confusion with the negative prefix *un-*.]

unbiddable *adjective* obstinate.

[Scots and Northern English, *un-* + **biddable**.]

unca *see unco*.

uncanny *adjective* unearthly.

[Scots and Northern English, *un-* + **canny**; also adopted in Standard English.]

unchancy *adjective* unlucky.

[Scots and Northern English, *un-* + *chancy* in the Scots sense "lucky"; *cf.* **chance**.]

uncle *noun, euphemism* a pawnbroker *e.g. I must pay a visit to my uncle's*.

unco, unca, unka, unkie *adjective* **1** strange, unfamiliar. **2** strange, unearthly. **3** odd, uncouth. **4** unusually great, excessive *e.g. an unco hurry*.

◆ *adverb* very, extremely.

◆ *noun* a stranger.

□ **a kent deil is better than an unca one** "better the devil you know".

□ **unco guid** *ironic* a name for those who are unwholesomely and ostentatiously pious [from the title of Robert Burns's *Address to the Unco Guid*]; *see good*.

□ **unco-like** strange-looking.

[Scots and Northern English *unco*; Scots also *unca, unka, unkie*; shortened form of *uncouth*.]

uncomfortable: *comparative more uncomfortable*

[general dialectal and Scots]

unconvenient, onconvenient, onconvainient *adjective* inconvenient.

[*Unconvenient* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal); for the forms with *on-*, *see unaise*.]

undecent, ondacent, ondaicent *adjective* indecent.

[*Undecent* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal). For the form *ondacent*, *see decent, unaise*.]

undeniable *adjective* unmistakable, absolute.

under, unner, onder, ondher *preposition, adverb* under.

□ **dig under foot** *in an upland bog* dig peat from the top of the bank rather than the face.

□ **not have a leg to put under you** be exhausted, tired; be tired out.

□ **onther-shirt** an undershirt, a man's vest.

□ **put a horse under the cart** harness a horse to a cart.

□ **take someone under your notice** condescend to notice someone.

□ **under cover** hiding from the officers of the law.

□ **under-foot salve** dung applied as a poultice to horses or other animals.

□ **underhinch**: *e.g. the horse was unable to rise and its underhinch was cut*.

□ **under the light of the living sun, under the shinin sun** introducing a question: on earth *e.g. Under God, what's this? What on earth is this?*

- **under the roof** under the same roof, in the same house **with**; be in the same house.
- **under the roof** next door (when houses are contiguous to each other).
- **under the weather** **1** in poor circumstances. **2** the worse for drink.
- **under-thumb** *adjective* underhand.
- ◆ *adverb* in an underhand way.
[Scots form *unner*; Northern English, also Shetland, form *under*; Hiberno-English *ondher*. See also *anunder*.]
- underconstumble**, **underconstummle**, **undercomstumble**, **underconstubble**, **undercumstand** *verb, jocular* understand; comprehend.
[English dialectal *underconstumble*, *undercomstumble*; Northern English also *undercumstand*; extended forms. See *stummle*.]
- undone** *adjective* distressed, upset, at a loss.
- unevenny** *superlative* **unevenniest**, *adjective* uneven *e.g.* *That's the unevenniest job in the whole garden.*
- unfeasible** *adjective*: *e.g.* *Just wan o' the big, saft, unfeasible lies them English likes.*
- unfeelsome** *adjective* unpleasant, disagreeable.
[Formed on Scots *unfeel* (*un-* + Scots *feel* "cosy; pleasant to the touch", from Old English *f^ole* "faithful, dear") + *-sum*.]
- unfordersome** *adjective* **1** of a horse unmanageable. **2** unfortunate.
[Scots, see further.]
- union** *noun* a group of farmers engaged in communal work.
- united**:
- unka** *see* unco.
- unkent** *adjective* unknown.
[Scots, see *ken*.]
- unkie** *see* unco.
- unkine** *adjective* unkind; *see* kind.
- unknowance** *see* unknownst.
- unknown** *adjective* untold *e.g.* *It's unknown the mischief them pigeons did in the peas.*
- unknownst**, **unknowns**, **unknowance**, **aknownst**, **anoanst**, **anont** *adjective* **unknownst to** unknown to.
◆ *adjective* **1** unbeknownst *e.g.* *He did it aknownst to me.* **2** without (someone's knowledge) *e.g.* *He did it anoanst my knowledge.*
[Hiberno-English, Isle of Man and Shropshire *unknownst*; *aknownst* also found in Argyllshire; from *unknown* + *-st*.]
- unless** *preposition* except *e.g.* *Unless a few, all of them was there.*
- unmerciful** *adjective* merciless.
- unner** *see* under.
- unpacked** *adjective* not taken out of a parcel, packed.
- impossible**, **onpossible** *adjective* impossible.
[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal). For the form *onpossible*, see *unaise*.]
- improper** *adjective* improper [now rare in Standard English].
- irregular** *adjective* irregular.
[English dialectal, also Shetland and Caithness.]
- unremarkable** *adjective* unobservant.
- unrid** *verb* **unrid (someone) of (something)** rid (someone) of (something).
[Northern English, *un-* reinforcing the already negative sense of *rid*.]
- unrip** *verb* rip, rip up [rare in Standard English].
- unruleful**, **onrulf** *adjective* unruly.
[Obsolete Scots *unruleful*, from *un-* + *rule* + *-ful*. For the form *onrulf*, see *unaise*.]
- unscathed** *adjective* uninjured.
- unsignified**, **onsignified** *adjective* insignificant; small; unimportant; *to a person, abusive*

[For the form *onsignified*, see *unaise*.]

unsneck *verb* unlatch (a door).

[Scots and Northern English, also adopted in Standard English. See *sneck*.]

unsonsy, onsonsy *adjective* **1** unlucky, unfortunate. **2** ominous.

3 causing ill-luck.

[Scots and Northern English *unsonsy*, see *sonsy*. For the form *onsonsy*, see *unaise*.]

untholable *adjective* intolerable, more than a person can endure.

[Scots, *un-* + *thole* + *-able*.]

untimous *adjective* untimely, at an unseasonable time.

[Scots, *un-* + *timeous* (see *time*).]

unusage *adjective* unaccustomed.

unweel *adjective* unwell.

[Scots, *un-* + Scots *weel* (see *well*²).]

unwholesome *adjective* bad *e.g.* *unwholesome weather*.

unwilling: *superlative* **unwillinest**.

unwrangle *verb* disentangle; see *wrangle*.

up *adverb* **1** of direction, *e.g.* *up to Enniskillen (from Belfast)*. [The criteria for deciding whether a place is up or down from another place are complex, involving both physical geography (inland being "up") and what is perceived as the major urban centre ("up" being towards it). There may also be influence from Irish *suas* "up" which also has the sense "to the south".]; see also *down*. **2** with the omission of a verb of motion *e.g.* *He up an run*. **3** in a one-storey house to the inner room, *ben*. **4 up for** "game for", ready for.

□ **all up** all over, finished.

□ **at the uptake** of a dense person *e.g.* *slow or thick at the uptake*; of a quick, sharp person *e.g.* *quick or swift at the uptake*.

□ **go up** go to the inner room.

□ **up-aboon** up above.

□ **up again** up against, near or adjacent to.

□ **up a tree in Rosemount** missing but not missed; whereabouts unknown, absence unlamented.

□ **up-by, up-bye** **1** up yonder, up the road, *etc.* **2** upstairs.

□ **upcast** *verb* cast up, "rake up", remind a person of (past faults).

◆ *noun* a reproach; something "cast up" at you.

□ **upcome** outcome, upshot.

□ **up-country, up the country** *adjective* **1** up-country, rural. **2** from the south *e.g.* *up-the-country people*.

◆ *noun* **1** a district lying to the south. **2** *specifically* the Republic of Ireland. **3** any part of Ireland except the North-East of Ulster.

□ **up-end** turn upside-down.

□ **up fornenst** just in front of.

□ **up-growing** growing up.

□ **uphold** **1** support, maintain, provide for; *hence* **uphaudden to** under an obligation to. **2** defend (a position), maintain (a position) in an argument. See *hold*.

□ **upkeeping** upkeep, financial support.

□ **upland, upperland** the hilly part of a farm.

□ **upland hay** hay made from rough grass on high or sloping land.

□ **uplift** cheer, raise (someone's) spirits.

□ **uplifted** **1** elated, greatly pleased. **2** filled with pride, vain.

□ **uppie** a self-important person.

□ **uppish** ambitious.

□ **uppy** uppish; self-satisfied.

□ **upset, upset price** at *auktion* the reserve price, the lowest price acceptable to the seller.

□ **upsetment** *emphatic* an upset.

- **upsetting, upsettin**; *comparative* **upsettiner**; *superlative* **upsettinest**; "jumped-up"; forward, ambitious; arrogant, proud, "stuck up"; self-important.
- **upsides**:
- **upsides with, be upsides with** be equal to, be a match for *e.g. You couldn't upsides with them.*
- **uptake, uptak** *noun* **1** the act of grasping ideas, *mainly in the phrase good, quick, slow, poor, etc. at or in the uptake
[also adopted in Standard English] **2 go wrong in the uptake** misunderstand a person's meaning.*
- ◆ *verb* understand a person in conversation *e.g. I didn't uptake Mrs Smith.* See **take**; see also **misuptuk**.
- **up the bake** *of a blow* on the mouth; see **beak**.
- **up the house** further into the house, away from the door.
- **up to, up with 1** equal to. **2** even with.
- **up top** at the top.
- upanint**: *e.g. The first aise he got was when I upaninted him on his groof across my knee and rubbed his back.*
- upon** *preposition* **1** *in cookery or in serving whiskey with*, in *e.g. Boil the praties upon salt water* [*cf. the usage of Irish ar "on"*]. **2** just (coming, *etc.*).
- uppers**: **be on your uppers** have the soles worn off your boots.
- **one good pair of soles is better nor two good pairs of uppers** the upper leathers of a pair of boots are useless without the soles.
- **they make good sole-leather, but bad upper men** meaning that if you elevate people, they will not do as well.
- uproar** *noun* a state of confusion and disorder.
- urchin, orchin, hurchin, horchin** *noun* **1** an urchin, a mischievous youngster. **2** a very small person. **3** a hedgehog. **4** *abusive* an unpleasant person. [ILLUS: urchin]
[Scots and Northern English *hurchin*, Northern English also *orchin*; from Old Northern French *herichon*.]
- us, hus, huz, iz, his, hiz** *pronoun* **1** us. **2** me.
- **eens and yins** *literally* (us) ones and (you) ones: us and you.
- **us ones, his ones, etc.** us *e.g. thon ones and his ones.*
[Scots and Northern English form *hus, huz*; Scots also *iz, hiz*. The forms with *h* are strengthened forms.]
- use** *verb* **1 use (someone) to or with (something)** accustom (someone) to (something), familiarise (someone) with (something). **2 in passive (a) be used to** be accustomed to (something); **(b) used with** accustomed to.
- ◆ *auxiliary verb, past only, negative, usen't to* *e.g. Usen't you to live in Omagh?*
- **get used to something** become accustomed to something.
- **used to could** used to be able to.
- **used to was** used to be.
- **used to would** used to.
- usquebaugh** *noun* whiskey.
[Irish *uisce beatha* literally "water of life". Whiskey is a shortened form of *whiskybae* from the corresponding Scottish Gaelic *uisge beatha*.]
- usuals** *noun plural* the usual state of the health *e.g. They are in their usuals.*
- utility: utility man**: *e.g. Wanted: utility man for a picture house.*
- utorious** *adjective* notorious *Co. Donegal*.
- uv** see **of**.
- uxter** see **oxter**.
- vaamie** *adjective* poorly.
- vag** see **vaig**.
- vagabone** *noun* a vagabond.
[Hiberno-English, also Scots and English dialectal, form. *Cf. vaig*.]

vage *noun* a journey, *usually* a journey by land.

[Scots and English dialectal; from Anglo-Norman *veage*, corresponding to later Central French *voiage*, which gives *voyage*.]

vaig, vag, veg *verb* wander.

◆ *noun* a vagabond; a vagrant.

□ **vaigish** *adjective* vagrant *e.g.* a *vaigish-looking* person.

[Scots, from Latin *vagāri*. The noun may, however, be a shortened form of Scots *vaigabon*, *vegabon* or *vagabone*.]

valaira, villera, falaira, fillara, bolaira, bolara, malaira *noun* a wild flower: common valerian *Valeriana officinalis*.

[*Valairie* also found in Argyll. The forms with *b* and *m* have been influenced by Irish pronunciation.]

valance: **valance-stick** a rod used to keep a bed-valance in place.

vale *noun* veal.

□ **he must be fond of vale that wud kiss a cow, he be to be fond of vale that wud kiss a cow**

[Older form in Scots and English.]

valentine *noun*: The old custom of sending these, as much in vogue in Donegal as elsewhere, is now nearly extinct... In the old custom of drawing a Valentine by lot (referred to in Pepys at each succeeding Feb.), giving her a present and entertaining her for the day, there was much to be approved of. The memory of this lives in Donegal (in following rime): - February the thirteenth night I drew my love, my heart's delight. The lots were cast and one I drew, Fortune smiled, love, it was you

vallen *noun* a valance.

[Mistaken singular form, as if *valance* was a plural.]

vallens *noun*, *literally* vallenciennes: any kind of lace.

vallie, valyie, velue, velye *verb* value.

[English dialectal form *vallie*, Scots form *valyie*.]

vamp¹ *verb* **1** boast, brag. **2** scold in an irritating way.

[Northern English "to boast", origin unknown.]

vamp²: **vamp up** retch, make as if to vomit.

vamp³: **vamp up** "trump up", fabricate a false charge.

vampish *verb* **1** brandish a weapon threateningly. **2** act in a threatening way.

[Alteration of *wampish*.]

vane *exclamation*, *ploughing* a call to a horse to keep a straight line.

[Scots "a call to a horse to turn to the left or nearside", origin unknown.]

vannal *noun* a vandal *Belfast*.

vannel *see* vennel.

vanquish *verb* vanish *Co. Armagh*.

[Influenced by English *vanquish*.]

varge *noun* a verge.

[Old form (not in Scots).]

variance: **be at varyance** be fighting, disputing.

□ **raise variance** make variance, cause arguments.

varieties *noun plural* variegated flowers or foliage.

varlet *noun*, *abusive* applied to a woman [in Standard English applied only to males].

varmin *see* vermint.

vartey, vartue *see* vertue.

vary, verra *adverb* very.

[Old form (not in Scots) *varry*, Scots form *verra*.]

vast *adverb* vastly, extremely, very much.

◆ *noun* a vast amount *e.g.* a *vast of money*.

□ **be vast against someone** be very much opposed to someone.

vaunt: **vauntie** boastful.

vaut *noun* a vault.

[Old form (still Scots).]

veg *see* vaig.

veil: **veil on the moon** a halo or mist over the moon, a sign of bad weather.

vein: **in veins of rain** in streams, as if following a definite course.

□ **with all the veins of my heart** "from the bottom of my heart".

velue *see* vallie.

velvet: **velvet-mouth** describing a deceitful, smooth-spoken person.

velye *see* vallie.

venison *adjective* Venetian. *thus* **venison bline man**

Venna *adjective* Vienna. *thus* **Venna role**

vennel, vannel *noun* **1** an alley between buildings. **2** *also* **water vennel** a roadside drain, a gutter.

□ **water-vennel** a water channel.

[Scots and Northern English *vennel*, from Old French *venelle* "a small street".]

vent *noun* a remnant of cloth.

[Northern English, also Orkney and Shetland, *fent*; from Old French *fente* "an opening or slit in a garment" (Standard English has altered this word to *vent*), from the practice of sewing a small triangular piece of cloth at the top of such a slit to prevent tearing.]

venture, ventur, venter, venther *noun* a venture.

◆ *verb* venture.

□ **venturesome** adventurous.

[Old form (still Scots) *venter*.]

vermint, varmin *noun* vermin; used abusively of an adult, or jocularly of a mischievous child.

[Old form (not in Scots) *varmin*, English dialectal *varmint*, Gloucestershire also *vermint*.]

verra *see* vary.

vertue, vartue, vartey *noun* **1** a supernatural quality. **2** strength, power.

[Older form (still Scots) *vertue*, old form also (not in Scots) *vartue*, Northern English also *vartey* of *virtue*.]

vessel, veshel *noun* **1** the udder of a cow. **2** *in plural* dishes, crockery.

[Scots form *veshel*.]

vessel¹ *noun* a small sheet (of writing paper).

vest *noun* a waistcoat.

vestible *noun* a vestibule.

[Old form.]

vex *verb, usually in passive* **be vexed** be upset.

vilet *noun* a flower: the violet.

villian *noun, especially emphatic* a villain.

[Old form with three syllables.]

vindicative *adjective* vindictive.

[Obsolete in Standard English, from Old French *vindicatif* and Medieval Latin *vindicātivus*. Standard English *vindictive* is from the related Latin *vindicta* "vengeance" + *ive*.]

vine *adjective* vain *Belfast*.

vir *noun* force, vigour.

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

vision *noun* a thin, emaciated child.

vissard *noun* a mask, a false face.

vit *noun* a vet.

◆ *verb* give an animal a veterinary examination.

viterol *noun* vitriol.

vivid *adjective* livid, very angry.

vizy *noun* part of a gun: the sight; *also* **vizy-peg**

□ **take a vizy** take aim.

[Scots; from Old Northern French *viseer* "to visit", via the Older Scots sense "to go to see, to view".]

vo *exclamation* expressing sorrow, wonder, surprise, *etc.*

[Irish *abhó, obhó.*]

vocation *noun* a vacation.

vogue: **in great, etc. vogue with** very pleased with.

voice: **a voice like a cock-grouse, a voice like a rasp**

□ **a voice like a fiddle string, a voice as if he had velvet tonsils** a soft voice.

□ **a voice that wud riz the dead** a very loud voice.

□ **voider** an implement for scutching flax.

vokeen *see* voteen.

vor *conjunction* for.

voteen, votcheen, vokeen, votyeen *noun* **1** a devout, pious person.

2 derogatory a religious fanatic.

[Hiberno-English; probably from *devotee*, influenced by Irish *vóitín.*]

voyage: **long-voyaged** *of a person* well-travelled.

See also vage.

vrack, vreck *see* wrack¹.

vunyeen for the curiosity of, for the fun of.

wa' *see* wall.

waad *see* wade.

waad *noun* a muddle, *thus get intae a waad*

[Origin unknown.]

waadin *see* wad.

waal *see* wale, well¹.

waalcove *noun* an alcove.

waamish, waumish *adjective* nauseous, beginning to feel sick.

[Angus *waamish*, possibly related to *wammle.*]

waant *see* want.

waap *see* wap.

waarm *adjective, verb* warm.

[Scots, also Hiberno-English, form.]

waarrant *see* warrant.

waarsh *see* wersh.

waash *see* wash.

waat *see* wet.

waatch *verb* watch.

[Scots, Northern and Western English, also Hiberno-English, form.]

wab *see* web.

wabble, wabbly *see* wobble.

wabster *see* web.

wachlin *noun* laboured walking.

[Scots *wachle* "to walk laboriously; to waddle", probably from Middle

Dutch *waghelen* "to wobble; to totter". *See also* wahil.]

wad *see* wed¹.

wad *see* would.

wad *noun* a bundle of hay.

□ **waadin** wadding, cotton wool.

[Scots, also Hiberno-English, form *waad.*]

waddin, waddiner *see* wed¹.

wade, waad *verb* **1** wade. **2** *of the moon or sun* gleam intermittently through clouds or mist.

□ **lik a kraa waadin in mäst**

[Western Scots, also Orkney, form *waad.*]

wadge *noun* a wedge.

□ **wedge head** the whooper swan.

[Scots, also Midland English, form.]

wadna *see* would.

wae *see* with.

wae *noun* woe.

□ **waefu'** woeful; *see* full.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

waff *verb* flutter, flap.

◆ *noun*, also **waft** **1** a fluttering, a flapping. **2** a wave; *specifically* a wave of the hand. **3** a light blow. **4** a waft of air; a puff, a gust (of wind). **5** a hasty motion. **6** a smoke, a puff at a pipe. **7** an idea, an inkling. **8** a rumour. **9** a **waff of cold** an illness: a sudden chill.

□ **the waff of her tail is like another body's day's work** said of a bustling woman who professes to do a great deal but does little.

[Scots and Northern English *waff*, altered form of *wave*. The noun form *waft* is an alteration of this (as is the Standard English noun *waft*), probably influenced by the unrelated verb *waft* "to convey over water".]

waft *see* waff.

waft *noun*, *in weaving* the weft.

[Scots form.]

wag *verb* beckon (someone) *e.g.* *She wagged me out of the bus.*

□ **a wag o' yer han'**, **a wag o' yer fist** a handshake.

□ **wag-at-the-wall**, **wag-at-the-wa'** a hanging clock with the pendulum and weights exposed.

□ **wag down** flag down, wave to (a vehicle) to stop.

wagga *exclamation* indeed!

waggle *noun* a shake.

wa'-heid *see* wall.

wahil, **wahle** *noun* a weakling; a very light-built person.

[*Cf.* North-Eastern Scots *wahil* "a weak laborious person, a drudge", a form of Scots *wachle* (*see* *wachlin*).]

waicht *see* weight².

waik, **waikness** *see* weak.

wain *see* wee.

wainlin *see* waneling.

wairsh *see* wersh.

waiskie *noun* a waistcoat *south Tyrone*.

□ **cut someone off by the waistcoat-pockets** leave a person nothing to say.

□ **he'll need nae waistcoat** said of a man with very long legs.

waister *noun* twine.

wait *verb* await.

□ **waited on** dying, awaitin on (*see* a³).

□ **waiter** an official of British Custom authorities.

□ **wait for more** *of snow* linger on the ground.

□ **waiting to start** said of a train.

waiter *see* water.

wake *see* weak.

wake¹ *verb* hold a funeral wake over (a corpse).

□ **wake games** games played at a wake.

□ **wake house 1** *usually* the house where a dead body lies awaiting burial. **2** a house made use of at a wake for mourners, sometimes in addition to the house where the body lies.

□ **wauken** waking, awake.

wake², **wauk** *verb* wake, awake.

□ **wakerife**, **waukrife**, **wakereft** wakeful, sleepless; wide-awake, alert [*wake* + Scots ending *-rife* as in *cauldrife* (*see* *cold*)].

[Scots form *wauk*.]

wakely *see* weak.

wal *see* well².

waldron *noun* a scythe.

wale *see* whale.

wale, **wall**, **well**, **waul**, **waal** *verb* **1** choose, select. **2** *hence* court, woo.

3 *also* **wale o'er** pick over, sort (potatoes, *etc.*). **4** pick out the best.

◆ *noun* **1** the pick, the best *e.g.* *His crops were the wale of the*

countryside. **2** your choice, your pick. **3** in plural walings.

- hamed waled** *of a horse* home-reared and selected.
- not wale your words** said of someone who is out of temper.
- waling-glass** a weaver's magnifying glass for counting the number of threads to the inch.
- walings** what has been sorted: **(a)** *usually* the reject; *specifically* picked-over potatoes, of poor size and quality; **(b)** *less commonly* the pick, the best.

[Scots and Northern English *wale*; Scots also *wall*, *waul*, *waal*; from Old Norse *val* "choice, selection".]

walk¹: **there's more life in Willie's walking stick than there is in Willie**

- walk her out** *of a man* take his girlfriend out.
- walking**:
- walking billet**, **walking lines** an order to a servant to leave.
- walk into someone** give someone a scolding.

walk² *verb*, also **walk up** shrink in the wash.

- waked**, **wakit**: **waked skin**, **wakit skin** thick skin on the soles of the feet or palms of the hands, which can be peeled off.
- walked** *of flannel* shrunk in washing.

[*Walk* "to full (cloth)" obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and Northern English), rare Scots form *wake*; originally the same word as *walk¹*.]

wall *see* wale.

wall, **wa'** *noun* **1** a wall. **2** in plural, also **wallstead** a ruin with only the remains of the walls standing.

- between you and me and the wall** confidentially.
- go to the wall** cease your active life.
- it's darkenin' doun about the wa' heeds** it is growing dark on the distant horizon.
- Post no bills/Play no ball/Court no girls/Against this wall...**
- tae the wa'** ruined financially.
- wa'-heid** a wall-head; *see* head.
- wall-bed** a recessed bed [in Standard English, a *wall-bed* is one that folds up against the wall when not in use]. *Illustration see* out.
- wall-flower** a children's singing game.
- wall lamp** a lamp (the oil and wick kind for indoors).
- wall-rue** a fern: *Asplenium ruta-muraria*.

[Scots form *wa'*.]

wallapy *noun* a bird: the lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. *Illustration see* top.

[Scots, in full *wallop-a-weep*; from the bird's call.]

wallee *see* well¹.

wallet *noun* a long bag, open in the middle and closed at the ends.

walliecoat *see* wyliecoat.

wallion *noun* a broken-off piece *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

wallock *noun* a thin, puny child.

[*Cf.* North-Eastern Scots "the lapwing". For the sense development *cf.* *peezy-weezy* from *peewit*.]

wallop *verb* **1** move fast with arms, legs or clothes flailing. **2** *of the wind* blow (things) about. **3** flounder; *of a boat* roll.

- ◆ **noun** **1** a rapid pace, accompanied by the flapping of clothes. **2** a loose-limbed person or animal *e.g. a wallop of a horse*.
- a wallop of someone's tongue** a scolding.
- walloping** a method of killing seabirds for food with long hazel wands after they have been driven from their nests.
- wallop** loose-limbed.

wallor *noun* a pane of glass.

walsey *verb* waltz.

walt *see* welt¹.

walter, walther, whalter *verb* **1** of a horse or donkey walter, roll on the ground. **2** of growing crops knocked down by wind and rain lie twisted on the ground.

□ **waltered** mired or stuck in mud.

[*Walter* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and Northern English); of Old English origin, corresponding to Middle Dutch *welteren* and Middle Low German *weltern* which give Standard English *welter*.]

walycoat *see* wyliecoat.

wamble *see* wammle.

□ **wammle the stool and let the waen sit doon**

wame *noun* **1** the womb. **2** the belly, the abdomen.

□ **wamefu'** a bellyful; *see* full.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

wamly *see* wammle.

wammle *see* whemmlle.

wammle, wamble *verb* **1** feel sick or faint. **2** of the tummy rumble. **3** walk unsteadily.

□ **wamly, whamly** **1** faint. **2** shaky, unsteady. **3** nauseous; *see also* waamish.

[*Wamble* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), of the stomach "to heave, to walk unsteadily"; older form *wammle*, Scots and Northern English rarely *whamble*; of Scandinavian origin, *cf.* Danish *vamle* "to feel sick" and Norwegian dialectal *vamra* "to stagger about".]

wampish *verb* **1** brandish, flourish. **2** shake (a rug, *etc.*). **3** strike out without aiming.

[Scots, alteration of *brandish* (*cf.* *brannish*), possibly influenced by *waff*.]

wan *see* one.

wan: **wanny** delicate.

wan' *noun* a wand.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

wanchancy *adjective* unlucky; ill-omened.

[Scots, from Scots prefix *wan-* "un-" (from Old English *wan-*) + *chancy*; *cf.* *unchancy*.]

wander: **wandering-fog** the stag's horn clubmoss *Lycopodium clavatum*; *see* fog.

□ **wandering Jew** a wild flower: ground ivy *Glechoma hederacea*.

[ILLUS: wander/J]

□ **wanderin Willie** a name for a roving fellow.

wane *see* wee.

waneling, wainlin *noun* a weanling (a newly-weaned child or young animal).

[Older form in Scots and English.]

wang *see* whang¹.

wangrace, wangrease, wangress, wangras *noun* oatmeal gruel, formerly given to women after childbirth.

[Scots *wangrace, wangrease, wangress*; origin unknown.]

waniel *see* wuniel.

wans, wanst *see* once.

want, waant *verb*, *also* **wunt** **1** want. **2** used in the progressive aspect *e.g.* *He's wantin tae go tae the auction*. **3** do without, lack; spare *e.g.* *You're better wanting that*. **4** be without, be free from *e.g.* *She never knew what it was to want a headache*. **5** **want in, want out** want to go in or out *e.g.* *He wants in* [Scots, hence U.S.A. colloquial, also adopted in colloquial English generally].

◆ *noun* **1** want, poverty. **2** a mental deficiency, a weakness of intellect *e.g.* *There's a want in him*.

□ **he can neither want nor work** of an old, feeble man.

□ **it wants (a quarter, etc.) till or o (the hour)** it is (a quarter, etc.) to (the

hour) [*it wants (a quarter, etc.) to or of (the hour)* archaic in Standard English].

□ **let the want come at the wab's end** wait to remedy a deficiency until the last moment; leave ill-luck to the last, and then it may not come.

□ **wanting, wantin 1** mentally deficient *e.g. She's a bit wanting.*

2 awanting, wanted, needed. **3** without *e.g. He did it wantin me knowin.*

[Scots and English dialectal, also Hiberno-English, form *waant*; Scots also *wunt*.]

wanworth *noun* a bargain price, *thus at a wanworth, for a wanworth*

[Scots, *wan-* (as in *wanchancy*) + *worth*.]

wap *see* whop.

wap, wop, waap *verb* make up (straw) into a bundle.

◆ *noun* a bundle of straw or hay.

[Scots and Northern English, Scots also *wup*; possibly a form of whip "to bind around" (as in needlework).]

war *see* be, wear.

war¹, waar, waur, wor; *superlative warst*; *adjective* worse *e.g. Neither better nor waur.*

◆ *verb* get the better of (someone or something).

□ **I niver seen anything waur nor myself** I never saw a ghost.

□ **the mair haste the waur speed, as the tailor said to his lang threed**

□ **the water will never waur the widdie** he that is born to be hanged will never be drowned.

[Scots and Northern English, also Devon, *warre*; from Old Norse *verre*, superlative *verstr*, corresponding to Old English *wyrse*, superlative *wyrsta*, which give *worse*, *worst*.]

war², waur *verb 1* beware of. **2** *to a dog stop* (doing something)! *e.g. War chewing!*

[Scots and English dialectal forms of archaic Standard English *ware* (on which *beware* is formed). *See also warly*.]

war³: war-hawk *historical* a bailiff, a summons server.

warble *noun* a welt, the mark of a blow.

ware¹ *noun, also ware-season* springtime.

□ **ware-day** the first day of spring.

[Scots, from Old Norse *vár*.]

ware² *verb* spend, lay out (money, time or labour).

[Scots and Northern English, from Old Norse *verja* "to clothe; to lay out (money)", corresponding to Old English *werian*, which gives *wear*.]

ware³ *adjective* aware.

wark *see* work.

world, warlish *see* world.

warlock *noun 1* a wizard. used only in toasts **2** *rare* a witch.

warly *adjective* niggardly, miserly.

[*Cf.* Scots "prudently", formed on **war²**.]

warm

□ **A'll warm the wax in your ears** box your ears.

□ **I'll warm your listener** thrash the ear.

□ **warm an wet** *jocular* tea.

warn *verb 1* summon (tenants) to come to pay the rent. **2** summon (someone wishing to attend *e.g. a funeral*) *e.g. They are warned for two o'clock*. **3** *of a clock* make a clicking sound when about to strike.

□ **warn off** order off.

warn't *see* be.

warp: **go far to warp and the mill so near** "carry coals to Newcastle".

□ **neither warp nor weft** nothing at all.

warrant, waarrant, warran, warn, warrand *noun 1* a warrant. **2** *also warranty* a reliable or trustworthy person.

◆ *verb* warrant, guarantee, ensure.

□ **I'll warrant, I'll warrant it or you** "I'll be bound", I can guarantee *e.g. I'll*

warrant you he'll come.

[Scots and English dialectal forms *waarrant*, *warrant*; Scots also *warran*; Scots, also Southern English, *warn*.]

warranty *noun* a guarantee.

warse *see* worse.

warsh, **warshness** *see* wersh.

warsle *see* wrastle.

warst *see* war¹.

wart [rhymes with *cart*]

[Scots pronunciation.]

was *see* be.

wash, **waash**, **wesh** *verb*, *noun* wash.

□ **go and wash yer mouth** used as a reproof to one who has told a lie or spoken foully.

□ **have more nor a dish to wash** have a hard task.

□ **washing**, **washin** *literally* a bundle of laundry: a useless, dressy wife.

□ **washing when** as many potatoes as can be washed in a basket under the tap; *see* when.

□ **washin the divil's dishes** poking the fire (? implying idleness).

□ **wash up of flannel** shrink when washed.

[Scots and English dialectal forms *waash*, *wesh*. *Waash* also Hiberno-English.]

wassach *noun* an unruly mop of hair.

[*Cf.* Ayrshire *wassock*, Shetland *wizzie*, "a bushy, unkempt shock of hair"; formed on Scots and English dialectal *wase*, *weese* "a bundle of straw", itself possibly from Middle Dutch *wase* "a torch".]

wassle *see* wheezle.

waste: **waster** **1** an extravagant person. **2** a good-for-nothing.

□ **wasterful** wasteful.

□ **wastrie**, **wastry** wastefulness; extravagance.

wat *see* wet.

wat *verb* know.

[Scots and Northern English form of archaic Standard English *wot*.]

watch

watch, **a-** *prefix*, **a-watchin'**: *e.g.* *Yon boy's worth a-watchin'*. **a watched**

pot is long a-boilin *proverbial*

□ **him an' his owl' watch** *sarcastic*

□ **watch your feet** pick your steps.

□ **watch yourself** look out!, be careful!

□ **you can watch a rogue but you can't watch a liar**

water, **wather**, **watter**, **waiter** *noun* **1** water. **2** a stream; a river, *frequently*

in names of rivers or streams *e.g.* *the Six-mile Water*. **3** the tide *e.g.* *I*

doubt there's no water yet, *i.e.* the tide is not in yet.

□ **it no more affected him than a drop of water on a duck's back**

□ **new water** the spring tide.

□ **water bewitched** describing weak or over-diluted liquid, *especially* tea.

□ **water blackbird** the dipper *Cinclus aquaticus*.

□ **water-boots** wellingtons.

□ **water clock** a water beetle, *especially* the great diving beetle *Dytiscus marginalis*; *see* clock². [ILLUS: water/cl]

□ **water crow** the dipper.

□ **water-dog** **1** an otter [rare and obsolete in Standard English, possibly reinforced by Irish *madadh uisce*], *cf.* *durko*. **2** a cloud effect believed to foretell rain.

□ **water fowl** a bird: the dipper *Cinclus cinclus*.

□ **water-grass** a wild plant: watercress *Nasturtium officinale*.

□ **water-guns** lough shooting, sounds heard over Lough Neagh.

□ **water hen** a bird: (**a**) the dipper *Cinclus cinclus*; (**b**) the puffin *Fratercula arctica*. *Illustration see* *bridle*.

- **water-horse** a water-spirit.
- **water-keeper** a water-bailiff.
- **water-lily** a wild flower: **(a)** the yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*; **(b)** the common water crowfoot *Ranunculus aquatilis*.
- **water of Ayr** a kind of stone, used for whetstones and for children's marbles.
- **water ouzel**, **water ousel** the dipper.
- **water owl** a bird: the kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*.
- **waterpipe** a wild plant: the mare's-tail *Hippuris vulgaris*.
- **water rat** a bird: the dipper *Cinclus cinclus*.
- **water run** a roadside gutter.
- **water-side** water meadows.
- **water-slain** *of vegetables* saturated with water.
- **water sparrow** a bird: the reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, also known as the reed sparrow. *Illustration see black.*
- **water-stamed**: *of strawberries.*
- **water table** a drain or channel by a roadside; a roadside gutter.
- **water track** a roadside gutter.
- **water-wagtail** a bird: **(a)** the pied wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*. **(b)** the grey wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*.
- **watery**, **wathery** wet.
- **watery-frost** a condition of the weather when there is high humidity with a frost.

[Scots and Northern English, also Devon, form *watter*; Northern English and Southern Scots also *waiter*.]

wather *see* weather.

wat-ma-fut *see* wet.

watter *noun* one of the wattles of a fowl.

watter *see* water.

wattle *noun* **1** a twig. **2** a rod, a staff.

◆ *verb* beat up, thrash.

□ **watting** a beating with a cane.

waugh [rhymes with "law"] *noun* a hiccough.

[Onomatopoeic.]

waught *see* weight².

waughty *see* weight¹.

wauk *see* wake².

wauk *verb* thicken.

wauken *see* wake¹.

wauken *verb* **1** waken, awake. **2** *also* **wauken up** waken, awaken, rouse from sleep.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

waukrife *see* wake².

waul *see* wale.

waumish *see* waamish.

waur *see* war¹, war².

waux *see* wax¹.

waver *see* weave.

waw *see* who.

wax¹, **waux**, **wex** *noun* wax.

□ **I'll saftin the wax in yer lug, if ye dinny behave yersel**

□ **like shoemaker's wax, the mair ye rocht wi' it, it sticks till ye the harder** *of a person.*

□ **squeeze wax** sign a deed or mortgage.

□ **waxed end** a shoemaker's waxed thread.

□ **wax-rump** *derogatory* a name for a cobbler.

[Scots and English dialectal form *waux*.]

wax²: **wax-kernel** a glandular swelling; *specifically* a swelling in the glands of the neck.

[The same word as Standard English *wax* "to grow".]

way, wey *noun* **1** way, manner. **2** *in plural* way, distance *e.g. It's a great ways off.* **3** *in plural* direction *e.g. Larne ways.*

- a long way** much, a great deal *e.g. a long way better.*
- by his or her way of it** according to him *or* her.
- go a great way to serve someone** **1** be of great service to someone. **2** concede a great deal, including principle, to serve someone.
- have a good way with you** be well-to-do.
- have a (great) way with you, have the way with you of a man have a great way with the girls** be very coaxing or amusing to the opposite sex.
- have a poor way on you** be in poor circumstances.
- have no way with you** have no tools or means of carrying out work.
- in a bad or poor way** ill.
- in a big, etc. way with** proud, elated about (yourself, a new possession, *etc.*).
- in a good way o' doin, in a way o' well-doin'** prospering, thriving.
- in a great way about someone** **1** greatly concerned or anxious about someone. **2** in love with someone.
- in a hinging way** hanging together.
- in a strange way** disturbed in the mind.
- in the way of (doing something)** just about to (do something).
- no ways** **1** in no way, nowise *e.g. I couldn't get speech til him noways.*
- 2** no distance *e.g. noways away.*
- of one way of thinking** in agreement.
- the way (that)** so that; with the result that *e.g. She bought a new hat the way she could go to church* [translation of Irish *sa dóigh is*].
- way of going** way of living, way of life.
- what way are you?** in what direction are you going?

[Scots, also East Anglian, form *wey*.]

wayfaring-tree *noun* the guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*.

wazzen *see* weasen.

we: **wur, wor** we are.

weak, wake, waik *adjective* weak.

- ◆ *noun, in plural*, **1** small, light oats. **2** grain with husks still attached after threshing. **3** flakes of meal not properly dried.
- as weak as a wet dish-clout, as wake as wather** very weak.
- waikness** weakness.
- wakely** weakly.
- weak turn** a fit of sickness.

[Older form in Scots and English *wake*.]

weal: **weel speed you** good luck to you.

wean *see* wee.

weapon *noun* any working tool, such as a spade or shovel.

wear, weer, war *verb* **1** wear. **2** **wear away** *of the children of a family* move away from the parental home. **3** approach, *especially* approach gradually.

- all the wear** the fashion.
- good-wearin** hard-wearing.
- the waur o the weer** the worse for wear; *see* war¹.
- wear in of time** pass by.
- wearing-clothes; weerin claes, shoes, etc.** clothes, shoes, *etc.* for everyday wear; *see* claes.
- wear round** come round **to** (a certain point in the year).
- wear someone off something** break someone of some habit.
- wear the breeks** "wear the breeches".
- wear up of time** approach.
- weerables** wearables, everyday clothes.
- wore:**
- wore out** worn out.

[Scots form *weer*, Yorkshire form *war*. Past participle: Southern English dialectal, also occasionally Scots, *wore*.]

weary, wearie *adjective* annoying, vexatious.

◆ *noun, euphemism* the devil, *especially* **play the wearie, the wearie take you!, weary on ye!, the auld weary on you!, what the weary?**

[The same word as Standard English *weary*.]

weasel, wheasel *noun* the stoat *Mustela erminea* [the animal known elsewhere as the weasel, *Mustela nivalis*, is not found in Ireland].

□ **as cross as a weasel, as cross as a bag of weasles, like a bag o' weezels, as contrary as a bag o' wheasels** very cross, ill-natured; liable to explode with temper.

□ **did ye ever catch a weasel asleep?, catch a weasel sleepin'** a comment on a person's alertness.

[Scots form *wheasel*.] [ILLUS: weasel]

weasen, weesin, wizzen, wazzen, wozan *noun* **1** the gullet. **2** the windpipe. **3** the gizzard of a fowl.

□ **go the wrong wizzen** *of food* "go down the wrong way".

[Scots and English dialectal forms *weesin, wizzen*; Worcestershire, also Orkney, Shetland and Caithness, form *wazzen*; old form *wozan* (still Worcestershire and Gloucestershire); forms of archaic Standard English *weasand* from Old English *wāsend* "the gullet; the windpipe".]

weather, wather *noun* **1** weather. **2** *specifically* bad weather, violent weather *e.g. We're goin to have more weather - the sky's in a bad airt.*

□ **them 'at waits for good weather's sure to git it**

□ **this weather** these days, at the present time.

□ **weather-gall, weather-gaw, weather-gaa, weather-go** **1** an incomplete rainbow; *see also* **dog**. **2** a secondary rainbow. **3** a cloud effect believed to foretell rain. **4** a blink of sunshine between storms.

[*Weather + gall* "a wound".]

[Scots form *wather*.]

weather-bleat, weather-blade, also weather goat, weather kid *noun* a bird: the common snipe *Gallinago gallinago*; *specifically* the male snipe.

[Altered forms of *heather-bleat*.]

weave, past participle woft, verb, literally woven: performed, done *e.g. wrong woft* badly done.

□ **weaver, waver** **1** a weaver. **2** *also* **willie weaver** a spider.

□ **weaver's kiss** *literally* a spider's kiss: the slightest sensation imaginable *e.g. It went off him like a waver's kiss, i.e. "it was water off a duck's back"*.

□ **weaver's loom** a spider's web.

[Older form in Scots and English *wave*. Past participle: the form *woft* appears to be a blend of *woven* and East Anglian *weft*.]

weazened *see* **wizen**.

web, wab *noun* **1** a spider's web. **2** the web (the warp) in a loom.

Illustration see **lease**. **3** a web of cloth.

□ **every wab according to its materials**

□ **wab-break** a gathering of young women to dress wool.

□ **wabster, webster** a weaver. *Illustration see* **lease**.

□ **webber** a country buyer of linen.

[Scots, also rare English dialectal, form *wab*.]

wechil *see* **wee**.

wecht *see* **weight**².

wed¹, **wad** *verb* **1** marry [*wed* archaic in Standard English]. **2** pledge, engage yourself. **3** bet, *frequently* **I'll wad ye**

◆ *noun* **1** a pledge. **2** a bet. **3** a penalty; a forfeit. **4** **weds** a game of forfeits.

□ **waddin** a wedding.

□ **weddiner, waddiner** **1** a wedding guest. **2** a member of the wedding-party.

□ **weddin rank** a form of procession in which a newly-married couple,

accompanied by bridesmaids and groomsmen, walked to and from church on the first Sunday after their wedding.

[Scots and Northern English form *wad*.]

wed², *past tense and past participle wed*, *verb* weed (a garden).

[Rare Scots form *wed*. Past tense and past participle: Scots and English dialectal *wed*.]

wedder *noun* a wether (a castrated ram).

[Old form (still Scots and Northern English).]

wee *see* whee.

wee *noun* a short time *e.g.* *Wait a wee.*

◆ *adjective* **1** small, *frequently* as an endearment *e.g.* *Your photo is gorgeous. You are just a wee beauty in it.* **2** young. **3** near, miserly, stingy.

□ **cock or turn up the wee finger** be a habitual drinker.

□ **my waen's my ain waen, but my man's another woman's waen** indicating the strength of maternal love.

□ **not a wean washed** nothing achieved.

□ **that wee the next generation of them 'ill be thrashing sthrow under a griddle, that wee the next generation of them 'ill be thrashing bane-sthrow under a creepy-stool, the next generation of ye'll be thrashin' banes under a creepie** *literally* threshing beans under a stool, taunt to an undersized child.

□ **the wee Scotch paper** the Sunday Post.

□ **weans dear, weans-a-dear, weans-a-dears, weans-a-weans** exclamation *cf.* man.

□ **wee ane, wee yin, wee 'un, wean, wain, wane** **1** a baby; a child. **2 not a wean washed** nothing achieved.

[*Wee* + one.]

□ **wee an' wicket af'en goes thegither** small and evil.

□ **wee apples will grow** another day is coming when things will turn out right.

□ **wee buns** easy, no bother; *see also* nickie cake.

□ **wee-chiel, wee-chil, weechil, witchel, wechil** a little boy; a child; *hence* **wee-chil hill** a place where children play; *see* chiel.

□ **wee-chil hill** a place where children play.

□ **wee diver** a bird: the little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*.

□ **wee drop** whiskey *e.g.* *Ah, poor Manis was always fond of the wee dhrap.*

□ **wee finger** the little finger.

□ **wee fla, wee fla** **1** a little fellow. **2** a young boy.

See fella¹.

□ **wee folk** the fairies; *also* **wee man, wee woman**; *see* folk.

□ **wee folk's thimble** a wild flower: the foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*.

Illustration see sheegie.

□ **wee girl** a term of endearment in speaking of a sweetheart. used without reference to size

□ **wee house, also the wee house outside** *childish* an outside toilet.

□ **wee jug** a whiskey-jug.

□ **weelass** a little girl [*wee* + *lass*].

□ **wee little** a little *e.g.* *a wee little better.*

□ **wee men answers the horses best**

□ **wee message** *euphemism* a jobbie.

□ **wee minute** a short time.

□ **weenchy** "weeny", very small, tiny [extended form, *see also* weeshy].

□ **wee onions** *rarely* describing something regarded as very easy to do:

wee buns, no problem.

□ **wee onions wee buns**, no bother.

□ **wee people** the fairies.

□ **wee sma' oors** the early morning; *see* oor, small.

□ **wee sour leek** a wild plant: sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella*; *see* sour.

- **wee still** poteen.
- **wee stump** the little finger.
- **wee thing, weethin** *adverb* rather, a little *e.g.* *The shirt is still a weethin wet.*
- ◆ **noun 1** a child. **2** a small number; a small amount.
- **wee water hen** a bird: the water rail *Rallus aquaticus*.
- **wehizzy** a girl aged about 12.
- **weitched** a boy aged about 12.
[Scots; from Old English *wēȝ* "a weight", hence in Older Scots "a small quantity; a short time or distance", hence (the most frequent sense in Modern Scots) "small".]
- weebel** *noun* an untrustworthy, treacherous person.
[English dialectal form of *weevil* (the insect).]
- weechil** *see* *wee*.
- weed, weid** *noun* **the weed (a)** a fit of ague; *specifically* a fever suffered by women after giving birth or when breast-feeding; **(b)** *in a cow* mastitis.
[Scots, shortened form of obsolete Scots *wedenonfa'* (from Old English *wēden-* "mad" + *onfa'* "an attack of illness", itself the Scots form of *onfall*) misunderstood as if *weed and onfa'*.]
- weeda** *see* *widow*.
- weddie-weddie** *see* *wheety-wheety*.
- weefla** *see* *wee*.
- week** *see* *wick*¹.
- week** *noun* the wick (of a candle, *etc.*).
□ **licht a can'le on Monday mornin', an' it 'ill burn tae the week's en'** a riddle.
[Older form (still Scots).]
- weel** *see* *well*².
- weelass** *see* *wee*.
- weelth** *noun* a good deal (as applied to inseparable things like snow or hay).
- weemen** *see* *woman*.
- ween** *see* *when*.
- weenda** *see* *window*.
- weep** *verb, of stone* exude water.
□ **weeping stone** building stone that absorbs and exudes water.
- weer** *see* *our*.
- weer, weerables** *see* *wear*.
- weesh, weeshed** *see* *wish*¹.
- weeshy** *adjective* very small, tiny.
[Hiberno-English, possibly an extended form of *wee*.]
- weesin** *see* *weasen*.
- weesle** *see* *wheezele*.
- weet** *see* *wet*.
- weet** *verb* run, whisk *e.g.* *She weeted round the corner.*
[Possibly the same word as *wheet*.]
- weethin** *see* *wee*.
- weet-ma-fit, weet-my-feet** *see* *wet*.
- weet-weet, weety-weet, weety-weety** *see* *wheet*.
- weevil** *noun* a maggot.
- weeze** *verb* ooze.
□ **weezed together** *of stones* sodden with water or mud.
[Older form (still Scots and English dialectal), from Old English *wēsan*. *Oose* is from the corresponding Old English noun, *wōs*. *See also* *oose*².]
- weezen** *see* *wizen*.
- weezin** *noun* a very small amount *Co. Antrim*; *cf.* *wee thing (see wee)*.
- weft: put in the weft too fine** carry a correct analogy too far.
- weght** *see* *weight*².

weid *see* weed.

weigh, wey, wye *verb* weigh.

□ **weigh butter and sell cheese** a children's game: two children stand back to back with interlocked arms, and by bending forward alternately, lift each other off the ground. [ILLUS: weighbsc]

□ **weigh-de-te-bucketty, weigh-te-bucketty, weigh-de-buckedy, weigh-dee-buckettee** **1** a toy constructed like a rocking-horse in which two children could sit facing each other and rock up and down. **2** a seesaw. **3** the game of seesaw.

[Scots, also East Anglian, form *wey, wye*.]

weight¹ *noun* a large number or proportion; a great amount *e.g. There's a weight of money sunk in that house.*

□ **weighting** *of the sun* clouding over, becoming heavy-looking.

□ **weighty, waughty** **1** weighty, heavy *e.g. weighty rain* [*weighty* is more generally used than in England]. **2** **weighty afoot** heavy-afoot, pregnant.

[Scots forms *wecht, waucht*, North-Eastern Scots *waicht*, Southern Scots *wicht*. *See also* weight².]

weight², weght, wecht, waicht, wight, waught *noun* **1** a hoop with a skin stretched over it, used for winnowing or carrying corn. [ILLUS: weight/P] **2** a bowraun. *Illustration see* bowraun.

[Scots *wecht*, North-Eastern Scots *waicht*, Southern Scots *wight*; probably the same word as weight¹, from the idea that the implement would carry a certain weight of corn.]

weird *noun* fate, destiny.

welfarity *see* well².

well *see* wale.

well¹ *noun* **1** a storage space in the centre of an outside jaunting car, used for luggage or parcels. **2** **well o the hill** a hollow in a hillside or at the foot of a hill.

□ **waal-carses** *literally* well-cresses: watercress *Nasturtium officinale* [*waal* + Scots *carse* form of *cress*, from Old English *cærse* form of *cresse*].

□ **well board** the lid of the well of an outside jaunting car.

□ **well-eye, wallee** a spring or hidden pool of water in a bog; *see* eye.

□ **wellink** a wild flower: brooklime *Veronica beccabunga* [*well* + shortened form of Middle English *lemeke*, Old English *hleomoc* "the brooklime". (*Brooklime* is itself *brook* + *lemeke*.)].

□ **you never miss the water till the well runs dry, the well is not missed until it is dry** *proverbial* a blessing is not appreciated until you are deprived of it.

[Scots, Northern and Western English form *waal, wall*.]

well², wal, weel *adjective* well.

□ **it's well seen** **1** it is obvious. **2** **it's well seen on ye** it is obvious from your appearance.

□ **let well-enough alone** be content with things as they are.

□ **say well of** speak favourably of.

□ **weel and doin weel** healthy and prosperous.

□ **weel-faured, well-fared** well-favoured, good-looking [Scots forms *weel-faured, weel-fairt, cf. ill*].

□ **weel, I think!** *exclamation* expressing surprise, *etc*: indeed!

□ **welfarity** well-being.

□ **well and well-to-do, like the people in America** healthy and prosperous.

□ **well-avized** good-looking, handsome, pretty; *see* black.

□ **well become someone** become someone well; suit someone.

□ **well-blooded** having a high colour; rosy.

□ **well-come** born of respectable, well-to-do parents.

□ **well-come-home** **1** well-come. **2** *of a bride* bringing a good dowry.

□ **well-doing** prosperous, well-to-do.

- **well done for** well provided for by a legacy, *etc.*
- **well-grown** nearly grown-up.
- **well-handed**, *also* **well-handled** dexterous, nimble-fingered.
- **well-kenned 1** well-known; *see* **ken**. **2** kenspeckle, conspicuous.
- **well-learned** well-educated.
- **well-looking** good-looking [more commonly used than in England].
- **well-minded** well-disposed.
- **well-natured** good-natured.
- **well now**, **well to be sure**, **well well** expressions of sympathy or dismay.
- **well on** very drunk.
- **well skinned** having beautiful skin.
- **well-spoken** pleasant in speech.
- **well-thriven** stout.
- **well-turned penny** a profitable speculation.
- **well up** well informed.
- **well-willing** kindly-disposed [archaic in Standard English].
- **well-wishing** kindly.
- **well-won** *of a crop of hay* gathered and stacked under favourable circumstances.

[Scots and Northern English form *weel*.]

wellink *see* **well**¹.

wellycoat *see* **wyliecoat**.

Welsh: **Welsh parrot** a bird: the puffin *Fratercula arctica*; *cf.* Ailsa cock.

Illustration see **bridle**.

welt¹, **walt** *noun* **1** a welt, a weal made by a blow. **2 welt in the mouth** a swelling in the mouth. **3** a blister. **4** a welt, a heavy blow; *specifically* a stroke with the **tawse**; *see also* **whilt**. **5** a large piece *e.g.* *a welt of bread*; *see also* **whilt**.

◆ *verb* **1** work vigorously. **2** beat, defeat.

□ **welted** far gone, nearly dead (from illness, *etc.*).

□ **welt the floor** *verb* dance vigorously.

◆ *exclamation* a shout of encouragement to someone dancing.

[Scots and Northern English form *walt*.]

welt²: **on the edge of your welt** *literally* on the outside edge of your shoe: *adverb* (go, walk) fast, at a great speed.

◆ *adjective* **1** very eager. **2** purposeful, energetic.

wench, **winch** *noun* a wench, a young woman; *specifically* a young unmarried woman.

◆ *verb* court.

[Scots form *winch*.]

wenn *noun* a pig.

went *see* **go**.

wer *see* **our**.

wer, **weer**, **wur** *poss pronoun* **our**.

werd *noun* a wearying thing, a continuing torment.

were *see* **be**.

wersels *see* **our**.

wersh, **wersht**, **wirsh**, **wairsh**, **waarsh**, **warsh**, **worsh** *adjective*

1 flavourless, insipid, requiring salt or sugar. **2** bitter-tasting. **3** sickly,

nauseating. **4** feeling a desire to taste something with a strong flavour.

5 faint (*e.g.* from hunger). **6** delicate, lacking stamina. **7** "washed out", tired.

◆ *noun* unsalted porridge.

□ **wairsh-looking** sickly-looking, pale.

□ **wershness**, **warshness** a sick feeling, accompanied by a desire to taste something salt or with a strong flavour.

[Scots and Northern English *warsh*; Scots also *wersh*, *wirsh*, *wairsh*; shortened forms of obsolete Standard English *wearish*, itself possibly

related to weary.]

wesh *see* wash.

wessle *see* wheezle.

west *adjective* back *e.g.* *the west end of the yard.*

◆ *adverb* back *e.g.* *They've gone west.*

□ **westerd** westward.

[Influenced by Irish *siar*, which means both "west" and "back". *Cf.* back.]

wet, weat, waat, wat *noun* wet, rain *e.g.* *a very heavy weat.*

◆ *adjective* wet.

◆ *verb* brew (tea).

□ **as full of the chist as a wet-my-foot** describing a plump or large-busted woman.

□ **as wet as a drowned kitten**

□ **weeting** drenched, soaked with rain.

□ **wet-looking** threatening rain.

□ **wet-my-foot, weat-ma-fit, weat-my-feet, wat-ma-fut, wet-my-lip** a bird: the quail *Coturnix coturnix* [from its call]; *see* foot.

□ **wet or dry** without fail *e.g.* *I'll be with you, wet or dry.*

□ **wet-shod** having wet shoes and socks.

□ **wet the bargain** *of a buyer and seller* seal a bargain by having a drink together.

□ **wet to the hide** drenched, soaked (with rain).

□ **wet to the skin** drenched, soaked with rain.

□ **whet your whistle**

□ **you're neither hungry nor wet-shod** a rebuke to someone complaining about work or life in general.

[Scots and Northern English form *weet*, Scots also *wat*.]

wex *see* wax¹.

wey *see* way, weigh.

wezened *see* wizen.

wha *see* who.

whaap *see* whaup.

whaat *see* what.

whab, wab *noun* the penis.

whack *noun* **1** your keep, food. **2 not the whack** not up to the mark.

whae *see* who.

whale, wale *verb* **1** beat up, thrash. **2** do anything hard and vigorously; *of a car, etc.* move fast and recklessly.

□ **whalin** a beating.

[Obsolete English slang *whale*, English dialectal form *wale*; *whale* also U.S.A. colloquial; possibly the same word as *whale* (the animal), as riding whips used to be made from whalebone.]

whale¹ *noun* an outstanding person or thing *e.g.* *It's a whale of a car.*

whallock, whollock, whillick *noun* a thump, a heavy blow.

[Yorkshire *whallock* "to flog with a stick"; origin unknown, *cf.* *whale*.]

whalp *noun* a whelp, a pup.

[Scots form.]

whalter *see* walter.

whamly *see* wammle.

whammel *verb* starve.

□ **fammelled** hungry, starved.

[Southern English *fammel*, from Anglo-Norman *fameiller* "be hungry".

The form *whammel* may be influenced by *wammle*.]

whammle *see* whemmlle.

whan *see* when.

whang¹, wang, whaung, wheng, fong *noun* **1** a thong; *specifically* a leather boot-lace; *also* **shoe-whang** **2** a tall, thin person. **3** a seaweed: seathong *Himanthalia elongata*. **4** a lump, a large piece of something;

specifically a large piece of food. **5** a blow; *specifically* a stroke with the tawse. **6** a bang.

◆ *verb* beat up, thrash.

- **a whang off a cut loaf's never missed**
- **draw a whang on it** bring a talk or speech to a close.
- **whanged** cut off.

[Scots and Northern English *whang*, *wheng*; Lincolnshire *whong*; forms of *thong*, from Old English *þwang*, *þwong*. The form *fong* may be influenced by Irish pronunciation, *cf.* **when**, *etc.* See also **twang**.]

whang² *noun* **1** a "tang": a rancid taste in milk or butter. **2** *in plural* soot marks on the wall.

[Form confused with **whang¹**.]

whap *see* **whaup**.

whapper, **whopper** *noun* something exceptionally large or fine of its kind especially of a lie *e.g.* *That's a whopper*.

whapping, **whopping** *adverb* exceptionally large or fine *e.g.* *a whopping fine child*.

whar *see* **whaur**.

wharrow *noun* a wharve (a grooved pulley on a spindle over which the band passes to drive the spindle).

[Form obsolete in Standard English (still Yorkshire).]

whase, **wha's** *possessive pronoun* whose.

[Scots and Northern English form *whase*, Scots also *wha's*.]

whassah *see* **fassagh**.

whassuck *see* **whiz**.

what, **whaat**, **whut**, **fat** *interrogative pronoun* what.

◆ *relative pronoun* that *e.g.* *It's a winner till me what yer ma lets ye out yer lone, so it is*.

- **give someone what for** scold, punish someone.
- **if it's fat eat it** a reply to the question "Fat?"
- **what about ye?**, **'bout ye?** **1** a greeting: how are you?; *see also* **how**.
- 2 what about (a person)?** how is (a person)?
- **what age?** how old?
- **what do or would you have of it?** used to emphasise a point in a narrative.
- **what for?** why?
- **what for no?** why not?
- **what is it like?** a guessing game: a variety of "twenty questions".
- **what like is something or somebody?**, **what like of (person or thing)** **is he, she or it** what is something or somebody like?
- **what now?** what is the matter now?
- **whatsomever**, **whatsomever**, **whatsomdiver** whatever, whatsoever; whosoever.
- **what's that?** how much is that?
- **what's the matter?** what is the reason why?
- **whatten**, **what'n** what kind of, what [*what + kin* (see **kind**)].
- **what way are you?**, **what way are you comin on?** how are you?
- **what wud ye, but** introducing a surprising fact; *see* **would**.
- **what-you-would-know** a very small amount (*e.g.* of drink).
- **worral** *literally* what will.
- **ye what?** what?, pardon?

[Scots forms *whaat*, *whut*; Northern Scots *fat*. The form *fat* also reflects the influence of Irish pronunciation, *cf.* **when**.]

whate *noun* wheat.

- **whaten** wheaten.

[Older form in Scots and English.]

what'n, **whatsomdiver**, **whatsomever**, **whatsomever**, **whatten** *see* **what**.

whaumle *see* **whemmle**.

whaung *see* **whang¹**.

whaup, whap, whaup *noun* a bird: the curlew *Numenius arquata*.

[Scots and Northern English *whaup*; Scots also *whap, whaup*; probably onomatopoeic, from the beat of its wings.]

whaur, whar *adverb* where.

- **is that where ye are?** a greeting.
- **whaur frae** where from, whence.

[Scots forms.]

whazle *see* wheezle.

wheasel *see* weasel.

wheat *see* wheet.

whee, wee, whey *exclamation* a call to a horse to stop: way, whoa.

[English dialectal form *wee*.]

wheeble: wheeble yourself out talk yourself out (of a difficult situation); *cf.* curwheeble.

wheedle: he would wheedle the bird aff the bush

wheef *verb* smell, stink.

[Orkney and Shetland form of whiff.]

wheek *verb* **1** whisk; snatch. **2** pilfer, steal. **3** twist nimbly.

◆ *noun* a nimble twist.

- **wheeker** "a smasher", something excellent.
- **wheekin** "smashing", very good.
- **wheekmaleeries** ornamental flourishes of the pen; *cf.* whigmaleerie.

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

wheekum-sniffy *noun* anything very small *Co. Antrim*; *cf.* hook, wheek.

wheel

- **wheelbarrow: wheel-wright** a man who makes and repairs all kinds of farm implements.
- **you could charm the heart of a wheelbarrow** said to someone who is whistling or singing badly.
- **you could put a wheelbarra between (someone's) legs** *e.g.* *I was a sore sight sthridlin' about the dures, till ye might a put a wee wheelbarra between my legs, very near.*
- **you're like the man with the wheelbarrow - it's in front of you** said to a person looking for something

wheel¹: wheel up said to a horse to make it go faster.

wheelaun *noun* a seagull.

[Irish *faoileán*. See also whillogie.]

wheel-rod *see* quill.

when, ween *noun* **1** a large number. **2 a when o** a good deal of; *also a brave when, a whole when, etc.* **3 usually a when o** a few, a small amount; several; *also wee when*

- **a when of hours makes no odds at Moville** *saying*
- **a when o perches** a short distance.
- **a when o scrapes** a short letter.

[Scots and Northern English *when*, from Old English *hwēne* "to some extent".]

wheep *verb* **1** whistle. **2** blow a whistle. **3** let out a squeak.

◆ *noun* **1** a sound, a squeak *e.g.* *Don't let a wheep out of ye.* **2** a penny whistle.

◆ *exclamation* expressing surprise.

- **wheep** *verb* whistle; *especially* badly.

◆ *noun* **1** a shrill whistle. **2** an ineffectual attempt at whistling.

- **wheep** a whistler.

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

wheesh, wheeshoo *see* whush.

wheesht, wheest *see* whish.

wheet *verb*, *of a person* to whistle.

- **wheety-wheety, wheet-wheet, wheat, wheet-tweet, weety-weety, weedie-weedie, weet-weet, weety-weet, whet-whet, veet, feety-feety,**

fweety *exclamation* a call to poultry, *especially* ducks.

◆ *noun wheetie* a duck.

[Scots *wheet(y)*, *wheety* also Cheshire and Shropshire; onomatopoeic.

The *f* forms are influenced by Irish pronunciation, *cf.* *when*. *See also* *weet*.]

wheetle *see* *whittle*².

whee-whee *exclamation* a call to cats.

[Onomatopoeic.]

wheez *noun* **1** a mat. **2** a draught-excluder.

□ **wassock** a wind-guard, a protection for the door of a traditional house, made of interwoven branches of birch or hazel. [ILLUS: wassock]

[English dialectal *weeze*, Northumberland also *wheezzer*; forms of obsolete Standard English *wase* "a bundle of straw, *etc.*", from Old English **wasa*.]

wheeze *noun* a **wheeze** nonsense, humbug.

wheezle, **weesle**, **wessle**, **whazle**, **wassle** *verb* **1** wheeze, make a rustling or hoarse sound in breathing. **2** cough.

□ **wheezled up** suffering from bronchitis.

□ **wheezlin** a hoarseness.

[Scots and Northern English *wheezle*; Yorkshire also *weesle*; Scots also *whesel*, *whasle*, *whazle*; from *wheeze* + *-le*.]

whelk, **wilk**, **wulk**, **willick**, **wileek** *noun* **1** a shellfish: (a) the common whelk *Buccinum undatum*; (b) the periwinkle *Littorina littorea*; (c) also **dog-whelk** *Purpura lapillus* **2** *figuratively* a nostril.

□ **as close as a wilk** very reticent.

□ **wilkipicker** a bird: the oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*.

Illustration see *pyot*.

[Older form (still Scots and English dialectal) *wilk*, English dialectal also *willick*, Scots also *wulk*. *Willick* is closer to the Old English *wioloc*, *weoloc*, but as this is not recorded between the eleventh century and the modern dialects, it seems unlikely to be a direct survival from Old English.]

whemmle, **whammle**, **wammle**, **whamble**, **whummle**, **whommle**, **whaumle**, **whomble**, **womble** *verb* **1** *also* **whammle over**, **whammle down** knock (something) over, usually something whose contents can be spilled. **2** overturn (something). **3** tumble, turn upside down; knock (a person) down. **4** fall, *especially* in a sprawling way. **5** totter, stand unsteadily. **6** put (a hen) under a basket to stop her being broody.

◆ *noun* **1** an act of overturning, a tumble. **2** a **whammle of bowls** a group of bowls turned upside-down on a dresser.

□ **a dose o whammle** starvation treatment as a cure for illness [from the idea of being given what is left in a bowl after it is overturned, *i.e.* nothing].

□ **I'm whammled** a reply to an offer of more tea: I have had enough [from the practice of turning the cup upside down when finished].

[Scots and Northern English *whemmle*, *whammle*, *whamble*; Scots also *whummle*, *whommle*, *whaumle*, *whomble*; forms of English *whelm*, as in *overwhelm*.]

when, **whan**, **whun**, **whon**, **whin**, **fen**, **fin** *interrogative pronoun, relative pronoun, conjunction* when.

□ **when abouts?** about what time?

□ **when-done** when all is said and done, after all.

□ **whenever**, **whinever** *conjunction* **1** whenever, on each occasion.

2 when *e.g.* *Whenever I was young I could do it*. **3** as soon as *e.g.* *I came whenever I heard you called*.

[Scots forms *whan*, *whun*, *whon*; Orkney and Shetland also *whin*. The forms *fen* and *fin* are influenced by Irish pronunciation, as Irish *f* is the nearest sound to the English sound spelled *wh*. *Fin* also occurs as a Northern Scots form, under the influence of Scottish Gaelic.]

wheng *see* whang¹.

wheracket *noun* a noisy occasion *Co. Antrim*.

[Apparently an extended form of *racket*.]

wherry: **the Dry Hurry** an arch above the aqueduct [sic] near Coalisland;
cf. whullaballoo.

whesh, whest *see* whish.

whether *pronoun* which (of two).

- **Whether would you rather, / Or rather would you be / Legs to the oxther, / Or stomach (or belly) to the knee?** *rhyme*

whettlin *noun* the use of underhand methods to achieve your aims *Co. Antrim*; *cf.* whittle².

whet-whet *see* wheet.

whhey *see* whoa.

whhey¹ [vowel as in "whine"] *noun* whey (the milk product).

[Scots pronunciation.]

whhey² *exclamation* a call to a horse to turn left.

[Yorkshire form of *way* (*see* whee)]

which, fich *interrogative pronoun* **1** which. **2 which?**, *also* **the which?**

what? pardon?

◆ *relative pronoun* which.

- **which hand will you have it in?** a taunt, meaning you will not get it at all.

- **ye which?** what?, pardon? [jocular "correction" of *ye what* (*see* what)].

[The form *fich* is influenced by Irish pronunciation, *cf.* when.]

whick *noun* a thump, a heavy blow.

whicker *verb, of a horse* whinny.

[English dialectal, also U.S.A.; onomatopoeic.]

whid¹, **whud** *verb, especially of a hare* scud, run about for no apparent reason.

[Scots, probably from Old Norse *hviða* "a gust of wind".]

whid², **whud** *noun* **1** a hint, a sign. **2** a rumour.

[Obsolete English slang *whid* "a word"; hence Scots *whid, whud* "a lie, a fib"; probably from Old English *cwide* "a word".]

whiff, whuff *verb* whiff, puff.

◆ *noun* an instant, a "jiffy".

- **whiffle** **1** hesitate, keep changing your mind. **2** trifle with a person's affections. **3** give an evasive answer.

[Scots and Northern English form *whuff*. *See also* wheef.]

Whig *proper noun, historical, Protestant* a Presbyterian [originally applied to seventeenth century Covenanters in the West of Scotland].

whig *noun* a thin liquid that collects on the surface of old buttermilk.

◆ *verb, of thunder* curdle (milk).

- **as thick as whigged milk** curdled as milk; broken in whey.

- **whigged** *of milk* curdled; soured.

[Scots and Northern English form of *whey*.]

whigmaleerie, whigmalarie *noun* a foolish notion, a piece of nonsense.

[Scots *figmaleery, whigmaleerie*; possibly *fike* + Scots *-ma-* (a syllable added for rhythmic effect in compounds, especially *ad hoc* and ludicrous compounds) + *-leerie* (a Scots ending, again for rhythmic effect).]

while, file *conjunction* **1** while. **2** until *e.g.* *Wait while I come back.*

- **a while of, the while of** part of *e.g.* *It will take me a while of a day.*

- **the while** in the meantime.

- **this while back** lately.

- **whiles, 1 also at whiles, by whiles** sometimes, occasionally. **2 whiles**

o occasionally during *e.g.* *She never went to school but whiles o two winters.*

[The form *file* is influenced by Irish pronunciation (*cf.* when), but is also Northern Scots.]

while¹ *verb* wile, charm.

□ **while the boards down o' the bushes**

whilk *adjective* which.

[Scots and Northern English form, from Old English *hwilc*.]

whillaballoo, whullabulloo, whulaballo *noun* a hullaballoo, an uproar.

[Hiberno-English, also South-Western Scots, form; possibly influenced by whillaloo.]

whillaloo, whillalew *noun* **1** a cry of lamentation or distress. **2** an outcry, an uproar. **3** a sensation.

◆ *verb*, also **whillew** cry, lament, utter a cry of lamentation.

[*Whillaloo, whillalew* Hiberno-English, also found in Southern Scots and Westmoreland; from Irish *aililiú*, *uilliliú* "alleluia; goodness gracious".]

whillalooya *exclamation* hallelujah *Co. Donegal*.

□ **singing whillalooya to the day nettles** dead and buried.

[Apparently influenced by whillaloo.]

whillick *see* whallock.

whillogie, whillocky *noun* a seagull.

[Irish *faoileog*, plural *faoileogai*; related to *faoileán* (*see* wheelaun) with an alternative ending.]

whilt, whult *noun* **1** a slap. **2** a "lump" of a boy or girl.

[Scots *whult* "to thump; a heavy fall; a large object"; possibly a form of *welt*¹.]

whimper, whumper, fumper *noun* **1** a whimper. **2** a whisper, a hint *e.g.* *I never heard a whimper of it*. **3** a rumour. **4** a crack in a wall.

◆ *verb* whimper.

[Scots form *whumper*. The form *fumper* is influenced by Irish pronunciation (*cf.* *when*), but is also Northern Scots.]

whim-wham

□ **a whim-wham for a goose's bridle** an imaginary object, a fool's errand.

whin *see* when.

whin, whun, whon *noun* a bush: the gorse or whin *Ulex europaeus*.

□ **as hardy as a whin-root**

□ **inches disn't break squares in a load o' whins** in matters of a trifling character, minute discrepancies are of no consequence whatever.

□ **when the whin is out of blossom, kissing's out of fashion**

□ **whin-bloom** the blossom of the furze.

□ **whin-bush, win-bush** gorse.

□ **whinchat, whinchacker, whin-checker** a bird: **(a)** the whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*; **(b)** the stonechat *Saxicola torquata*; *specifically* the hen bird. *See* *chack*¹. *Illustration see* **black**.

□ **whin-ditch, whun dyke** a bank of earth planted with whins; *see* **ditch**.

□ **whin fork** a forked stick for making a catapult.

□ **whin-grey** a bird: **(a)** the linnet *Carduelis cannabina*. *Illustration see* **thorn**; **(b)** the lesser redpoll *Carduelis flammaea*. *Illustration see* **thorn**.

□ **whinny grey** a bird: the whinchat.

□ **whin-sparrow** a bird: **(a)** the dunnock *Prunella modularis*, also known as the hedge sparrow; **(b)** the linnet *Carduelis cannabina*. *Illustration see* **thorn**.

□ **whin-stone, whin-stane, whunstone** **1** whinstone (various types of very hard, dark-coloured rock). **2** a stone used for bruising whins for cattle-feed. *See* **stone**. [ILLUS: whin-stn]

□ **whon blossom** gorse (prickly bush with yellow flowers).

□ **whunny** whinny, covered with whins.

[Scots form *whun*.]

whinever *see* when.

whinge, winge, whunge, whonge *verb* cry in a peevish, complaining way; grumble, complain [*whinge* also adopted in Standard English].

□ **whinger** someone who **whinges** [also adopted in Standard English].

[Scots and Northern English *whinge*, Northern English also *winge*,

Scots also *whunge*; forms of *whine*. *See also whinner.*]

whinner *noun* a heavy blow.

[Scots, extended form of *whine*. *See also whinge.*]

whinshag *noun* a tree: the ash.

[Irish *fuinseog*.]

whinshan, funshin *noun* a tree: the ash.

whip, whup, wup *verb* whip.

◆ *noun* **1** a whip. **2** a hard time *e.g. Ye'd a had a sore whip gin ye had to travel.* **3** *in plural* plenty, lots. **4** *in plural, slang* boys' underpants.

□ **he hasn't as much space in his house as would whip a cat**

□ **I would go through the world and sell whips with you** expressing great love.

□ **whipster, whupster** a lively mischievous person; *specifically* a bold, reckless girl.

[Scots and Northern English form *whup*. *See also penny, wap.*]

whipe *verb, of a child* cry.

whipple tree *noun* the swingletree of a plough.

whirl, whurl *verb* roll, trundle (a barrow, hoop, *etc.*); wheel (a load).

□ **as fast as you run your fortune's afore you like a whirlbarra**

□ **whirlbarrow** a wheelbarrow.

□ **whirl-blast** a hurricane.

□ **whirlie** a child's toy: a hoop.

□ **whirligig** any rapidly spinning object; anything that whirls round with the wind, *e.g.* the blades of a windmill.

□ **whirling, whurlin** the throwing of curling-stones.

□ **whirly-go-round** a merry-go-round.

[Scots form *whurl*.]

whirr *noun* a child's toy: a small, serrated disc with two holes in the centre through which a cord is passed, twisted and pulled to produce a humming sound.

whirran *noun* an untidy state, *thus in a whirran*; *see also whurrang*.

whirrlish *see* hurrish.

whirroo *exclamation* a cry of excitement: hurroo! *Co. Donegal*.

whish, whush, whesh, whist, whest, wheest, whisht, wheesht *exclamation* hush!, be quiet!

◆ *verb* **1** *also stop your whist* hush, be quiet [*whist* archaic in Standard English]. **2** say *whish, etc.* to silence someone.

□ **hold your whisht** hold your tongue, be or remain quiet.

[Obsolete Standard English *whish* (still Scots and English dialectal), *whist* (still Scots and English dialectal), *whisht* (still general dialectal and Scots); Scots also *whush, wheest, wheesht*; onomatopoeic.]

whisht *see* whish.

whiskey, whuskey *noun* whiskey.

□ **whiskey blossom** a grog blossom, a pimple.

□ **whuskey's the Latin for goose**

[Scots *whisky, whuskey*; from Scottish Gaelic *uisge beatha* literally "water of life" (corresponding to Irish *uisce beatha*, *see usquebaugh*). Also adopted in Standard English, with different spellings for Scotch whisky and Irish whiskey.]

whisper, whusper *noun, verb* whisper.

◆ *exclamation, also whisper here* introducing a confidential remark: listen! [translation of Irish *cogar*].

[Scots form *whusper*.]

whist *see* whish.

whistle, whustle, whusle, fistle *noun* **1** a whistle. **2** a smart blow on the ear.

◆ *verb* whistle.

□ **blow your whistle more than you are** boast.

□ **it's a poor dog that's not worth whistlin' on**

- **make a blowin' horn of a happenny whussle** exaggerate.
- **pigs may whistle, but they've very ugly mouths for it**
- **the man that whistles at night has a fairy behind him**
- **to a whistle** a call to a dog or horse.
- **when the clocks are whislin' through his ribs**
- **whistle and chew meal, whustle and chaw male** do the impossible. *frequently, ironic* a response to a boaster.
- **whistle jigs to a milestone, whistle for the milestone to dance** said of a useless attempt or impossible undertaking *e.g. You might as well be whistling jigs to a milestone as doing that.*
- **whistler, whustler** **1** a whistler (a broken-winded horse). **2** a bird: the goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*. **3** a resounding blow.
- **whistle Sunday** Whit Sunday.
- **whistling eel** a very large eel that is supposed to raise its head above the water and squeal.
- **whistling plover** a bird: **(a)** the golden plover. **(b)** the grey plover. [Scots form *whustle, whusle*. The form *fissle* is influenced by Irish pronunciation, *cf.* when.]

whit *verb* chase.

white, whit *verb, literally* shave off the bark of wood to show the white: whittle.

- **as much white in her eyes as would sleeve a waistcoat** showing the white too much.
- **as white as the dhriven snow**
- **as white in the face as a cat in labour**
- **show very or too much white** *literally* show the teeth too much: be a hypocrite.
- **the white hen never lays away** said of a person who thinks he is never wrong.
- **white bird** a seagull.
- **white-boy** one of the members of a secret agrarian society formed in 1761.
- **white bread, white breid** baker's bread as opposed to home-baked; a wheaten loaf from the baker, as opposed to one baked at home.
- **white disease** erysipelas; *cf.* white swelling.
- **white drink** a drink of water with oatmeal given to a cow or horse.
- **white-faced barnacle** a bird: the barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis*; *cf.* barnacle.
- **white-frost** hoar-frost.
- **white-hawk** a bird: the hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*; *cf.* white kite. *Illustration see glede.*
- **white-head**:
- **white-headed boy, white-haired boy, also whitehead** a "blue-eyed boy", a favourite.
- **white-hole** a soft marshy spot in a bog covered by a whitish moss.
- **white-horse** **1** a legal summons. **2** *in plural* the froth on a pot of boiling potatoes.
- **white kite** the hen harrier; *cf.* white hawk. *Illustration see glede.*
- **white laugh** **1** an insincere laugh. **2** a derisive laugh.
- **white-livered** insincere *e.g. a white-livered laugh.*
- **whitely** pale-faced.
- **white man** **1** a capable, able fellow. **2 no white man** no one at all.
- **white owl** a bird: the barn owl *Tyto alba*. [ILLUS: white/owl]
- **white rump** the wheatear.
- **white-rumped martin** the house martin.
- **white sergeant** a bogeyman mentioned to scare children.
- **white shillin'** *usually* **not a white shillin'** not a shilling, no money at all.
- **white-side** a bird: **(a)** *also* **white-sided diver, white-sided duck** the tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*; **(b)** *also* **white-sided diver, white-sided**

duck the shoveler *Anas clypeata*; (**c**) the young of the goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*.

□ **whitesmith** a tinker.

□ **white son** a beloved son, a favourite.

□ **white swelling** erysipelas; *cf.* white disease.

□ **whitewash** *noun* flattery.

◆ *verb* e.g. *In such a road in a house whitewashed yella; bull.*

□ **white-weed** a wild flower: sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*.

□ **white wine** *jocular* buttermilk.

□ **white-winged sparrow**, *also* **white-wing**, **white-winged spog** a bird: the chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*; *see* spug. *Illustration see* chaff.

□ **white world** ground covered with snow.

□ **white wren** a bird: a small warbler, *specifically* (**a**) the chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*; (**b**) the willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. *See also* willow.

□ **whitey**:

□ **whitey-brown-thread** strong, unbleached thread.

[English dialectal form *whit*. *See also* fur.]

white¹ *verb* smack (a child).

whitrat, **whitrit**, **whitterit**, **whutrit**, **whutteret**, **futteret**, **whitrick**, **whitterick**, **whutrick**, **whutterick**, **wittrick**, **wutterick**, **witchat**, **whittard** *noun* **1** the stoat *Mustela erminea*. **2** *figuratively* a thin, weaselly fellow.

3 a cross, bad-tempered person. [ILLUS: whitrat]

□ **'twould skin a whitterit** said of a cold biting day.

[Scots *whitrat*, *whitrit*, *whitterit*, *whutrit*, *whutteret*, *whutrick*, *whutterick*, *witrick*, *wutterick*; Northern Scots *futteret*; Scots and Lincolnshire *whitrick*, *whitterick*; from *white* + *rat*. The form *futteret* could also arise through the influence of Irish pronunciation, *cf.* *when*.]

whitrick, **whittard** *see* whitrat.

whitter *verb* twitter, chirp.

[Scots, onomatopoeic.]

whitterick *see* whitrat.

whitterick, **whittrick** *noun* a bird: (**a**) a small swimming bird, possibly the little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*; (**b**) the dunlin *Calidris alpina*.

[Scots *whitterick* "the curlew"; onomatopoeic (from its cry), perhaps influenced by forms of whitrat.]

whitterit *see* whitrat.

whittern *noun* a bird: the common snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, *Co. Fermanagh*; *cf.* whitterick.

whittle¹, **whuttle** *noun* a kind of sore: a whitlow.

[Scots, shortened forms.]

whittle², **whuttle**, **wheetle** *verb* **1** whittle. **2** worm (a secret out of somebody). **3** conceal (something) in a fussy way e.g. *He whuttled the money into his pocket.*

◆ *noun* **1** a knife. **2** *specifically* a large butcher's knife.

□ **whittle and whang** touch and go; *cf.* whang¹.

[Scots form *whuttle*.]

whittle³ *adjective* white e.g. *Them hills er whittle wie snow, William.*

whittrick *see* whitterick.

whitrit *see* whitrat.

whiz: **whizeek**, **whassuck** a severe blow, usually on the ear.

whizza, **whizzah** *noun* a huzza, a cheer.

who, **wha**, **waw**, **whae** *interrogative pronoun*, *relative pronoun* who.

□ **who but he** or **she** used in admiration of a display of skill *etc*: who can compare with e.g. *Who now but Paddy!*

□ **whosomiver** whoever.

[Scots and Northern English form *wha*, Northern English also *waw*, Scots also *whae*.]

whoa, **wow**, **whoo**, **wooa**, **whoy** *exclamation*, *also* **whoa hee** a command

to a horse: wo, whoa!

□ **wo-back** a call to a horse to go back.

[English dialectal form *woy*.]

whole, wholt, hale *adjective* **1** whole. **2** followed by a noun in the plural
e.g. the whole connections the whole family.

□ **the whole breed, seed and generation**

□ **too quate to be wholesome**

□ **whole-duck** the mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*.

□ **wholesome** *adjective* healthy, vigorous; well.

□ **whole world and his mother** a crowd.

[Scots form *hale*. See also *hale*².]

whollock *see* whallock.

wholt *see* whole.

whomble, whommle *see* whemmlle.

whon *see* whin, when.

whonge *see* whinge.

whoo *see* whoa.

whoo-ee *exclamation* a call to a dog.

[Onomatopoeic.]

whop, wop, wap *noun frequently in plural* a noisy argument, a disturbance.

□ **whopping** a beating, a defeat.

[English slang or colloquial *whop*, occasionally *wop, wap*, "to beat, thrash; a heavy blow or impact"; onomatopoeic.]

whorl *noun* a halo round the moon.

whosomiver *see* who.

whoy *see* whoa.

whud *see* whid¹, whid².

whuff *see* whiff.

whullabulloo *see* hullaballo, whillaballoo.

whult *see* whilt.

whulter-buzz *noun* a flying beetle *Co. Antrim*.

[Possibly formed on *whilt* + *buzz*. See also *wortumbuzz*.]

whum *noun* a type of cart with high, removable sides, used for transporting peat.

[*Cf.* Hertfordshire *wim* "a cart for carrying timber", origin unknown.]

[ILLUS: whum]

whummle *see* whemmlle.

whumper *see* whimper.

whun *see* when, whin.

whunge *see* whinge.

whup, whupster *see* whip.

whurl *see* whirl.

whurrang *noun* **1** confusion, hubbub. **2** an unruly crowd, a rabble. *See also* whirran.

whurren *see* murren.

whush *see* wish.

whush, wheesh *exclamation, also wheeshoo* "whish" (a cry to scare away birds).

◆ *verb* wish, drive (hens) or scare away (birds) by crying "whish".

□ **whisher** a school inspector.

[Scots forms.]

whusk *noun* a whisk, a sweeping-brush.

◆ *verb* whisk, brush lightly.

[Scots and Northern English form.]

whuskers *noun plural* whiskers.

[Scots form.]

whuskey *see* whiskey.

whusle *see* whistle.

whusper *see* whisper.

whustle *see* whistle.

whut *see* what.

whutrick, whutrit, whutteret, whutterick *see* whitrat.

whuttle *see* whittle¹, whittle².

why: why but? why don't?; why didn't? *e.g. Why but you do it yourself?*

□ **why for?** why, for what reason?

wi *see* with.

wibelty-wabelty *adjective*:

wicht *see* wight.

wick¹, week *noun* a corner, an angle; a hollow; *specifically* (a) the corner of the mouth; (b) the corner of the eye.

[Obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and Northern English), from Old Norse *vik* "the corner of the mouth".]

wick² *noun* a week.

□ **a wick an' a bit iv a wick** a little over a week.

[Older form (still Scots and English dialectal).]

wick³ *adjective* awful, bad, useless.

[Scots and Northern English; from Middle English *wicci*, on which wicked is formed.]

wicked, wicket *adjective* **1** of a person cross, bad-tempered; ill-natured.

2 of an animal vicious, savage. **3** powerful, energetic.

◆ *adverb* wicked, very, severely.

[Scots form *wicket*; *see also* wick³.]

wid *see* with, would, wood.

widda *see* widow.

widdie, wuddy, wuddie *noun* **1** a withy, a willow rod. **2** a stout young stick. **3** a band of twisted withies; *specifically* (a) a halter; (b) the hangman's noose.

□ **as tyough as wuddie**

□ **cut weddy, tread-wuddie** the chain, or iron hook and swivel, used to connect the swingletree to a plough or harrow [earlier made of twisted withies]. [ILLUS: cut/wedy]

□ **the wather 'ill niver wrong the wuddy** if you were born to be hanged, you will not drown.

□ **thraw the widdie while it's green** *literally* twist the withy while it's young; *figuratively* train a child when young.

□ **tough-withy** very tough.

[Scots and Northern English form *widdy*; Scots also *wuddy, wuddie*.]

widdy *see* widow.

□ **wigeon-grass** eel-grass *Zostera spp.*

widger *see* wudger.

widow, widdy, widda, wudda, weeda *noun* **1** *also* widow woman, widda body a widow. **2** *also* widow man a widower.

□ **widow's peak** a girl's hair growing to a point on the forehead, supposed to foretell early widowhood.

[Scots and English dialectal form *widdy*, Scots and Northern English also *widda*, Scots also *weeda*.]

wife: make a wife of (a woman) marry *e.g. It's a wife he'll be making of her.*

□ **the wife is guy welcome that comes wi' the crookit oxther** *i.e.* something under her arm.

□ **wifie** an affectionate diminutive of wife.

wig *noun* a cone of paper for holding groceries, *etc.*, rolled over the hand and twisted at one end.

□ **wigs (up)on the green, wigs or heads on the green and no one to pull or claim them** describing a disturbance: a noisy argument, fighting [*wigs on the green* Hiberno-English, also adopted more widely].

wigeon, wudgeon *noun* a bird: (a) the wigeon *Anas penelope*; (b) the tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*.

wight *see* weight².

wight, wicht *noun* a small, lightly-built person [*wight* archaic in Standard English].

[Scots form *wicht*.]

wike *exclamation, also wike o'er that* a command to a horse: go back.

wilard *see* williard.

wild, wile, wuld *adjective* **1** excessive *e.g.* *You must be burning wild coal*; *also wild lot* a good deal. **2** extremely bad.

◆ *adverb* very, extremely *e.g.* *It's a wild tame duck, that.*

□ **nothing wild or wonderful?** no news? nothing interesting?

□ **turn or tumble the wild-cat, tumble the wull-cat** turn a somersault, tumble head over heels.

□ **wild calceolaria** a wild flower, the bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*.

□ **wild-cat:**

□ **wild duck** *specifically* the mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*.

□ **wild-fire, wile-fire, wul-fire, wool-fire** **1** a skin disease: erysipelas, also known as wildfire. **2** a wild flower: sneezewort *Achilla ptarmica*.

□ **wild goose** *specifically* the brent goose.

□ **wild-grass** roadside hay.

□ **wild honeysuckle** a wild flower: the red nettle *Pedicularis palustris*.

□ **wild parrot** the puffin.

□ **wild pigeon** *specifically* the woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*.

□ **wild rue** a wild flower: the hemlock water dropwort *Oenanthe crocata*.

□ **wild-spinach** a wild flower: sea-beet *Beta vulgaris maritima*.

□ **wild tulip** a wild flower: the common twayblade *Listera ovata*.

□ **wild white** white clover.

□ **wul thing:** *e.g.* *putt a jal o' wul thing in that hot wather.*

[Scots forms *wile, wuld*, and in compounds *wul-*.]

wilder *verb* bewilder.

[Archaic in Standard English (still Scots and Northern English); origin unknown, possibly related to *wilderness*. (*Bewilder* is a compound of *wilder*.)]

wile *see* wild.

wileek *see* whelk.

wiley *noun* an implement for twisting straw ropes. *Illustration see* garhook.

[Southern Scots; formed on *wyle* form of Scots *wavel* ("to wag to and fro", itself an extended form of *wave*).]

wiley-coat *see* wyliecoat.

wilk, wilkpicker *see* whelk.

will, wull *noun* will, a will.

◆ *auxiliary verb, also 'll, 'ull; present negative; wullot, 'llot, winna, wunna, wunt, 'ont* **1** will. **2 will can, 'll can** will be able to. **3** used with *I* and *we* *e.g.* *Will I wet the tea?* [in England, *shall* is considered correct].

4 expressing the speaker's expectation that something will turn out to be the case *e.g.* *He'll have a great feelin for them.*

□ **get or have your will of** get your way with.

□ **have good will** be willing (to do something) *e.g.* *He has good will to do it.*

□ **have no will of** have no wish or liking for.

□ **if it is your will** if it pleases you, if you like.

□ **take your will of something** take as much as you please of something.

□ **what's your will?** what do you want?

□ **will have** must have.

□ **wullee** will he.

□ **yell, yull; negative; yellot, yullot** you will.

[Scots form *wull*; Scots and English dialectal shortened form *'ull*.

Present negative: Scots, Northern and Western English forms *winna, wunna* (*see* no²); Yorkshire also *wullot*; Southern English *wunt, 'ont*. *See*

also would.]

willa *see* willow.

williard, wilyard, wilard, wilyart, wulyart *adjective* **1** bewildered; lonely; dejected-looking. **2** shy, bashful, awkward. **3** stupid. **4** obstinate, self-willed, unmanageable.

[Scots *williard, wilyard, wylart, wulyart*; from Scots *will* "bewildered" (from Old Norse *villr*, corresponding to *wild*) + *-art*, as in *braggart, etc.*]

willick *see* whelk.

willicks, wellicks *noun plural* a feeling of repulsion, "the willies", the creeps.

[With *-ock* as an alternative diminutive ending to *-ie*.]

willie *see* willow.

Willie, Wullie: **willie dooker** a bird: the cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*; *cf.* *bessy dooker*. *Illustration see* black.

□ **willie twinie** a wild flower: bindweed species of *Calystegia spp.* or *Convolvulus spp.*

□ **willie wagtail 1** a name for a bird, the wagtail. (**a**) *especially* the pied wagtail *Motacilla lugubris*. (**b**) the grey wagtail. **2** someone who is all things to all persons.

□ **willie winkie, also wee willie winkie** the little finger [(*Wee Willie Winkie* is a character in a children's rhyme in Scots by William Miller).

□ **willy hawk, willie hawkie, wullie hawkie** a bird: the little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*.

□ **willy-the-wisp** a will-o-the-wisp.

[Scots form *Wullie*.]

willies *noun plural* the sulks. *thus in the willies cf.* willicks.

willow, willy, willie, willa *noun 1* a tree: the willow. **2** *specifically* an osier, a willow used for basket-making.

□ **willa-plate** a willow-patterned plate.

□ **willow wren** a bird: the chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* [in Standard English, a different bird, the willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*]; *see also* white.

[Scots and English dialectal *willy, willie*; Lincolnshire *willa*.]

willy *see* willow.

willy-wally *noun*:

willy-wally *noun 1* *abusive* a person with no back-bone. **2** a lanky fellow.

[*Cf.* Scots "an effeminate man" (*Willie* + *wally* "an ornament", itself possibly related to *wale*); *cf.* also Roxburghshire, of a person "delicate" (possibly an altered form of *peely-wally*).]

wilt *verb, of flowers etc.* wither; fade.

wilyard, wilyart *see* williard.

wimple, wumple *verb 1* meander, wind. **2** tumble over. **3** overturn (something).

[Scots and Northern English *wimple*, Scots also *wumple*; the same word as Standard English *wimple* "a nun's headdress; to fall in folds".]

win' *see* wind¹, wind².

win¹, wun; *past tense* **win;** *verb 1* win, triumph. **2** improve in health.

3 harvest, gather (crops or peat); *hence* win². **4** reach (a place); *also* **win back** manage to return. **5** earn. **6** beat, defeat *e.g.* *Lily won Mary in the race*.

□ **winner** *in plural* winnings, that which has been won.

□ **winsome** winning, pleasant, agreeable [also adopted in Standard English].

[Scots form *wun*. Past tense: Northumberland *win*.]

win², wun; *past participle* **won, wun, win;** *verb 1* dry (corn, hay, peat, *etc.*) by exposure to the wind. **2** dry (clothes) in the open air.

□ **it's the wind that wins the corn** *proverbial*

[The same word as win¹, sometimes confused with wind¹. Scots form *wun*. Past participle: Scots form *win*.]

winch *see* wench.

wind¹, win', wund, wun'; *archaic wine*; *noun* [also (archaic) pronounced to rhyme with "mind"] wind, the wind.

- ◆ *verb* winnow (separate chaff from grain). *Illustration see weight².*
- **bad wind to** bad luck to.
- **be all win'** be a windbag.
- **come under the wind of** begin to understand.
- **fair wind to your wee boat** a good-luck wish to someone going away.
- **get under the wind of something** "get wind of" something.
- **give wind till (a subject)** give utterance to (a subject).
- **keep yer win' tae cool yer kail** keep your breath to cool your porridge.
- **out of wind** out of breath.
- **take yer wind** draw breath.
- **the four winds of the world** the four winds, everywhere.
- **the night of the big win'** 1839.
- **turn the wind to make snail-boxes** achieve the impossible.
- **wind-broken** broken-winded, out of breath.
- **winded** winnowed.
- **wind gall, win-gall, wind-gale 1** a sore produced by rubbing or chaffing, *especially* a sore on a horse caused by the harness [in Standard English, a *wind gall* is a type of tumour on a horse's leg]; *see also* wuniel.
- 2** a sebaceous cyst on the head.
- **windhover** the kestrel.
- **wind of the word** the slightest hint.
- **wind-skew** the part of a roof overhanging the gable of a building.
- **wine-mill** a windmill.
- **winrow, wunra** a windrow (hay ready to be gathered into cocks); *see* ra².

□ **words is but wind, but blows is unkind**

[Scots and English dialectal *win'*; Scots also *wund, wun'*; older pronunciation *wind* rhyming with *mind* (still English dialectal, in Scots only in ballads).]

wind², wun, past tense and past participle wun', verb 1 also win', wun wind, coil. **2** make (a fist).

- ◆ *noun 1* a boot-lace. **2** a swinging blow, *also* **make a wind at someone**
- **winder** an implement used for making straw ropes. *Illustration see* garhook.

[Scots forms *win', wun'*. Past tense: Northern English *wun'*. Past participle: Scots and Northern English *wun*. *See also* wind³.]

wind³, wynd, wine verb, of a horse or other draught animal turn to the left.

- ◆ *exclamation, also* **wind 'ere** a command to a horse: turn left.
- **from end to wind** *also, incorrectly* **from end to one, from N to one** from one end to the other.
- **winding, windin, winin, also winding ridge, windin rig, winin rig** *ploughing* the headland, the strip at the end of a field where the horses or tractor turn. *Illustration see* hind.

[The same word as wind²; Scots form *wine*.]

windae, windie *see* window.

- **as light or thin as a winnle-straw**
- **cow!' without, as the madman sayd whin he hid behind the winnel-sthroe**

windlin *see* wunnle.

window, windae, windie, wundy, wunda, weenda *noun* a window.

- had they a big window in the shop when ye went to get it? (Seen ye comin.).
- **window-footing** a castle, a small stack of peats set up to dry; *see* foot.
- **window-stool, windie-stool** a window-sill [*stool* in the sense of *sill* obsolete in Standard English except U.S.A.].
- **window-watcher** a small loaf of bread set up for sale in a small

shop-window.

□ **windy pane** a window pane.

□ **windy-shut** a window-shutter.

[Scots and Northern English form *winda*; Scots also *windae*, *windie*, *wundae*, *wunda*.]

windy *adjective* finicky.

wine *see* wind¹.

wine *see* wind³.

wing¹ *noun in plural* the upper, removable, boards on the sides of a cart.

[ILLUS: wing]

wing² *noun, slang* a penny.

[Hiberno-English (hence U.S.A.) form of obsolete English slang *win*, origin unknown.]

win-gall *see* wind¹.

winge *see* whinge.

wingle *verb, also wingle away* work hard but ineffectively *e.g.* *A piper said of a tune: "I would wingle away too long, for I don't know it right"*.

winin *see* wind³.

wink: **there's not a wink on him or her** he or she is "wide awake", capable of looking out for himself or herself.

□ **unable to wink at (something)** unable to do (something).

□ **winker 1** an eyelid. **2** an eye-lash.

□ **winkie** sleepy.

winker *noun* a shellfish: (**a**) the periwinkle *Littorina littorea*, also known as the winkle; (**b**) a whelk.

winlin *see* wunnle.

winling *see* wunnle.

winna *see* will, winnow.

winner *see* wonder.

winner-cloth, **winnie** *see* winnow.

winnin sheet *noun* the container in which seed is held when sowing by hand.

winnlestraw *see* wunnle.

winnow, **winna**, **winnie**, **wunnie** *verb 1* winnow. **2** dry (peat, *etc.*) in the wind.

□ **winnow-cloth**, *also* **winner-cloth** a winnowing sheet (*i.e.* a cloth spread on the ground to collect corn when it is winnowed by hand).

Illustration see weight².

[Scots forms *winna*, *winnie*; English dialectal *winner*.]

winrow *see* wind¹.

winter, **wunter** *noun* winter.

□ **winter-dyke 1** one of two strong banks of stone or earth crossing each other at right angles, erected on exposed pasture to shelter cattle left out in winter. **2** a clothes-horse for drying laundry indoors. *See* dyke.

□ **winter-Friday** a name for a cold, wretched-looking person.

[Scots form *wunter*.]

wintherstale *noun* a weakling, a puny child.

wi'oot *see* without.

wipe *noun* a large chunk of bread.

◆ *verb* smack (a child).

□ **goaly-wipe** a blow with a hurley stick strong enough to ensure that the ball reaches the goal.

□ **wiper** *in a flax-mill* a scutching blade. *Illustration see* targe.

wir *see* our.

wire¹ *verb* snare (*e.g.* a hare).

□ **have a bit o a wire aboot yersel** be proud of yourself.

□ **not wired up right** mentally deficient.

□ **wired up**, *also* **wired to the moon** *jocular* erratic in behaviour or having unrealistic ideas.

wire² *noun* an embankment made to prevent the overflowing of water.

[Old form of *weir*.]

wire worm *noun* an earthworm.

wirgin *adjective* virgin, pure.

[Southern English form.]

wirra, wurra, worra *exclamation* expressing grief.

- **worra, John** expressing dissent or disapproval of some proposition made.

[Hiberno-English *wirra*, from Irish *a Mhuire* literally "oh Mary!". See also *wirrasthroo, wisha*.]

wirrasthroo, wirrasthroe, wurrasthroo *exclamation* expressing grief or pity.

[Hiberno-English *wirrasthru*, from Irish *a Mhuire is trua* "oh Mary, it is a pity", see also *wirra*.]

wirsh *see* *wersh*.

wise *adjective* **1** in your right mind, sane; *frequently not wise; also not half wise* *i.e.* not even half wise. **2** skilled in magic or the use of charms.

- **be wise enough to decide between Conall and Eoghan** know enough to make a choice.
- **make someone the wiser** inform someone *usually negative* *e.g.* *I didn't make him any the wiser*.
- **wise-man** *or* **-woman** a person who deals in magic or charms [*wise-woman* archaic in Standard English].

wish¹, wush, weesh *noun* wish.

◆ *verb, also wisht, wushed, weeshed* wish.

- **have a wish for someone** have a friendly affection for someone, hold someone in esteem.
- **wish bane, wush bane, wush-bone** a wish-bone.
- **wishful** desirous, eager.
- **wishing**:
- **wishing-bone** a wish-bone.

[Scots forms *wush, weesh*.]

wish² *noun* a wisp, a small amount of hay *Co. Fermanagh*.

[Origin unknown.]

wisha *exclamation* expressing surprise, *etc.*

[Irish *Mhaise, mhaise*, possibly a disguised form of *a Mhuire* (see *wirra*).]

wisht *see* *wish¹*.

wishy-washy *adjective* unreliable, untrustworthy.

wisp, wusp *noun* **1** a wisp (of straw, *etc.*). **2** a tangle (of hair, knitting wool, *etc.*). **3** a wisp of hay distributed for luck on New Year's Day; *see also* *dunt*.

[Scots form *wusp*.]

wisted, wistit *see* *worset*.

wit: he has more money nor wit

wit *see* *with*.

wit, wut *noun* the faculty of reasoning, intelligence [*wit* archaic in Standard English in this sense].

- **have wit** be reasonable, be sensible.
- **have your wit yet to seek** be a fool.
- **head o wit** a level-headed person.
- **he was the quare head o' wit that dthrownded the eel in the win-bush**
- **no more wit than a child** no common sense.
- **out of your wit** out of your mind, insane.
- **teach someone wit** teach someone how to behave.
- **witless, wutless** lacking sense, foolish, thoughtless [*witless* archaic in Standard English].
- **wut is evenly divided**

[Scots form *wut.*]

witch, wutch *noun* a witch.

- **he or she's no witch** *sarcastic* he or she is stupid.
- **witch-bush** a thorn believed to be associated with a witch.
- **witch child** an uncanny child.
- **witch-knot** a bundle of matted twigs formed on the branches of birches or thorn bushes.
- **witch's bush** an alga: *Nostoc commune*.
- **witch's cradle** a lower Jurassic fossil: the devil's toenail *Gryphea spp.*

[ILLUS: witch/cr]

- **witch-woman** a witch.

[Scots form *wutch.*]

witchat *see* whitrat.

witchel *see* wee.

wite, wyte *noun, verb* blame.

[Scots and Northern English; from Old English *wīte* *noun*, *witan* *verb*.]

with, wid, wit, wi, wae *preposition* with.

- **with that** because of that.
- **with your leave** by your leave, with your permission. "by your leave" is not so courteous and may be imperative
- **wutha-weight** *literally* with the weight: a compensating weight added to allow for the weight of a container.

[Hiberno-English and English dialectal form *wid*; Scots and English dialectal *wi, wae*; Cumberland also *wuth*.]

wither: that wirsch they nearhand withered the tongue aff me

withers *noun plural* the crupper (of harness).

withers: wither-locks a beard [Scots *witherlock* "the lock of hair in a horse's mane over the withers, which a rider grasps when mounting"].

withershin *adverb* **1** in the direction opposite to the sun's course. **2** from right to left. **3** *generally* in the wrong or reverse direction.

[Scots and Northern English *withershins*; from Middle Low German *weddersins* *literally* "against the direction".]

within: withinside *adverb* inside, within [archaic in Standard English].

without, withoot, wi'oot, wi'yoot *preposition* without.

- ◆ *conjunction* unless *e.g.* *Without it is done today, it will not be done at all.*

- **lay in coals when ye have money, without mebbly ye burn turf**

[Scots and Northern English form *wi'oot*, Scots also *withoot*.]

wittrick *see* whitrat.

wi'yoot *see* without.

wizen, weezen *verb* **1** shrivel [*wizen* also adopted in Standard English].

2 shrink upon drying.

- **wizened, weezened, weazened, wezened** *adjective* shrivelled

[*wizened* also adopted in Standard English].

[Mainly Scots and Northern English *wizen, weezen*; Isle of Wight also *wesan*.]

wizzen *see* weasen.

wizzen *noun* the front hair of the head, the fringe *Co. Monaghan; cf.* wassach.

wobble, wabble *verb* **1** wobble. **2** mix shaving lather; lather the face before shaving.

- ◆ *noun* lather for shaving.

- **wabble boy** a lather boy (a barber's assistant).

- **wabbly** wobbly.

- **wobbling-brush, wabble brush** a shaving-brush.

[Scots and Southern English, also Hiberno-English, form *wabble*.]

wocky *noun* a watchman.

woft *see* weave.

wollycoat *see* wyliecoat.

woman, wuman, wummin; *plural wimmin, wummen, weemen*, *noun* a woman; a man's wife.

- nothing that is natural is wonderful, and it's as natural to see a woman crying as a goose going barefoot** *saying*
- the weemins lek the turf, ye want ta hanal them well ta get them** the women are like turf, you must handle them well to win them.
- the woman that owns ye** your wife.
- weemen parties** the "women folk".
- woman-big** *of a girl* woman-grown, grown-up; *cf.* man¹.
- woman-body** a woman; *cf.* man¹.
- woman dear 1** a term of address. **2** *also woman alive exclamations*; *cf.* man¹.
- women-folk**, *also women-kin* the women of a household; *see* folk, kind.

[Scots and Southern English form *wummin*. Plural: Scots form *weemin*. *Cf.* man¹.]

womble *see* whemmle.

won *see* one.

won *see* win².

won *verb* dwell, reside.

[Archaic in Standard English, from Old English *wunian*.]

wonder, wondher, wonner, wunner, winner, woonder *noun* **1** a wonder.

2 wonders of vast amounts of.

◆ *verb* **1** wonder. **2** *in passive* **be wondered** be surprised. **3** **wonder you** wonder, ask yourself.

◆ *adjective* wondrous.

- A'll mak' ye wunnhur what ails ye** a threat of beating or punishment.
- the almighty wonder, the wonder of the world** a great wonder; *see also* world.
- wunnerfu'** wonderful; *see* full.

[Scots and Northern English form *wonner, wunner*; Scots also *winner*; rare North-Eastern Scots *woonder*.]

wonst *see* once.

wooa *see* whoa.

wood, wud, wid *noun* wood, a wood.

- run in the family like a wooden leg** said of a family trait.
- wood-awl** a bradawl.
- wood block** a sawing-horse.
- woodcock** the green plover.
- woodcock owl** a bird: the short-eared owl *Asio flammeus* [from its horizontal stance on the ground, which makes it resemble a woodcock].
- wooden suit** *jocular* a coffin.
- wooden wings** the fulmar.
- wood-kern** *historical* an outlaw living in the woods [translation of Irish *ceithearn coille(adh)* (*see* kern²)].
- wood-louse** the book-worm.
- woodpecker** a bird: the treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* [the group of birds known elsewhere as woodpeckers, *Picidae*, has not been found in Ireland in modern times]. [ILLUS: woodpeck]
- wood-sage** a wild flower: self-heal *Prunella vulgaris*.
- wood thrush** a bird: the mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. *Illustration see* shriek.
- wood-tick** a sheep-tick.
- wudden** wooden.
- wudden-heid** a wooden-head.

[Scots forms *wid, wud*.]

wool, wull *noun* wool.

- raise someone's wool** make someone angry.
- wool-cottar** a bird: the cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. *Illustration*

see black.

- woolly** a wild plant: cotton-grass *Eriophorum spp.*
- woolly bear** a hairy caterpillar.
- wullen** woollen.

[Midland English form *wull*. *See also* oose¹, outhur.]

wool-fire *see* wild.

woonder *see* wonder.

wop *see* wap, whop.

wor *see* war¹, we.

word *noun* a sign *e.g.* *Did you see any word of my blue socks?*

- break a word with** speak to.
- break the word in someone's mouth** "take the words out of someone's mouth".
- get the word(s) said** have the marriage ceremony performed.
- get word from** hear from.
- have a great word of, (not) have a good word of or on** (not) have a good word to say for, (not) speak well of.
- have not a word to throw at a dog** have little or nothing to say.
- have no word** be unreliable.
- have words** quarrel (**with** someone **about** something).
- I may as well tell you as send you word** I may as well make it known to you immediately.
- one word borrowed another** there was an increasingly heated exchange.
- take the word from someone** interrupt someone.
- take the word out of someone's mouth** speak before someone is about to begin.
- take the word out of someone's mouth** anticipate and say what you are about to say.
- words is but wind, but blows is unkin'**

wordie *noun* a present from an inferior to a superior.

wordy *see* worth.

wore *see* wear.

work, wark; *past tense and past participle* **wrought, wrocht**; *verb* **1** work.

2 *of rain* gather for a shower. **3** **work at** keep on working until the job is done; *cf.* thole.

◆ *noun* work.

- a lazy person'll do anything but work or run arran's**
- be worked off your feet** have too much to do.
- hard work's not asy**
- imagination's as good as a physic, if it only works ye**
- I wud rather have yer work nor yer music, as the Tinker said to the Jackass**
- make bad work with** (*e.g.* **a crop**) damage, injure (*e.g.* a crop).
- worked out, wrought out** *of land* exhausted.
- working at it** putting in the time, near the end.
- working bee** a domesticated bee.
- working carpenter** a jobbing carpenter.
- work lives aside** a betting term said when people are straining every effort either to put in or to take out the cup.
- work to someone** work for or under someone.

[Scots and Northern English form *wark*. Past tense and past participle: *wrought* archaic in Standard English (still English dialectal), Scots form *wrocht*.]

world, worl', wurl', warld *noun* the world.

- all the world** very *e.g.* *all the world grateful*.
- a world of time** "an age", a very long time *e.g.* *It'll take a worl' o' time to do that*.
- be on top of the world** be prosperous, of independent means.

- **for all the worl'** for anybody.
- **in the wide world** at all, anywhere *e.g. He hasn't thrippence in the wide world.*
- **round the world for sport** by a roundabout route.
- **the world and his wife knows** everyone knows.
- **think the world and all of someone** "think the world of someone".
- **this world** in this part of the world.
- **warlish** *of an old person* "all there", of sound mind.
- **world's wonder 1** a spectacle, *especially* a person whose behaviour is notorious or surprising. **2** a great wonder. *See also wonder.*
[Scots form *worl'*, *wurl'*; Scots, also Devon and Hiberno-English, form *world.*]
- worm, wurrum** *noun* a worm.
 - **worm-fever** typhoid.
 - **worm month** the period from about mid-July to mid-August when the larvae of many insects appear.
 - **worm-picked** *of wood* worm-eaten.
[Scots form *wurrum.*]
- worra** *see* wirra.
- worry**: **worry out** struggle on.
- worse, warse**, *also* **worser** *adjective, adverb* worse.
 - **ten worses** much worse.
 - **the worse of drink** the worse for drink, drunk.
 - **worse nor lose ye canna** you can but lose, so you may as well try.
 - **worser** worse again.
[Scots and Northern English form *warse. See also war*¹.]
- worset, wistit, wisted** *noun* a type of yarn or cloth: worsted.
 - **Guess who's listed? / A wee ball of wisted** *children's rhyme*
[Scots and Northern English form *worset*, Scots also *wirset*, *wirsid.*]
- worsh** *see* wersh.
- worth** *adjective* at the end of a sentence in the negative: worth mentioning *e.g. He didnae dae any work worth.*
 - **just the worth of him** *or her derogatory* just like him or her.
 - **wordy** worthy [Scots form].
- wortumbuzz** *noun* a type of insect; *cf.* whulter-buzz.
- wouch** [vowel as in "now"] *noun, verb* cough.
[Scots "a bark; to bark", onomatopoeic.]
- would, wad, wud, wid, id** *auxiliary verb, negative wadna, wudna, wudnae, wudn't 1 would. **2** expressing the speaker's expectation that something will turn out to be the case; used as a polite way of asking a question where the expected answer is "yes" *e.g. Ye'd be at the market before?* **3** used in hypothetical contexts *e.g. I sat where I would see them* [as in Scotland and U.S.A.; in England, *should* is used].

 - **just what yed see** a small amount (of hay, snow *etc.*).
[Scots and Northern English *wad*; Scots also *wud, wid*; English dialectal *ud*. Negative: Scots *wadna, wudna, wudnae (see no*²*).*]*
- wow** *see* whoa.
- wrack**¹, **wreck, vreck, vrack** *noun* wrack, seaweed.
 - **wrack-bed** the part of the shore where wrack is gathered.
[*Wreck* obsolete in Standard English (still Scots and Northern English); North-Eastern Scots forms *vrack, vreck*. Two separate English words are involved: *wrack* from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *wrak* "a wreck", and *wreck* from Anglo-Norman *wrec* (itself borrowed from a Germanic source and thus related to *wrack*).]
- wrack**²: **wrack and ruin** destroy.
- wraith, wrath** *noun 1* an apparition, a spectre. **2** *specifically* the apparition of a living person.
[Mainly Scots *wraith*, rarely *wrath*; origin unknown.]
- wran** *noun* a bird: the wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. *Illustration see tit*².

[Hiberno-English, Scots and South-Western English form.]

wrang *see* wrong.

wrangle *verb* entangle.

- **wrangle-eyed** cross-eyed.

[Mainly Southern English *rangle* "to entwine", origin unknown. *See also* un wrangle.]

wrang-nail, wrong-nail *noun* an agnail (a loose piece of skin below or at the side of a fingernail).

[Also found in Galloway, influenced by forms of wrong.]

wrap: wrap-rascal an old overcoat [archaic in Standard English].

wrastle, wrassle, warsle *verb* wrestle.

- **he wad wrastle a flay under the bed for the skin an' bones** he is very greedy.

- **he wud wrastle ye the live-long day for a sixpence**

- **if ye wrastle wi' a sweep, ye'll be found to be covered wi' dirt**

- **wrastle away** said by the tried mother of a large family.

[Old form (still Scots and English dialectal) *wrastle*, Scots and Northern English also *warsle*.]

wratch *see* wretch.

wrath *see* wraith.

wreath, wraith, wread *noun* **1** a snowdrift. **2** a windrow of newly-mown hay.

[Older form in Scots and English *wraith*, Scots also *wread*.]

wreck *see* wrack¹.

wreck *noun* pure poteen, produced by the third run of the still *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

wreck¹: wreck the house **1** a name for a clumsy person. **2** cheap wine.

wrest *see* wrist.

wretch, wratch *verb* do (a person) out of *e.g. I was wratched of a pound last time you were here*.

- **wretchock** the smallest or weakest chick of a brood.

[Scots, also West Midland English, form *wratch*.]

wretchock *see* wretch.

wriggle: wriggle out of it struggle with difficulties; manage to pull through.

wrinch *verb* wrench.

[Old form (still East Anglia).]

wringing, wringin *adjective, also wringin through* wringing-wet, dripping with water; drenched, soaked with rain.

wrist, wrust, wrest *noun* the wrist.

- **wristies** knitted bands worn on the wrists for warmth.

[Old form *wrest*.]

write *verb: past tense and past participle writ, past participle also wrote*

[Past participle: English dialectal and Scots *wrote*.]

wrocht *see* work.

wrong, wrang *adjective* **1** wrong. **2 usually wrong in the head** deranged.

- ◆ *adverb* wrongly.

- **wrang-handl** left-handed.

[Scots and Northern English form *wrang*.]

wrote *see* write.

wrought *see* work.

wrust *see* wrist.

wud *see* wood.

wud *see* would.

wud *adjective* enraged, mad.

- **wugeon** a cross person.

[Scots and Northern English form of obsolete Standard English *wood*, from Old English *wōd* "mad, insane".]

wudden *see* wood.

wuddie *see* widdie.

wuddle *verb*, of a duck make a hollow in shallow mud.

[Scots "widdle; wobble", altered form of *waddle*.]

wuddy *see* widdie.

wudgeon *see* widgeon.

wudger, widger *verb, noun* wager, bet.

[Western Scots form *wudger*.]

wudna, wudnae, wudn't *see* would.

wuld *see* wild.

wulf *noun* a wolf.

- **don't give the wolf the wether to keep**

[North-Western English and South-Western Scots form.]

wul-fire *see* wild.

wulk *see* whelk.

wull *see* will, wool.

wullach *adjective* excitable; inclined to extremes of mood.

[Irish *uallach* "vain, proud".]

wull-cat *see* wild.

wullee *see* will.

Wulliam *proper noun* William.

- **Wull** Will, William.

Wullie *see* Willie.

wullot *see* will.

wulyart *see* williard.

wuman, wummen, wummin *see* woman.

wummle *noun* a wimble, an auger (a carpenter's boring tool).

[Scots and Northern English form.] [ILLUS: wummle]

wumple *see* wimple.

wun *see* win², wind².

wun', wund *see* wind¹.

wunda, wundy *see* window.

wuniel, waniel *noun* a welt, the mark of a blow *Co. Antrim*.

[Possibly an alteration of wind-gall (see wind¹).]

wuniel¹, waniel *noun* a plaintive warble.

wunlin *see* wunnle.

wunna *see* will.

wunnelstrae, wunnelstro *see* wunnle.

wunnenn: get on yer wunnenn stand up, rise.

wunner, wunnerfu' *see* wonder.

wunnie *see* winnow.

wunne *noun, also windlin, winlin, winling, wunlin 1* a bundle of straw or hay. **2** a small amount (of hay, *etc.*).

- **windlestraw, winnelestraw, wunnelstrae, wunnelstro** **1** a thin straw left standing in a field. **2** a stalk of withered grass; a dry flower-stem; *see* strae, straw².

[Scots and Northern English *windle*, Scots also *wunne* and derived forms *windlin, etc.*; from Old English *windel* "a basket".]

wunra *see* wind¹.

wunst *see* once.

wunt *see* will.

wunter *see* winter.

wup *see* whip.

wur *see* be, our, we.

wurdle-wurdle *exclamation* a call to hens.

[Onomatopoeic.]

wurl' *see* world.

wurrasthroo *see* wirrasthroo.

wurru *see* worm.

wurs *verb* wish.

wurship *noun* worship.

[Scots form.]

wush, wushed *see* wish¹.

wusp *see* wisp.

wussock *noun* a mischievous girl *Co. Antrim*.

[Origin unknown.]

wut *see* wit.

wutch *see* witch.

wutha-weight *see* with.

wutless *see* wit.

wutter *noun* the barb of a fish-hook.

[Scots, origin unknown.]

wutterick *see* whitrat.

wuz, wuzn't *see* be.

wye *see* weigh.

wyliecoat, wiley-coat, wellycoat, walycoat, wollycoat, walliecoat *noun*

1 a man's short-sleeved flannel shirt or waistcoat, open at the front, and worn either against the skin or over another garment. **2** a child's nightshirt.

[Scots and Northern English *wyliecoat, wiley-coat*; Argyllshire and Shetland also *wellycoat*; North-Eastern Scots *walliecoat, walycoat*; from an unknown first element + *coat*.]

wynd *see* wind³.

wyte *see* wite.

X: X tae O a game: X's and O's, noughts and crosses *L'derry city*; *see* to.

ya *adverb* yes.

[Scots, Northern English and Devon; either of Scandinavian origin (*cf.* Norwegian *ja*) or from Dutch *ja*.]

yah-yah *see* yoh-yoh.

yalder, yalderin *see* yoldring.

yalla, yallie *see* yellow.

yammer, yimmer, yermer *verb* **1** yammer, grumble, complain. **2** lament.

3 cry fretfully; whimper. **4** talk incessantly, chatter.

□ **yammerer** a fractious child.

□ **yammering, yammerin** an act of whining, grumbling fretfully.

□ **yermerin** grumbling, complaining.

[The form *yermer* may be influenced by *yirm*. *See also* nyammer.]

yane *see* one.

Yankee: Yankee plough a horse-drawn wheel plough (as distinct from the older swing plough, without wheels).

yap¹ *verb* **1** *also* yawp, yaup yap, yelp; bark. **2** *also* yawp, yaup *of a chick, young turkey, etc.* call out (for food or for the parent bird).

3 *especially of a child* cry peevishly. **4** complain. **5** *of an injury* throb with pain.

◆ *exclamation* a call to a turkey to come for food.

◆ *noun* **1** the cry of a chick, *etc.* **2** a cross, irritable person. **3** a fractious child; a person who is always complaining. **4** a stab of pain.

[Scots, also South-Western English, form *yawp, yaup*.]

yap² *adjective* eager, ready.

□ **yappy** **1** hungry. **2** thin, starved-looking.

[Scots, from Old English *ȝeap* "clever; active".]

yar, yarr *noun* a wild flower: corn-spurrey *Spergula arvensis*.

[Scots and Northern English; possibly of Old English origin, *cf.* North Frisian *jīr*.]

yard, yerd, yaird *noun* a yard (the measure of distance).

□ **straight up and down like a yard of pump water** said of a tall, thin person.

□ **yard-measure, also yard** a constellation: Orion's Belt.

[Scots forms *yerd, yaird*.]

yarlin *see* yoldring.

yarn *see* yoldring.

yarn: **take the yarn** *of herring* strike the net.

yarr *see* yar.

yarra *noun* a wild flower: yarrow *Achillea millefolium*.

[South of England form.]

yarrib *see* yerb.

yarwhelp, yarwhip *noun* a bird: the godwit *Limosa spp.*

[Norfolk *yarwhelp*, origin unknown.]

yas *see* yes.

yatter *verb* chatter, talk incessantly.

[Scots, possibly a blend of *yammer* and *chatter*; also adopted widely in colloquial English.]

yauk *see* yoke.

yaup *see* yap¹.

yawk *see* yoke.

yawk *noun* the yolk of an egg.

□ **twa-yawkit** double-yolked.

[Devon and Cornwall form.]

yawl *noun* a jug; *also* **cream yawl**

[The same word as Standard English *yawl* "a type of small sailing boat".]

yawp *see* yap¹.

yawp, yaup *verb* shout, bawl, cry out loud; *of a bird* scream, utter a distress call.

□ **yawper** someone who cries out loud.

[Scots and English dialectal; onomatopoeic, *cf.* yap¹.]

ye, *unstressed* **yeh**, *pronoun* you.

□ **ye're, yir** *unstressed*; **yar** *stressed*; you're, you are.

□ **ye's** *literally* you shall: you will [Scots 's, shortened form of Scots and Northern English *sal*, itself an unstressed form of *shall*].

[*Ye* archaic in Standard English (still Scots), from the Old English nominative form *ȝe*. *You* is from the Old English accusative form *eow*.]

year:

year: **from year's end to year's end** **1** from one year to another. **2** year in and year out.

□ **yearling** **1** a young heifer that has not had a calf. **2** *in plural* calves born in the same year.

yeat *see* yett.

yees, yeez *see* youse.

yeh *see* ye.

yeh *see* yoh-yoh.

yeldrick, yeldrin *see* yoldring.

yell *see* will.

yell *adjective* **1** *of a cow or ewe* barren. **2** not giving milk, dry, *frequently* run **yell** **3** *of a heifer* too young to have a calf.

◆ *noun* **1** a barren cow or ewe. **2** a year-old heifer.

[Scots; from Old English *zelde*, of an animal "barren"; *cf.* *geld*.]

yella, yellaman *see* yellow.

yellick *see* gellick.

yelloch, yellagh *noun* **1** a yell; a shrill cry. **2** an aggressive laugh.

◆ *verb* **1** yell, scream; *also* **yelloch out** **2** laugh loudly.

[Scots, *yell* + Scots intensifying ending *-och* (modelled on Scottish Gaelic *-ach*).]

yellot *see* will.

yellow, yella, yillie, yalla, yallie *adjective* yellow.

◆ *noun* **yillie**, *also* **yilty, yeltie, yaltie** a bird: the yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*; *see also* yoldring, yoit.

□ **as yella as a docken, as yella as a duck's foot**

□ **have a yellow liver** *e.g.* *That's the second man she has seen down. I*

doubt she has a yella liver i.e. is in some way responsible for the death of her two husbands.

- **yellow-ammer** the yellowhammer.
- **yellow-ander** a bird: the yellowhammer [old form *yellow-amber*].
- **yellow-boy** a wild flower: the ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*; see **bucklin bwee**.
- **yellow bunting** a bird: the yellowhammer.
- **yellow cup** a wild flower: charlock.
- **yellow gowan** a wild flower: the corn marigold *Chrysanthemum segetum*; see **gowan**. [ILLUS: yellow/g]
- **yellow-hawk** a trout-fishing fly.
- **yellow laugh** an insincere laugh.
- **yellow-legs** a variety of potato.
- **yellow-man, yellaman** a yellow-coloured toffee, sold at fairs, etc.
- **yellow meal** maize meal.
- **yellow rock** yellow-man.
- **yellow wagtail** a bird: the grey wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*.
- **yellow-weed** a wild flower: (**a**) weld *Reseda luteola* [formerly the source of a yellow dye]; (**b**) charlock *Sinapsis arvensis*.

[Scots and English dialectal form *yella*, old form *yellow*. For the forms *yilty*, *yeltie*, *yaltie*, cf. North-Eastern Scots *yaldie* and forms of *yoldring*.]

yelp *verb*, of a dog bark.

yeltie-yorn see *yoldring*.

ye-oh *exclamation* a cry of scorn or derision: yah boo! *Co. Antrim*.

yer see *your*.

ye'r *noun* **New Ye'rs Day** New-year's day.

yerb, yerrib, yarrib *noun* a herb.

[Northern English and Southern Scots form *yerb*. The *h* was not originally pronounced.]

yerd, yird *noun* a yard, an enclosed area adjoining a house.

yerd see *yard*.

[Scots and Northern English form *yerd*, Scots also *yaird, yird*. See also *kirk*.]

ye're see *ye*.

yerk *verb* jerk, pull sharply.

- **yerkin, yarkin** the seam of a leather boot [because a seam is pulled tight].

[*Yerk* (still Scots and Northern English), *yark* (still Scots and English dialectal) obsolete in Standard English; onomatopoeic.]

yerling see *yoldring*.

yermer see *yammer*.

yerp *verb*, of a dog bark.

[Onomatopoeic.]

yerrib see *yerb*.

yersel, yerself see *your*.

yert see *yoit*.

ye's see *ye*.

yes, yis, yus, yas *adverb* **1** yes. A bare "yes" is usually avoided, and a short sentence, such as "I did" or "It is", is preferred **2** a greeting.

[Old form *yis*, English dialectal also *yus*, Southern English also *yas*.]

yesterday, yisterday *adverb* yesterday.

- **ere yesterday** the day before yesterday.

[Scots form *yisterday*.]

yestereen, yestre'en *adverb* **1** last night, yesterday evening. **2** yesterday.

[Scots and Northern English form *yestreen*, also adopted as a poeticism in Standard English.]

yet, yit *adverb* **1** yet. **2** still e.g. *Is that wee hose-pipe in the back of the van yet?* [*yet* archaic in Standard English].

- **wait yet now!** wait a minute, now!

[Old form (still Scots and English dialectal) *yit*.]

yeth *exclamation* a disguised oath: "faith", indeed; *cf.* *haith*.

yett, yeat *noun* a gate; *specifically* a field-gate.

[Scots, Northern English and South-Western English forms. These forms are from the Old English singular; *gate* is from the Old English plural.]

yew: **the old citie of the yews** Newry.

yewk, yuck *noun, verb* itch.

□ **make someone scratch where he's not yewky, gar someone claw or scart where he's no' yewky** beat someone.

□ **yewky, yucky** itchy.

[Scots and Northern English; from Middle Dutch *jeuken* and Middle Low German *jucken*, corresponding to Old English *ȝiccean*, which gives *itch*.]

yez *see* *youse*.

yilder, yildering *see* *yoldring*.

yillie *see* *yellow*.

yimmer *see* *yammer*.

yin *see* *one*.

yince *see* *once*.

yinger [rhymes with "singer"] *noun* phlegm *North Londonderry*.

[Origin unknown.]

yir *see* *ye, your*.

yird *see* *yerd*.

yirkin *noun* the side of a boat *Co. Antrim, Co. Down*.

[Origin unknown.]

yirlin *see* *yoldring*.

yirm, nyirm *verb* **1** whine, complain; *see also* *yirn*. **2** ask questions in a querulous tone; nag. **3** utter low cries.

[Scots, from Old English *ȝyrman* "to lament". *See also* *yammer*.]

yirn *verb* complain, grumble; whine; *also* **yirn at someone**

□ **yirnin** grumbling, complaining.

[Scots, probably a blend of *yirm* and *girn*.]

yirr *verb, of a dog* snarl, growl.

◆ *noun* a growl.

[Scots, from Old English *ȝyrran* "to growl".]

yirree: **make a yirree at someone** attempt to catch someone.

[Irish *iarraidh*.]

yis *see* *yes*.

yisterday *see* *yesterday*.

yit *see* *yet*.

yite *see* *yoit*.

yitter *verb* complain constantly.

[Scots; onomatopoeic, *cf.* *yatter*.]

yiz *see* *youse*.

yo, yow, yowe *noun* a ewe.

[Mainly Southern English form *yo*, mainly Scots and Northern English form *yow, yowe*.]

yochel *noun* a yokel; a stupid, awkward person.

yock *see* *yoke*.

yoh-yoh, yah-yah, yeh, yuh-yuh *exclamation* a call to a dog.

[Onomatopoeic.]

yoirble *noun* a cold mist *Co. Donegal*.

[Origin unknown.]

yoit, yert *noun, also* **yellow yite, yellow yowt, yellow-yoit, yella-yert** a bird: the yellow-hammer *Emberiza citrinella*; *see* *yellow*.

[Scots *yite*, South-Western Scots *yoit*, Fife *yowt*; from the bird's cry. The *yert* form may be influenced by forms of *yoldring*.]

yoke, yock, yawk, yauk, yuck *noun* **1** a yoke, a wooden frame placed

across the shoulders to carry pails. **2** *general* any sort of vehicle, gadget or implement. **3** *derogatory* a person.

◆ *verb* **1** attach (a horse) to a cart, plough, *etc.*; attach (a plough, *etc.*) to the horses. **2** begin; commence, set to work (to do something). **3** **yoke to** set to work on (something). **4** start (something). [ILLUS: yoke]

□ **yockin** a spell of work at the plough, *etc.*

[Older form *yock* (still Scots, also Midland English).]

yoke¹ *verb* vomit.

yolder, yoldrin *see* yoldring.

yoldring, yorling, yorlin, yeldrin, yalderin, yildering, yolling, yarlin, yirlin, yornel, yornie *noun, also yellow yorlin, yough-yilly-yorlin, yellow yourling, yellow yoldrin, yellow yornin, yellow yorrel, yellow yorlie, yellow yorn, yellow yarn, yellow yolder, yellow yerling, yellow yeldrick, yella yilder, yellow yalder, yeltie-yorn* **1** (a) a bird: the yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*; (b) **yella yorlin** a new-born duckling. **2** a person with a sallow complexion. **3** *derogatory* an odd person.

[Scots and Northern English *yoldring*; Scots also *yorlin(g), yoldrin, yolling, yaldrin, yarlin, yeldrin, yerlin, yeldrick, yirlin*; Lancashire also *yellow yorin*; forms of English dialectal *yowling*, itself from *yowlow* (an obsolete form of **yellow**) + *ring*¹.]

yolling *see* yoldring.

yon, thon *demonstrative* expressing a further degree of distance (real or figurative) than *that* and *those*

[*Yon* archaic in Standard English (still Scots and English dialectal), from Old English *ȝeon*. The Scots form *thon* is influenced by *this, that, etc.*; *cf.* *yonder*.]

yonder, yonner, thonder, thonner *adjective* yonder.

◆ *adverb* yonder, over there.

[Scots form *yonner*; Scots, also Midland English, form *thonder*; Scots also *thonner*. The forms *thonder* and *thonner* are influenced by *there, etc.*; *cf.* *yon*.]

yonner *see* yonder.

yont *adverb* yonder.

yookum *noun* meths (as drunk).

yorkie *noun* the common leech *Hirundo medicinalis, Belfast*.

yorlie, yorlin *see* yoldring.

yortlin *noun* **1** a small, chirpy person, *especially* a child. **2** a cheeky, forward person.

[Possibly a blend of *yoldring* and *yowtling*.]

you, yow *pronoun* **1** you. **2** *emphatic in commands, e.g. Come you in here!*

□ **Set you down** sit yourself down, take a seat.

□ **you-ones, you-uns** you people; *see* **one**.

□ **you're all right** **1** in reply to an apology: "it's all right". **2** in reply to an offer: "it's okay, don't trouble yourself".

[Midland English, also Southern Scots, form *yow*; *see* also **ye**. *See also* *youse*.]

youghlan *noun* a child.

yough-yilly-yorlin *see* yoldring.

young: the day's young yet

□ **the young folk** a newly-married pair.

□ **youngie** a nestling.

□ **youngling, younglin** a youngster [*youngling* archaic in Standard English].

□ **young one** a child.

□ **young un, young yin** a nestling.

your, yer, yir *possessive pronoun* **1** followed by someone's name:

belonging to your family *e.g. your Mary*. **2** **your man, your woman** the person of whom we were speaking.

□ **your best** your best plan.

- **yourself, yerself, yersel** **1** yourself. **2 Is that yerself?** a greeting [translation of Irish *An tú féin atá ann?* Also Highland English (and now Scots) from Scottish Gaelic *An tu fhèin a tha ann?*]. *See sel.*
- **your yins, your uns, your'n's** your family; members of your household; *see one.*
[Colloquial English form *yer*, Scots also *yir*.]
- yourling** *see yoldring.*
- youse, yous, youz, yees, yeez, yez, yiz** *pronoun, also youse uns, yousens, yousins* you (plural); *see one.*
- **yous'n** your folk.
[Hiberno-English, *you* + plural ending *-s*; *youse* also adopted in Glasgow, U.S.A. dialect and Australian dialect; *yez, yiz* also adopted in Glasgow.]
- yow** *see yo, you.*
- yowder** *noun* a light drizzle of rain.
[Scots "steam; smoke; vapour"; possibly a form of *odour*.]
- yowe** *see yo.*
- yowl** *verb* cry loudly; *of a dog* howl.
◆ *noun* a loud cry; a howl.
- yowtling, yowtlin** *noun* **1** an infant. **2 usually in plural** small things.
[Formed on Scots, also West Midland English, *yowt* "to yell" (itself onomatopoeic).]
- yuck** *see yoke.*
- yuck, yucky** *see yewk.*
- yuh-yuh** *see yoh-yoh.*
- yule** *noun* Christmas [also adopted as an archaism in Standard English].
□ **yule-time** Christmas-time.
[Scots and Northern English, from Old English *ȝeōl*.]
- yull, yullot** *see will.*
- yullot** *see will.*
- yup** *exclamation* a call to a horse: hup! **(a)** go!; **(b)** faster!
[Lancashire and Lincolnshire form.]
- yus** *see yes.*
- z** *exclamation* a call to sheep *Co. Donegal.*
- zed**: **a zed** sarcastic answer to the question "why?".
- zinc** [ess-zinc]:
- zipperty**: **Zipperty, zipperty, zand, / I wish I'd a bit of that in my hand. / Ken ye aught of Captain Grose? / I go and ago / Is he among friends or foes / Iram, Coram, Dago**
- zuppose** *verb* suppose.