

The Oxford English Dictionary

VOLUME VI

L-M

OXFORD · AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

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THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY

BEING A CORRECTED RE-ISSUE

WITH AN

INTRODUCTION, SUPPLEMENT, AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

OF

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES

FOUNDED MAINLY ON THE MATERIALS COLLECTED BY

The Philological Society



VOLUME VI

L-M

OXFORD

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

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THE OXFORD ENGLISH
DICTIONARY

KEY TO THE PRONUNCIATION.

I. CONSONANTS.

b, d, f, k, l, m, n, p, t, v, z have their usual values.

g as in *go* (gōu).
h ... *ho!* (hōu).
r ... *run* (rōn), *terrier* (te'riə).
ɹ ... *her* (həɹ), *farther* (fā'ɹðəɹ).
s ... *see* (sē), *cess* (ses).
w ... *wen* (wen).
hw ... *when* (hwen).
y ... *yes* (yes).

þ as in *thin* (þin), *bathe* (bathe).
ð ... *then* (ðen), *bathe* (bathe).
ʃ ... *shop* (ʃɒp), *dish* (dɪʃ).
tʃ ... *chop* (tʃɒp), *ditch* (dɪtʃ).
ʒ ... *vision* (vi'ʒən), *déjeuner* (de'ʒɔne).
dʒ ... *judge* (dʒʌdʒ).
ŋ ... *singing* (sɪ'nɪŋ), *think* (þɪŋk).
ŋɡ ... *finger* (fɪŋɡəɹ).

(FOREIGN.)
ñ as in *French nasal*, *environ* (aɪnvɪ'roɪn).
ɫʲ ... It. *seraglio* (se'ra'li'o).
ɲ ... It. *signore* (sɪn'ɔ're).
χ ... Ger. *ach* (aχ), Sc. *loch* (loχ, loχʷ).
χʲ ... Ger. *ich* (ɪχʲ), Sc. *nicht* (nɛχʲt).
ʎ ... Ger. *sagen* (zā'ʎən).
ʎʲ ... Ger. *legen*, *regnen* (lɛ'ʎʲən, rɛ'ʎʲnɛn).

II. VOWELS.

ORDINARY.

a as in Fr. *à la mode* (a la mod').
ai ... *aye=yes* (ai), *Isaiah* (ɪzai'ə).
æ ... *man* (mæn).
ɑ ... *pass* (pas), *chant* (tʃant).
au ... *loud* (laud), *now* (nau).
ɔ ... *cut* (kɒt), *son* (sɒn).
e ... *yet* (yet), *ten* (ten).
ɛ ... *survey sb.* (sə'vɛ), Fr. *attache* (ataʃe).
ɛ̃ ... Fr. *chef* (ʃɛ̃).
ə ... *ever* (evəɹ), *nation* (nə'ʃən).
ɛi ... *I, eye*, (ɛi), *bind* (baɪnd).
ɛə ... Fr. *eau de vie* (ə də vi').
i ... *sit* (sit), *mystic* (mɪstɪk).
ɪ ... *Psyche* (saɪ'ki), *react* (rɪ'ækt).
o ... *achor* (ɔ'koɹ), *morality* (mɔ're'lɪti).
oi ... *oil* (oil), *boy* (boi).
o ... *hero* (hɪ'ro), *zoology* (zo'ɒlədʒi).
ɔ ... *what* (hwɒt), *watch* (wɒtʃ).
ə, ɐ* ... *got* (gɒt), *soft* (sɒft).
|| ɔ̃ ... Ger. *Köln* (kɔ̃ln).
|| ɔ̃ ... Fr. *pau* (pɔ̃).
u ... *full* (ful), *book* (buk).
iu ... *duration* (diʊ'reɪʃən).
u ... *unto* (v'ntu), *frugality* (fru-).
iu ... *Matthew* (mæ'piu), *virtue* (vɜ'tɪu).
|| ü ... Ger. *Müller* (mü'lɛr).
|| ü ... Fr. *dune* (dün).
o (see ɪə, ɛə, ɔə, ũə) } see Vol. I, p. xxxiv, note 3.
ɪ, u (see ɛ̃, ɔ̃) }
' as in *able* (ɛ̃'b'l), *eaten* (ɪ't'n) = voice-glide.

LONG.

ā as in *alms* (āmz), *bar* (bār).
ō ... *curl* (kɔ̃l), *fur* (fūr).
ē (ēə) ... *there* (ðɛəɹ), *pear*, *pare* (pɛəɹ).
ē (ē') ... *rein*, *rain* (rɛ'n), *they* (ðɛ').
ē ... Fr. *faire* (fɛr').
ō ... *fur* (fūr), *fern* (fɔ̃n), *earth* (ɔ̃ɪ).
ī (īə) ... *biér* (bɪəɹ), *clear* (klɪəɹ).
ī ... *thief* (þɪf), *see* (sɪ).
ō (ōə) ... *boar*, *bore* (bɔəɹ), *glory* (glɔə'ri).
ō (ōu) ... *so*, *sow* (sōu), *soul* (sōl).
ō ... *walk* (wɔk), *wart* (wɔt).
ō ... *short* (ʃɔt), *thorn* (þɔn).
|| ɔ̃ ... Fr. *cœur* (kɔ̃r).
|| ɔ̃ ... Ger. *Göthe* (gɔ̃tɛ), Fr. *jeûne* (ʒɔ̃n).
ū (ūə) ... *poor* (pūəɹ), *moorish* (mū'ɹɪʃ).
iū, iū ... *pure* (piūəɹ), *lure* (lūəɹ).
ū ... *two moons* (tū mūnz).
iū, iū ... *few* (fiū), *lute* (lū't).
|| ü ... Ger. *grün* (grün), Fr. *jus* (ʒü).

OBSCURE.

ā as in *amceba* (ām'ɛbā).
æ ... *accept* (æksɛ'pt), *maniac* (mɛ'niæk).
ð ... *datum* (dɛ'tɪm).
ɛ ... *moment* (mɔ'mɛnt), *several* (se'verəl).
ɛ ... *separate* (adʒ.) (se'pə'reɪt).
ə ... *added* (æ'dɛd), *estate* (ɛstɛ't).
ī ... *vanity* (væ'nɪti).
ɪ ... *remain* (rɪ'mɛɪ'n), *believe* (bɪ'lɪv).
ō ... *theory* (þɪ'ɔri).
ɔ̃ ... *violet* (vɔ̃'ɔlɛt), *parody* (pæ'rɔdi).
ɔ̃ ... *authority* (ɔ̃'θɔ'ɪrɪti).
ɔ̃ ... *connect* (kɔ̃'nekt), *amazon* (æ'mæzɔ̃n).
iū, iū ... *verdure* (vɜ'ɹdiūɹ), *measure* (me'ʒiūɹ).
iū ... *altogether* (ɔ̃ltɔ̃'ge'ðəɹ).
iū ... *circular* (sɔ'ukiū'lāɹ).

* ɐ the ə in soft, of medial or doubtful length.

|| Only in foreign (or earlier English) words

In the ETYMOLOGY,

OE. *e*, *o*, representing an earlier *a*, are distinguished as *ɛ*, *ɔ* (having the phonetic value of *ɛ* and *ɔ*, or *ɔ̃*, above); as in *ende* from *andē* (OHG. *antē*, Goth. *andei-s*), *menn* from *mann*, *en* from *an*.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SIGNS, &c.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| a. [in Etymol.] ... = adoption of, adopted from. | gen. = genitive. | pa. t. = past tense. |
| a (as a 1300) = ante, before. | gen. = general, -ly. | Path. = in Pathology. |
| absol., absol. = absolutely. | Geol. = in Geology. | Pers. = Persian. |
| abst. = abstract. | Geom. = in Geometry. | pers. = person, -al. |
| acc. = accusative. | Goth. = Gothic (= Mæso-Gothic). | pf. = perfect. |
| ad. [in Etymol.]... = adaptation of. | Gr. = Greek. | Pg. = Portuguese. |
| adv., adv. = adverb. | Gram. = in Grammar. | Philol. = in Philology. |
| advb. = adverbial, -ly. | Heb. = Hebrew. | phonet. = phonetic, -ally. |
| AF., AFR. = Anglo-French. | Her. = in Heraldry. | phr. = phrase. |
| Anat. = in Anatomy. | Herb. = with herbalists. | Phren. = in Phrenology. |
| Antiq. = in Antiquities. | Hort. = in Horticulture. | Phys. = in Physiology. |
| aphet. = aphetic, aphezied. | imp. = Imperative. | pl., ph. = plural. |
| app. = apparently. | impers. = impersonal. | poet. = poetic. |
| Arab. = Arabic. | impf. = imperfect. | pop. = popular, -ly. |
| Arch. = in Architecture. | ind. = Indicative. | ppl. a., ppl. adj. = participial adjective. |
| arch. = archaic. | indef. = indefinite. | pple. = participle. |
| Archæol. = in Archæology. | inf. = Infinitive. | Pr. = Provençal. |
| assoc. = association. | infl. = influenced. | prec. = preceding (word or article). |
| Astr. = in Astronomy. | int. = interjection. | pref. = prefix. |
| Astrol. = in Astrology. | intr. = intransitive. | prep. = preposition. |
| attrib. = attributive, -ly. | It. = Italian. | pres. = present. |
| bef. = before. | J., (J.) = Johnson (quotation from). | Prim. sign. = Primary signification. |
| Biol. = in Biology. | (Jam.) = in Jamieson, Scottish Dict. | priv. = privative. |
| Boh. = Bohemian. | (Jod.) = Jodrell (quoted from). | prob. = probably. |
| Bot. = in Botany. | L. = Latin. | prom. = pronoun. |
| Build. = in Building. | (L.) (in quotations) = Latham's edn. of Todd's | pronunc. = pronunciation. |
| c (as c 1300) = circa, about. | lang. = language. [Johnson. | prop. = properly. |
| c. (as 13th c.) = century. | LG. = Low German. | Pros. = in Prosody. |
| Cat. = Catalan. | lit. = literal, -ly. | pr. pple. = present participle. |
| catachr. = catachrestically. | Lith. = Lithuanian. | Psych. = in Psychology. |
| Cf., cf. = confer, compare. | LXX. = Septuagint. | q.v. = <i>quod vide</i> , which see. |
| Chem. = in Chemistry. | Mal. = Malay. | (R.) = in Richardson's Dict. |
| cl. L. = classical Latin. | masc. (rarely m.) = masculine. | R. C. Ch. = Roman Catholic Church. |
| cogn. w. = cognate with. | Math. = in Mathematics. | refash. = refashioned, -ing. |
| collect. = collective, -ly. | ME. = Middle English. | refl., refl. = reflexive. |
| collog. = colloquially. | Med. = in Medicine. | reg. = regular. |
| comb. = combined, -ing. | med. L. = mediæval Latin. | repr. = representative, representing. |
| Comb. = Combinations. | Mech. = in Mechanics. | Rhet. = in Rhetoric. |
| Comm. = in commercial usage. | Metaph. = in Metaphysics. | Rom. = Romanic, Romance. |
| comp. = compound, composition. | MHG. = Middle High German. | sb., sb. = substantive. |
| compl. = complement. | midl. = midland (dialect). | Sc. = Scotch. |
| Conch. = in Conchology. | Mil. = in military usage. | sc. = <i>scilicet</i> , understand or supply. |
| concr. = concretely. | Min. = in Mineralogy. | sing. = singular. |
| conj. = conjunction. | mod. = modern. | Skr. = Sanskrit. |
| cons. = consonant. | Mus. = in Music. | Slav. = Slavonic. |
| Const., Const. ... = Construction, construed | (N.) = Nares (quoted from). | Sp. = Spanish. |
| Cryst. = in Crystallography. | n. of action, = noun of action. | sp. = spelling. |
| (D.) = in Davies (Supp. Eng. | n. of agent = noun of agent. | spec. = specifically. |
| Glossary). | Nat. Hist. = in Natural History. | subj. = subject, subjunctive. |
| | Naut. = in nautical language. | subord. cl. = subordinate clause. |
| | neut. (rarely n.) = neuter. | subseq. = subsequently. |
| | NF., NFR. = Northern French. | subst. = substantively. |
| | N. O. = Natural Order. | suff. = suffix. |
| | nom. = nominative. | superl. = superlative. |
| | north. = northern (dialect). | Surg. = in Surgery. |
| | N. T. = New Testament. | Sw. = Swedish. |
| | Numism. = in Numismatics. | s.w. = south western (dialect). |
| | obj. = object. | T. (T.) = in Todd's Johnson. |
| | Obs., obs., obs. ... = obsolete. | techn. = technical, -ly. |
| | occas. = occasional, -ly. | Theol. = in Theology. |
| | OE. = Old English (= Anglo-Saxon). | tr. = translation of. |
| | OF., OFr. = Old French. | trans. = transitive. |
| | OFris. = Old Frisian. | transf. = transferred sense. |
| | OHG. = Old High German. | Trig. = in Trigonometry. |
| | OIr. = Old Irish. | Typog. = in Typography. |
| | ON. = Old Norse (Old Icelandic). | ult. = ultimate, -ly. |
| | ONF. = Old Northern French. | unkn. = unknown. |
| | Opt. = in Optics. | U.S. = United States. |
| | Ornith. = in Ornithology. | v., vb. = verb. |
| | OS. = Old Saxon. | v. str., or w. = verb strong, or weak. |
| | OSL. = Old Slavonic. | vbl. sb. = verbal substantive. |
| | O. T. = Old Testament. | var. = variant of. |
| | OTeut. = Original Teutonic. | wd. = word. |
| | orig. = original, -ly. | WGer. = West Germanic. |
| | Palæont. = in Palæontology. | w. midl. = west midland (dialect). |
| | pa. pple. = passive or past participle. | WS. = West Saxon. |
| | pass. = passive, -ly. | (Y.) = in Col. Yule's Glossary. |
| | | Zool. = in Zoology. |

Before a word or sense.

† = obsolete.

‡ = not naturalized.

In the quotations.

* sometimes points out the word illustrated.

In the list of Forms.

1 = before 1100.

2 = 12th c. (1100 to 1200).

3 = 13th c. (1200 to 1300).

5-7 = 15th to 17th century. (See General Explanations, Vol. I, p. xxx.)

In the Etymol.

* indicates a word or form not actually found, but of which the existence is inferred.

:- = extant representative, or regular phonetic descendant of.

The printing of a word in SMALL CAPITALS indicates that further information will be found under the word so referred to.

L.

L (el), the twelfth letter of the modern and the eleventh of the ancient Roman alphabet, represents historically the Gr. *lambda* and ultimately the Semitic *lamed*. The earliest known Semitic forms of the character are *𐤋* and *𐤌*; both these occur in early Greek inscriptions; the latter was adopted from the Greek into the Latin alphabet, and is the ancestor of the modern Roman forms, but in Greece itself was superseded by the inverted form *λ*, which eventually became *Λ*.

The sound normally expressed by the letter is the 'point-side' consonant, i.e. a sound produced by the emission of breath at the sides, or one side, of the oral passage when it is partially closed by contact or the 'point' of the tongue with the gums or palate.

In phonetic treatises *l* is used as a general name for consonants produced by lateral emission of breath, whether the stoppage is produced (as above) by the 'point', or by some other part of the tongue; thus we speak of a 'guttural *l*' and a 'palatal *l*' as occurring in various foreign languages.

The 'point-side' consonant admits of considerable diversity in mode of articulation and consequently in acoustic quality. The Eng. *l* differs from that of Fr. and Ger. in being uttered with the 'front' of the tongue more concave; hence its sound is 'duller' or 'thicker'. Its precise place of articulation varies according to the nature of the adjacent sounds. In Eng. it is normally voiced; an unvoiced *l* occurring only as a 'glide' connecting the voiced *l* with a preceding or following unvoiced consonant. Like *r* and the nasals, *l* may be used as a sonant or vowel (in the phonetic notation of this Dictionary indicated by *l̥*); but this occurs only in unstressed syllables, as in *little* (*l̥*it'l), *buckled* (*b̥*uk'ld).

The mod. Eng. *l* represents not only the OE. *l*, but the OE. *hl* (early ME. *li*) and *wl*.

In certain combinations an original *l* has regularly become silent, after having modified the sound of the preceding vowel. In most of these cases the *l* is still written, and serves to indicate the pronunciation of the preceding vowel. The following combinations of letters (when occurring in the same syllable, or in derivatives of words in which they were tautosyllabic) may be regarded as compound phonetic symbols of almost unvarying value: *al* (*āf*), *alve* (*āv*), *alm* (*ām*), *alk*, *auk* (*qk*), *auim* (*qm*), *olk* (*ōk*). In many dialects, esp. in Sc., the instances in which an original *l* regularly disappears are much more numerous than in standard Eng.; cf. Sc. *awful*, *four*, *ca*, etc.; in Sc. the regular representative of *old* is *ov*, as in *forok*, *pov*.

L. 1. Illustrations of the literary use of the letter.

cf. 1000 *Ælfric Gram.* iii. (Z.) 6 *Semivocales* syndon seofan: *f, l, m, n, r, s, x*. 1530 *Palsgr.* 32 The soundyng of this consonant *L*. *Ibid.* 46 So often as *l* cometh before *h* having his aspiration... it is the error of the printers whiche knowe nat their owne tonge. 1588 *SHAKS.* *L. L. L.* iv. ii. 60 If Sore be sore, then ell to Sore, makes fiftie sores O sorell: Of one sore I an hundred make by adding but one more *L*. 1597 *A. M. tr. Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 241 Wordes in the which manye *R. R.* and *L. L. L.* come. 15.. *Gude & Godl. B. Calendar* (S. T. S.). Where ye shal finde a Capital *L* there begine for the finding of Lent. 1727-52 *CHAMBERS Cycl.* s.v. *L*, The French lous d'ors have a cross on their consisting of eight *L*'s interwoven, and disposed in form of a cross. 1892 *Daily News* 5 Sept. 5/2 There are pedantic persons who would bid us pronounce the 'l' in 'salmon'. 1897 *Spectator* 2 Jan. 13/1 For the sake of Learning, with a capital 'L'.

2. An object shaped like the letter *L*. (Also written *ell*.) **a.** An extension of a building at right angles to the main block, giving the whole the shape of the letter *L*.

1879 *WEBSTER, Suppl. s.v., L* (of a house). 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 358/2 An *L* of the house where she was born is still standing.

b. A pipe-joint connecting two pipes at right angles; an elbow-joint (Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 1884).

3. attrib. and Comb., as *L-shaped* adj.; **L desk**, a reading-desk of which the ground-plan is of the form of the letter *L*.

1874 *MICKLETHWAITE Mod. Par. Ch.* ix. 57 That glorious compromise called an *L* desk. 1882 *Macm. Mag.* XLVI. 332/2 It is... an *L*-shaped room. 1897 *Albutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 347 An *L*-shaped pad.

II. Symbolical uses.

4. Used like the other letters of the alphabet to denote serial order; applied e.g. to the twelfth (or more usually the eleventh, either *I* or *J* being often omitted) group or section in classification, the eleventh sheet of a book or quire of a MS., etc.

1850 *FORSHALL & MADDEN Wyclif's Bible* Pref. xxxi, [Manuscripts] *E, L*, and *P* frequently agree together in differing from the other copies. 1899 *N. B. Daily Mail* 16 Feb. 5, Companies *L, D*, and *H* of the Californian Volunteers. 1899 *Sir A. West Recoll.* I. iv. 104 He had carefully put it [an umbrella] away under the letter *L*.

5. In *Cryst.*, *h, k, l* are used to denote the quantities which determine the position of a plane.

1868 *DANA Min.* Introd. 28. 1895 *STORY-MASKELYNE Crystallogr.* ii. 19.

6. The Roman numeral symbol for Fifty.

As in the case of the other Roman numeral symbols, this was originally not the letter, but was identified with it owing to coincidence of form. In the ancient Roman notation *L* (with a stroke above) represented 50,000.

1884 *CAXTON Fables of* *Page* iv, xl or l crownes.

III. 7. Abbreviations.

L=various proper names as *Lionel*, *Lucy*, etc. *L*=*†* Lord, Lordship (pl. *LL*); *†*lawful (money); in *Bot.*, *Linnaeus*; Latin; in Stage directions, left; in abbreviations of degrees, Licentiate, as *L. D. S.*=Licentiate of Dental Surgery; (*Chem.*) Lithium. *L* or *l* [*L. libra*]=pound of money (*†* formerly also in weight, now *lb*), now often repr. by the conventional sign *£*; e.g. 100*l.* or *£*100; see also *L. s. d.* The three *L*'s (see quot. 1867). *l*=in ship's log-book, lightning; in references, line, as bk. 4, l. 8; in solmization, *la*. *l. b. w.* (*Cricket*), leg before wicket; *l.c.* (*Printing*), lower case. *L. C. M.* (*Arith.*), least common multiple. *L. M.* (*Prosody*), long metre. See also *LL*, *LXX*.

1527 *Extracts Aberd. Reg.* (1844) l. 117 My lord, we your seruandis... ressaunt your l. guid mynd... touching your l. brig of Dee. 1554 in *W. H. Turner Select. Rec. Oxford* 218 It was... ordered by the *L. L.* 1577 *Ibid.* 389 Appointed by order from their *LLs*. 1601 *R. JOHNSON Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) *A b*, If your *L.* vouchsafe to receive it. 1637 *HEYLYN Answ. Burton* 61 Your dealing with my *LL*, the Bishops. 1684 *Acts Torrance & Poundage* 86 Alabaster the Load. 1721. 1722. 1723. 1724. 1725. 1726. 1727. 1728. 1729. 1730. 1731. 1732. 1733. 1734. 1735. 1736. 1737. 1738. 1739. 1740. 1741. 1742. 1743. 1744. 1745. 1746. 1747. 1748. 1749. 1750. 1751. 1752. 1753. 1754. 1755. 1756. 1757. 1758. 1759. 1760. 1761. 1762. 1763. 1764. 1765. 1766. 1767. 1768. 1769. 1770. 1771. 1772. 1773. 1774. 1775. 1776. 1777. 1778. 1779. 1780. 1781. 1782. 1783. 1784. 1785. 1786. 1787. 1788. 1789. 1790. 1791. 1792. 1793. 1794. 1795. 1796. 1797. 1798. 1799. 1800. 1801. 1802. 1803. 1804. 1805. 1806. 1807. 1808. 1809. 1810. 1811. 1812. 1813. 1814. 1815. 1816. 1817. 1818. 1819. 1820. 1821. 1822. 1823. 1824. 1825. 1826. 1827. 1828. 1829. 1830. 1831. 1832. 1833. 1834. 1835. 1836. 1837. 1838. 1839. 1840. 1841. 1842. 1843. 1844. 1845. 1846. 1847. 1848. 1849. 1850. 1851. 1852. 1853. 1854. 1855. 1856. 1857. 1858. 1859. 1860. 1861. 1862. 1863. 1864. 1865. 1866. 1867. 1868. 1869. 1870. 1871. 1872. 1873. 1874. 1875. 1876. 1877. 1878. 1879. 1880. 1881. 1882. 1883. 1884. 1885. 1886. 1887. 1888. 1889. 1890. 1891. 1892. 1893. 1894. 1895. 1896. 1897. 1898. 1899. 1900. 1901. 1902. 1903. 1904. 1905. 1906. 1907. 1908. 1909. 1910. 1911. 1912. 1913. 1914. 1915. 1916. 1917. 1918. 1919. 1920. 1921. 1922. 1923. 1924. 1925. 1926. 1927. 1928. 1929. 1930. 1931. 1932. 1933. 1934. 1935. 1936. 1937. 1938. 1939. 1940. 1941. 1942. 1943. 1944. 1945. 1946. 1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961. 1962. 1963. 1964. 1965. 1966. 1967. 1968. 1969. 1970. 1971. 1972. 1973. 1974. 1975. 1976. 1977. 1978. 1979. 1980. 1981. 1982. 1983. 1984. 1985. 1986. 1987. 1988. 1989. 1990. 1991. 1992. 1993. 1994. 1995. 1996. 1997. 1998. 1999. 2000.

La (*lā*), *sb. Mus.* [Orig. the first syllable of *L. labii*: see *GAMUT*.] The name given by Guido d'Arezzo to the sixth note in his hexachords, and since retained in solmization as the sixth note of the octave; also (now rarely) used as in Fr. and It. as a name of the note *A*, the sixth note of the 'natural' scale of *C* major.

cf. 1295 in *Rel. Ant.* I. 292 Sol and ut and *la*. 1597 *MORLEY Introd. Mus.* (1777) 4 There be in Musike but vi. Notes, which are called *ut, re, mi, fa, sol, la*. 1606 *SHAKS. Lear* i. ii. 149 O these Ecclipses do portend these divisions. *Fa, Sol, La, Me.* c. 1645 *HOWELL Lett.* (1650) II. iv. 77 The other... will drink often musically a health to every one of these 6 notes, *Ut, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La*; which, with his reason, are all comprehended in this exaneter, *Ut Releuet Miserum*

Fatum Solitiosque Labores. 1811 *BUSBY Dict. Mus.* (ed. 3) s.v. *Solmization*, Of the seven notes in the French scale, only four were for a while used by us, as *mi, fa, sol, la*.

La (*lā*, *la*), *int.* [Cf. *Lo* (OE. *lā* and early ME. *lā*).] An exclamation formerly used to introduce or accompany a conventional phrase or an address, or to call attention to an emphatic statement; *†* also *la you*. In recent use, a mere expression of surprise. Now only *dial.*, *vulgar.*, and *arch.*

1598 *SHAKS. Merry W. L.* i. 86, I thank you alwaies with my heart, *la*; with my heart. *Ibid.* 324 You doe your selfe wrong indeede—*la*. 1601 — *Twel. N.* iii. iv. 111 *La* you, and you speake ill of the diuell, how he takes it at heart. 1694 *CONGREVE Double Dealer* iv. ii, O *la* now! I swear and declare, it shan't be so. 1749 *FIELDING Tom Jones* iv. xii, *La*, ma'am, what doth your la'yship think. 1839 *DICKENS Nich. Nick.* x, *La*, Miss *La* Creevy, how very smirking. 1844 *WILLIS Lady Jane* ii. 317 He'd a caressing way—but, *la*! you know it's A sort of manner nation to poets! 1881 *BESANT & RICE Chapl. Fleet* III. 239 'La, sir,' she asked, 'Is it the voice of your sweetheart?'

† *b.* Repeated (*a*) as a refrain; (*b*) as an expression of derision. *Obs.* (Hence *LA-LA* *adj.*, = 'so-so', poor.)

1578 *Gude & Godl. B.* (S. T. S.) 138 Christ.. Quhill meiklie for mankynde, Tholit to be pynde, On Croce Cruellie. *La. La.* *Ibid.* 83 *La Lay La.* 1607 *SHAKS. Timon* iii. i. 22 [He] hath sent to your Lorchip to furnish him: nothing doubting your present assistance therein. *Luc. La, la, la, la*: Nothing doubting sayes hee?

La, *obs.* form of *LAW*, *LAY v.*, *Lo int.*

Laace, *obs.* form of *LACE*.

Laache, *obs.* f. *LATCH v.*; var. *LASHE Obs.*, *lax*.

Laad, Laade, *obs.* forms of *LOAD*, *LADE*.

Laager (*lā'gər*), *sb.* Also *lager*. [S. African *Du. lager*=*G. lager*, *Du. leger* (see *LEAGUER*).] A camp, encampment; among the S. African Boers, a temporary lodgement in the open marked out by an encircling line of wagons.

1850 *R. G. CUMMING Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (ed. 2) I. 202 Their tents and wagons were drawn up on every side of the farm-house... The Boers informed me that all their countrymen, and also the Griquas, were thus packed together in 'lagers', or encampments. 1883 *Standard* 7 Sept. 5 Captain Mansell, with the native police force, has been obliged to go into laager at Ekowe for safety. 1891 *R. W. MURRAY S. Africa* 177 *Laager* was formed that same evening about five o'clock. 1899 *Times* 25 Oct. 5/2 Our men dashed forward to carry the laager with bayonets.

Laager (*lā'gər*), *v.* [*f. LAAGER sb.*] *trans.* To form (wagons) into a laager; to encamp (persons) in a laager; also with *up*. Also *absol.* or *intr.* Hence *Laa'gered ppl. a.*, *Laa'gering vbl. sb.*

1879 *Daily News* 1 Mar., The wagons were not 'laa'gered' or drawn up so close as to make it difficult to force the camp. 1881 *Contemp. Rev.* Feb. 222 The laa'gered waggon their sole protection. 1883 *Standard* 17 May 5/4 Four hundred Boers, laa'gered in Stilleland, have threatened to attack Mankoroane. 1894 *Daily News* 14 Sept. 5/2 The Army Service Corps were drilled in laa'gering. 1896 *Tablet* 22 Feb. 290 We stopped firing at about seven o'clock, and laa'gered up for the night.

Laak, *obs.* form of *LAOK*, *LAKE*.

Laan, Laar, *obs.* forms of *LAWN*, *LORE*.

Laard, Laas, *obs.* forms of *LARD*, *LACE*.

Laat, Laa'd, *obs.* forms of *LATE*, *LOATH*.

Lab (*lāb*), *sb. Obs.* or *dial.* Also 4-5 *labbe*, 8 *labb*. [Belongs to *LAB v.*] A blab, tell-tale.

cf. 1386 *CHAUCER Miller's T.* 323, I nam no labbe Ne though I seye I am not lief to gabbe. c. 1422 *HOCCELEVE Sereslaus's Wife* 542, I neure was yit of my tonge a labbe. c. 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 289/2 *Labbe*, or he that can kepe no counsel, *anubicus*. 1746 *Exmoor Soulding* (E. D. S.) 25 'Es dedent thenk tha had'st a be zich a Labb o' tha Tongue. 1847 *HALLIWELL, Lab*, a tittle-tattle; a blab. Also called a lab-o-the-tongue. *West*.

†**Lab** (læb), *v.* *Obs.* [? Onomatopoeic; cf. Du. *labben* = *klappen* 'garrir, blaterare, fabulari' (Kilian)] *trans.* and *intrans.* To blab. Hence **Labbing** *ppl. a.*

1377 *LANGL. P. Pl. B. xi.* 102 No pingre bat is pryue publice þow it neuere, Neyther for loue laude [*MS. B. lab*] it nougt ne lakke it for enuye. 1393 *Ibid.* C. xiii. 39 Noþer for loue labbe hit out ne lakke hit for nouye. c1386 CHAUCER *Epil. Merch. T.* 10 Of hir tonge a labbyng shrewe is she. c1475 *Partenay* 3751 By your labbyng tonges ionglyng.

Labadist (læ'bædist). *Ecccl. Hist.* [ad. F. *Labadiste*, f. *Labadie*; see -IST.] A follower of Jean de Labadie (1610-74), who succeeded from the Roman Church and founded a sect holding Quietist views. So **Labadism**, the doctrines or practice of Labadists.

1753 CHAMBERS *Cycl. Suppl.*, *Labadists*. 1882-3 SCHAFF in *Encycl. Rel. Knowl.* II. 1604.

†**Labant**, *a.* *Obs.* [ad. L. *labant-em*, *pr. pple.* of *labare*.]

1727 BAILEY vol. II. *Labant*, sliding, falling down, wavering. *Labarde*, obs. form of LEOPARD.

Labarinth, obs. form of LABYRINTH.

|| **Labarum** (læ'bæd̃m). [L.; = Gr. *λαβάρων*, of unknown origin.] The imperial standard adopted by Constantine the Great (306-337 A.D.), being the Roman military standard of the late Empire modified by the addition of Christian symbols; hence *gen.*, a symbolical standard or banner.

1658 PHILLIPS, *Labarum*, a military streamer, or flag, also a Church Banner, or Ensign. 1682 WHEELER *Journ. Greece II.* 189 On the South-side. . . is the Labarum; which is a Knot, consisting of the first Letters of *Χριστός*, which the Christian Emperours, from Constantine, placed in their Banners. 1835 BROWNING *Paracelsus* 54 A labarum was not deem'd Too much for the old founder of these walls. 1850 SIR J. STEPHEN *Ess. Ecccl. Biog.* (ed. 2) I. 347 The Labarum of Luther was a banner inscribed with the legend, 'Justification by Faith'. 1850 LEITCH tr. C. O. Müller's *Anc. Art* § 213. 206 Constantine wears the labarum and the phoenix. 1869 FARRAR *Fam. Sp.* (1873) iii. 106 That body of sacred truth . . . should now be inscribed upon the common labarum.

†**Labascate**, *v.* *Obs.* [erron. f. L. *labascere*, inceptive f. *labāre* to totter.] *intr.* 'To begin to fall or slide' (Bailey vol. II. 1727).

†**Labascency**. *Obs. rare* [ad. L. **labascencia*, noun of state f. *labascere* to totter: see -ENCY.] Tottering state or condition.

a 1657 R. LOVEDAY *Lett.* (1663) 174 He that can take commission from his own sloth, to let fall the thred of a friendly intercourse, betrays a labascency and a languor in his amicable resentments.

|| **Labba** (læ'bā). [? Native name.] One of the caves, *Catogenys paca*, native to Guiana.

1825 WATERTON *Wanderings I.* (1879) 92 The Tapir, the Labba, and Deer, afford excellent food. 1876 C. B. BROWN *Brit. Guiana I.* 25 [He] went . . . to procure some game for us, and returned with three fine labba (*Catogenys paca*).

Labbe, obs. form of *let be*: see LET *v.*

Labdacism: see LAMBDAICISM.

|| **Labdanum** (læ'bænd̃m). Also 6, 8 *lapdanum*. [med. L.; form of L. *lādanum*.] = LADANUM. [c1400 *Langfranc's Chirurg.* v. ii. 334 *Labdanum*.] 1502 *Arnold's Chron.* (1811) 234 [In list of spices] *Labdanum*. 1533 *Elyot Cast. Helthe* (1541) 114, Things good for a colde head: Cubebes: Galingale: . . . *Labdanum*. 1611 COTGR., *Labdane*, *Labdanum*; a fat, clammy, transparent, and sweet-smelling Gumme. 1714 *Fr. Bk. of Rates* 93 *Labdanum* per 100 Weight 22 60. 1775 R. CHANDLER *Trav. Asia M.* (1825) I. 307 Hills green with flowering shrubs, and in particular with *labdanum*. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 152 The resinous balsamic substance called *Labdanum*. 1835 BROWNING *Paracelsus* 101 Heap cassia, sandal-buds, and stripes Of *labdanum*.

La-bee, obs. form of *let be*: see LET *v.*

Labefact (læ'bifækt), *ppl. a. rare*. [ad. L. *labefact-us*, *pa. pple.* of *labefacere*: see LABEFY. Cf. It. *labefatto* (Florio).] Shaken, tottering.

1874 BUSHNELL *Forgiveness & Law* I. 86 The integrity of the heathen world in general is just so far labefact, prostitute, and morally rotted away, as it has religiously abounded in expiations.

†**Labefact**, *v.* *Obs.* [f. *ppl.* stem of L. *labefacere*: see LABEFY.] *trans.* To shake, weaken.

c1540 ABP. PARKER *Corresp.* (1853) 11 Not with covert inventions to labefact the credence of the people.

†**Labefactate**, *v.* *Obs. rare*. [f. L. *labefactāt-*, *ppl.* stem of *labefactare*, freq. of *labefacere*: see LABEFY.] *trans.* To cause to totter or fall.

1657 TOMLINSON tr. *Renou's Disp.* 428 It labefactates houses by its weight.

Labefaction (læ'bifækt̃jən), *rare*. [ad. L. *labefactiō-em*, n. of action f. *labefactare* (see prec.).] = next.

1775 JOHNSON in *Boswell*, There is in it [the 'Beggars' Opera'] such a labefaction of all principles as may be injurious to morality.

Labefaction (læ'bifækt̃jən). [n. of action corresp. to LABEFY: see -FACTION.] A shaking, weakening; overthrow, downfall.

1620 VENNER *Via Recta* ii. 41 A suddaine labefaction of the liver. *Ibid.* vii. 123 It . . . resisteth the corruption of humors, and labefaction of the vitall and naturall parts. 1793 W. ROBERTS *Looker-on* No. 36 (1794) II. 41 We should . . . join them in promoting the labefaction of all human government. 1834 GLADSTONE in *Liddon Life Pusey* (1893) I. xiii. 309 Until the whole body of Churchmen is in such

a state that all will be . . . secure against labefaction. 1878 R. W. DIXON *Hist. Ch. Eng. I.* v. 321 To private difficulties and causes of labefaction such as these, must be added several notable measures of confiscation which took place within the same limits of time.

†**Labefy**, *v.* *Obs. rare*. [ad. L. *labefacere* (f. root of *labare* to fall, totter + *facere* to make): see -FY.] *trans.* To weaken, impair.

1620 VENNER *Via Recta* vii. 178 Not . . . to oppress and labefe the digestive faculty . . . with too great variety of meats.

Label (læ'bēl), *sb. 1* Forms: 4 *label*, 4-6 *labelle*, 5-7 *labell*, 6 *labil*, 4- *label*. [a. OF. *label* (also *lablet*) ribbon, fillet, file (in *Her.*); of obscure etymology; by some scholars thought to be of Teut. origin (cf. OHG. *lappa*: see LAP sb. 1). The synonymous OF. *lambel*, *lombel* is app. a variant: see LAMBEAU.]

1. A narrow band or strip of linen, cloth, etc.; a fillet, ribbon, tassel; the infula of a mitre.

c1320 *Sir Beues* 974 King Ermin . . . 3af him a scheld gode & sur Wip þe eglen of asur, þe champe of gold ful wel i-ditþ Wip þe lables [*MS. S. labelles*, *MS. N. lambels*] of seluer brit. 1519 HORMAN *Vulig.* 129, I wyll recompense the with a labell, *reponam appendice quadam*. 1530 PALSGR. 237/1 *Labell*, *houppie*. 1552 HULOET, A labell hanging on each side of a mitre, *infula*. Labelles hanging down on garlands, or crowns, *lennisci*. 1564 tr. *Jewel's Apol. Ch. Eng.* P. vj b, Peter . . . sytting in his Chaire, with his triple Crowne full of labelles. 1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 325 Broade beneath and sharpe aboue, in fashion somewhat like to the label of a bishops Miter. 1597-8 BP. HALL *Sat.* iv. ii. 24 A knit night-cap . . . With two long labels button'd to his chin. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gl. Exemp.* iii. xv. 79 Persons . . . whose outdote seemed to have appropriated religion to the labels of their frontlets. 1872 SHIPLEY *Gloss. Ecccl. Terms* 199 s.v. *Fillet*, The labels of a bishop's mitre.

†2. A small strip of paper or parchment attached to a document by way of supplement to the matter contained therein; hence, a supplementary note, comment, or clause, a codicil. Also *fig. Obs.*

c1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 331 Certis if þise popis bulles shulen be understonden wiþ sich a label, þe-ne þei weren not profitable to be purchasour ne to be churche. — *SeL Wks.* II. 399 And so sich cursing of popis is tokene of blessing of God. And if þe Churche were wel enformed of þis sentence, wiþ hire labellis, men shulden not drede feyned cursingis, ne lette for hem to see Cristis lawe. 1562 *Apol. Priv. Masse* (1850) 39 It is but a very fond dalliance to brawl upon the labels before you agree upon the original verity. The true sense of this little sentence, *This is my body that shall be delivered for you*, is the root and the original of all such labels as we teach. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* iv. i. 57 Ere this hand by thee to Romeo seal'd, Shall be the Labell to another Deede. . . this shall slay them both. 1611 — *Cymb.* v. v. 430 When I wak'd, I found this Labell on my bosome. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gl. Exemp.* iii. 75 Make us . . . read our duty in the pages of revelation, not in the labels of accidental effects. 1654 H. L'ESTRANGE *Chas. I* 80 It was presented to the King without any such saving label. 1658-1706 PHILLIPS, *Labels* . . . little pieces of parchment cut out long-ways, and hanging upon Indentures, or other kind of writings.

†3. *Astron. and Surveying*. In an astrolabe or a circumferenter, a narrow thin brass rule used chiefly in taking altitudes. *Obs.*

c1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* I. § 22 Thanne hastow a label, that is schapen like a rewle, save that it is streit & hath no plates on either ende with holes. 1594 BLUNDEVELL *Exerc.* vi. Intro. (1636) 607 This Labell is divided into 90 degrees twice set doune therein with Arithmetically figures. 1674 MOXON *Tutor Astron.* (ed. 3) ii. xiii. 50 The Astrolabe is a round Instrument flat on either side. . . Upon the Center is a moveable Label or Ruler . . . whereupon is placed two Sights. *Ibid.* 51 The degree and part of degree that the Label lies on is the height of the Sun above the Horizon.

†4. *gen.* A slip or strip of anything; a narrow piece (of land); a clump (of iron); etc. *Obs.*

c1440 *Promp. Parv.* 282/2 *Labelle*, *labellum*. 1577-87 HARRISON *England I.* x. in *Holinshead I.* 34 By north of the Brier, lieth the Rusco, which hath a Label or Byland, stretching out towards the southwest. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gl. Exemp.* xv. 39 They . . . sealed the grave, and rolled a great stone at the mouth of it' and as an ancient tradition says, bound it about with labels of iron. 1650 FULCER *Pisgah* iv. i. 25 Where Balak met Balaam, standing as it were on his tiptoes on the very last labell of his land, to reach forth welcome to that false prophet. 1679 *Hist. of Jeter* 5 The flesh and skin hung down in long Collops and Labels. 1682 WHEELER *Journ. Greece* iii. 249 Its Lungs . . . consisting of a thin, skinny Substance. . . divided into two Labels, placed on each side, and filled with Air; which being let out, those Labels shrunk together. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 335 Nine fryingpan-plates . . . clasp together by turning up 4 Labells which are ordinarily fixt to the lower plate.

5. *Her.* A mark of cadency distinguishing the eldest son of a family and consisting in a band drawn across the upper part of the shield having (usually three) dependent points (*label of three points*); cf. FILE sb. 2 5. † Also, one of the dependent points (or *lambeaux*).

[1394 in Rymer *Federa* (1709) VII. 763 Habeat justum Titulum hereditarium ad portandum, pro Cresta sua, unum Leopardum de Auro, cum uno Labello Albo.] 7 a 1412 *LYDG. Two Merchants* 868 For now of trowthe no man can contrive A verray seel or thenprent i-grave Without a label his armes hool to save. 1463 in *Bury Wills* (Camden) 35 My best herte of gold with angellys and a ruby with iiii. labellies of white inamyl. 1486 Bk. *St. Albans*, *Her.* f. vii b, Off armys barrit and of labellis borne in armys. c1500 *Sc. poem on Heraldry* 44 in *P. Eliz. Acad.*, ed. 95 Nobillis bere merkis, to mak be knawin, ther dochtyneys. . . The fader the hole, the eldas son deffer[e]nt, quichie a labelle; a cressent the second. 1562 LEIGH *Armorie* (1597) 107 [see FILE

sb. 2 5]. 1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* i. vi. (1660) 33 The Labell of the Heire apparent (saith Wyrley) is seldom transferred unto the second brother. 1611 COTGR., *Lambel*, . . . a File with three Labells pendant. *Ibid.*, *Pendant*, a label pendant. c1640, 1727 [see FILE sb. 2 5]. 1708 CHAMBERLAYNE *State Gl. Brit.* i. ii. v. (1743) 58 The Arms of the Prince of Wales at this Day differ from those of the King only by addition of a Label of three points. 1863 BOUTELL *Heraldry Hist. & Pop.* ix. 46 A Label is sometimes borne as a sole Charge. *Ibid.* xiv. 153 A silver label of five points.

6. A narrow strip of material attached to a document to carry the seal.

1494 FABYAN *Chron.* vii. 344 An instrument or wryttinge, at y^e which hyng many labellys with seals. 1679-88 *Secr. Serv. Money Chas. & Jas.* (Camd.) 64 For writing, flourishing, and embellishing and guiding the subscription and labells of a lre sent to the Czars of Russia. a 1680 BUTLER *Litigious Age Chas. II* 142 Until the subtlety of their conjurers Seal'd up the labels to his soul, his ears. 1726 AVLIFFE *Parerg.* 131 On this Label of Lead, the Heads of the two Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul are impressed from the Papal Seal. 1738 BIRCH *App. to Life Milton M.* s. Wks. I. 88 He did stich the silk Cord or Label of that Seal with silk of the Colours of the said Label, and so fixed the Label and Seal to the said Commission.

7. A slip of paper, cardboard, metal, etc. attached or intended to be attached to an object and bearing its name, description, or destination. (The chief current sense.) Also *fig.*

1679 *Roxb. Ball.* (1883) IV. 549 Let several Labels from their mouths proceed, To note the different Tribes o' the Holy Seed: Here, 'Root and Branch'; there, 'Down with Babel, down!' 1680 DRYDEN *Sp. Friar* i. i, About his Neck There hung a Wenck; the Label of his Function. 1702 C. MATHER *Magn. Christi* iii. iii. (1852) 556 A poor Indian having a label going from his mouth, with a *come over and help us*. 1722 DE FOE *Moll Flanders* (1840) 261 The hamper was directed by a label on the cording. 1765 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1789) IV. 155 Sometimes a short label [in or on Hogarth's figures] is an epigram, and is never introduced without improving the subject. 1773 *Lond. Chron.* 7 Sept. 248/3 Labels for bottles. 1797 GODWIN *Enquirer* i. xv. 129 A collection of books. . . viewed through glass doors, their outside and labels are visible to the child, but the key is carefully kept. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* ii, With a brass label and number round his neck. 1841 FORBES *Eleven Yrs. Ceylon* I. 131 'Fine cold-drawn castor-oil' was found printed on the label. 1871 MORLEY *Voltaire* (1886) 4 To the critic of the schools, ever ready with the compendious label, he is the revolutionary destructive. 1888 A. K. GREEN *Behind Closed Doors* vii, Poison that is bought at a drug-store usually has a label on the bottle.

b. An adhesive postage-stamp, bill-stamp, or the like. (Now only in official language.)

1840 in Philbrick & Westoby *Postage Stamps Gt. Brit.* (1881) 46, I beg to enclose you two specimens of the Penny and Twopenny stamped Covers and Envelopes, and two of the Penny adhesive Labels. *Ibid.* 47 Sheets of 1d. Labels containing 240 Stamps. 1851 *Brit. Postal Guide* Jan. 14 Postage Stamps. Every Postmaster is required to have on hand a sufficient stock of postage labels and embossed penny envelopes.

8. *Arch.* A moulding over a door, window, or other opening; a dripstone.

1823 in NICHOLSON *Pract. Builder* 587. 1850 PARKER'S *Gloss. Archit.* (ed. 5) s.v. *Dripstone*, The term *Label* is borrowed from heraldry, and therefore in strictness is only applicable to the straight form which is used in Perpendicular work, which resembles the heraldic label. 1851 TURNER'S *Dom. Archit.* II. ii. 30 The arches have no projecting label. 1879 SIR G. G. SCOTT *Lect. Med. Archit.* I. i. 225 As the junction of the arch with the wall above was but slightly marked a small projecting moulding was introduced which we call the drip-stone or label.

9. *attrib. and Comb.*, as (sense 7) *label-licking*, *-paster*; *label-cloth*, cloth used for the making of labels for books; *label-ink*, ink used in the marking of labels; †*label-lolling a.*, projecting like a label (sense 7); *label-mould*, -moulding = sense 8; †*label-seal*, a seal attached to a document by a 'label'; *label-stop Arch.*, a boss or corbel supporting the end of a label or dripstone.

1891 *Daily News* 1 Dec. 2/3 The manufacture of book cloth, tracing cloth, 'label cloth, and grey cloth. 1863 *Faunes' Man. Elem. Chem.* (ed. 9) III. 683 [It] forms a most excellent 'label-ink' for the laboratory, as it is unaffected by acid vapours. 1899 *Daily News* 9 Sept. 3/4 'Label-licking, which is practised largely in thread mills and aerated water factories. 1615 SIR E. HOBY *Curry-combe* v. 237 These mushrumps (grounded upon a lesse motiue) may not be questioned, though nothing so evident as a blareing 'label-lolling tongue, which without the helpe of a Muffler, could not be so well concealed. 1878 McVITTIE *Ch. Ch. Cath.* 67 Over the large pointed arch is a 'label-mould. 1830 MRS. BRAY *Fitz of Fitzford* iv. (1884) 33 A well-turned archway, ornamented with the oak-branch and the 'label-moulding. 1889 PASK *Eyes Thames* 172 They have been book-binders, boot-closers, 'label-pasters, and such like. 1679 WILLOUGHBY in Mansell's *Narr. Pop. Plot* 21 A Commission, with thirteen 'Label-seals, and as many Names thereto. 1894 C. G. HARPER *Marches of Wales* 132 A carefully rendered little head . . . carved on the 'label-stop of the canopy.

Label (læ'bēl), *sb. 2* *Bot.* [ad. L. LABELLUM.]

†a. ? A segment of a leaf (*obs.*). b. The lip of a ringent corolla.

1671 GREW *Anat. Plants* iv. § 16 If the Leaves be much indented or jagg'd, now we have the Duplicature; wherein there are divers plaits in one Leaf, or Labels of a Leaf. 1707 SLOANE *Jamaica I.* 162 The flower stands on a three inches long foot-stalk, is made like the flowers of the Aristolochia . . . the label being covered with a yellowish farina. 1888 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Label*, same as *Labellum*.

Label (læ'bēl), *v.* Also 9 *lable*. [f. LABEL sb. 1] *trans.* To affix a label to, mark with a label.

1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N. i. v. 265*, I will glue out diuers schedules of my beautie. It shalbe Inuentoried and every partcle and vtensile labell'd to my will: As, Item two lippes indifferēt redde [etc.]. **1786** MAD. *D'ARBLAY Diary* 2 Aug., [The Queen . . . employed the Princess Royal to label them [books]]. **1790** W. HASTINGS *Let. 2 Dec.* in Boswell *John-son* (1793) III. 315 A parcel containing other select papers, and labelled with the titles appertaining to them. **1831** CARLYLE *Misc. II.* 309 Common ashes are solemnly labelled as fell poison. **1865** J. WYLD *in Ctr. Sci. i.* 313/2 This may be labelled 'oxygen mixture'. **1885** *Law Times* LXXVIII. 385/2 The due diligence of the consignors in labelling and delivering the goods to the carriers. **1893** MATHESON *About Holland* 22 A carriage labelled *Niet rooken*.

b. fig. To describe or designate as with a label; to set down in a category (as so and so).

a. 1853 ROBERTSON *Lect. II.* (1858) 59 This foolish and wicked system of labelling men with names. **1871** MORLEY *Voltaire* (1872) 277 We cannot label Voltaire either spiritualist or materialist. **1875** JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) II. 293 He despatches the bad to Tartarus, labelled either as curable or incurable. **1881** M. ARNOLD *Byron in Macm. Mag.* XLIII. 376 It would be most unjust to label Byron . . . as a rhetorician only.

Hence **La-belling** *vbl. sb.* Also **La-beller**.

1871 *Echo* 8 Feb. The public . . . condemn us for labelling the Poison. . . By inserting this in your next issue you will greatly oblige one of the labellers. **1895** *Antiquary* 17 Aug. 219/3 A labelling of Welsh names. **1896** *Westm. Gaz.* 26 Mar. 2/1 Bottle fillers, washers, and labellers.

Labellate (lābē'lēt), *a. Zool.* [f. L. LABELLUM + -ATE 3.] (See quot.)

1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 432 *Labellate* . . . Long-lipped, or in shape nearly like the blade of a shovel . . . It passes into the dimidiata form.

Labelled (lābē'led), *a.* [f. LABEL *sb.* 1 and *v.* + -ED.] **a. Her.** Of a mitre: Having labels or infulae (of a particular tincture). *Labelled line* (see quot. 1753). **b. Arch.** Having a label or drip-stone. **c.** Marked with a ticket bearing the name, description of contents, etc. of the article.

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 49/37 *Labelled, infulatus*. **1753** CHAMBERS *Cycl. Suppl.* *Labelled line*, in heraldry, a term used by some to express the line in certain old arms, called more usually urdee or champagne. Others apply the same word to express the patee or dovetail line, called also the inclave line by Morgan. **1841** R. P. WARD *De Clifford* II. x. 115 A castle . . . with . . . its towers, and labelled windows. **1853** BOUTELL *Heraldry Hist. & Pop.* xlii. 358 Arg., on a cross sa., a mitre labelled or. **1895** *Bookseller's Cat.*, Leech himself in a nightcap sitting by the fire with a labelled bottle on the mantelshelf.

Labelloid (lābē'loid), *a. Bot.* [f. next + -OID.] Lip-like, lip-shaped.

1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 275 Perianthium minute, either a single labelloid lobe, or an urceolate 6-toothed body. **|| Labellum** (lābē'lŭm). [L. 'little lip', dim. of *labrum* lip.]

1. Bot. The lower division or 'lip' of an orchidaceous corolla, often enlarged or curiously shaped.

1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 263 Sometimes it [sc. the anther] stands erect, the line of dehiscence of its lobes being turned towards the labellum. **1850** DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* vi. (1873) 154 This orchid has part of its labellum or lower lip hollowed out into a great bucket. **1882** VINES *Sachs' Bot.* 882 The labellum of *Megacalium falcatum*.

2. Ent. One of a pair of tumid lobes terminating the proboscis of certain insects.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. 361.

† **La-bent**, *a. Obs.* -ō [ad. L. *lābent*, pr. pple. of *lābō* to fall.] 'Falling, sliding, fleeting, running, or passing away' (Bailey 1727 vol. II).

† **Labeon, labion.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. L. *labeōnem*, *labiōnem*, augmentative, f. *labium* lip.] One who has large lips.

1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* (1653) 175 The same or worse must befall the artificial Labions, for their Lips must need hang in their light, and their words stick in the birth. **1658** PHILLIPS, *Labions*, blabber-lipped persons.

Laberinth, -ynth, *obs.* forms of LABYRINTH.

Labey (lā'bē). *Sc.* Also *o laby, lebbis*. [Of obscure origin; cf. Gael. *lebbag* 'little shred or fragment' (M^cL. & D.); also LAP *sb.* 1] A loose garment or wrap; the lappet or skirt of a coat.

a. 1597 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xliii. 190 The hirdis and hindie men in their labey lay. **1811** A. SCOTT *Poems, Country Smiddy* 68 (Jam.) His new coat labey. **1825-80** JAMIESON, *Lebbie*, the lap or fore-skirt of a man's coat. **1890** J. SERVICE *Thir Notandums* iv. 20 The labies of his Sark.

Labia: see LABIUM.

Labial (lābē'biāl), *a. and sb.* [ad. med. L. *labiāl-is*, f. *labi um* lip. Cf. F. *labial* (1690 in Furetière).] *A. adj.*

1. Of or pertaining to the lips,

1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* xi. 107 Lip-Gallantry, or certain labial fashions invented by diverse Nations. **1837** MARRIAT *Dog-Friend* xix. The olfactory examination was favourable, so he put his mouth to it—the labial essay still more so. **1848** CLOUGH *Amours de Voy.* ii. 157 The labial muscles that swelled with Vehement evolution of yesterday Mar-seillaises. **1867** JEAN INGELOW *Lily & Lute* ii. 108 More than I can make you view, with my paintings labial. **1867** A. J. ELLIS *E. E. Pronunc.* i. iii. § 3. 161 The volume of the mouth is divided into two bent tubes of which the first may be termed the lingual passage as its front extremity is formed by the tongue, and the second, the labial passage.

b. spec. in Anat., Zool., etc. Pertaining to a lip, lip-like part, or LABIUM; having the character or functions of a lip.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr. s. v. Vein*, *Labial veins*, the lip

veines, whereof there are two on each inner side, both of the upper and under lip. **1722** QUINCY *Lex. Physico-Med.* (ed. 2) 227 Labial Glands. **1826** KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. 356 *Palpi Labiales* (the Labial Feelers). **1851-6** WOODWARD *Mollusca* 211 The lips and labial tentacles of the ordinary bivalves. **1879** T. BRYANT *Pract. Surg.* II. 230 Labial cysts are very common, and are usually met with on the inner side of the labia. **1881** MIVART *Cat* 27 The membrans lining the mouth abounds in small glands, those within the cheeks and lips being termed buccal and labial respectively.

c. Labial pipe: an organ-pipe furnished with lips, a flute-pipe.

1852 SEIDL *Organ* 21 An organ . . . which contained the following labial or languet registers. **1863** TYNDALL *Heat* viii. App. 280 The flame is also affected by various D's of an adjustable labial pipe. **1876** HILES *Catech. Organ* iv. (1878) 23 Flute-pipes are also called *Labial*, or lip-pipes.

2. Phonetics. The distinctive epithet of those sounds which require complete or partial closure of the lips for their formation, as the consonants p, b, m, f, v, w, and the 'rounded' vowels.

1594 T. B. LA PRIMAUD *Fr. Acad.* n. 87 The Hebrews name their letters, some guttural . . . ; others dental . . . ; & so they call others, labial, that is letters of the lips. **c. 1620** A. HUME *Brit. Tongue* i. vii. I beginning to lay my grunde of labial, dental, and guttural soundes and symboles. *Ibid.* A labial letter can not symbolize a guttural syllab. **1668** WILKINS *Real Char.* III. xiv. 379 The Vowels, as they are distinguished into *Labial*, being framed by an emission of the Breath through the Lips [etc.]. **1865** TYLER *Hist. Man.* iv. 73 Words containing labial and dental letters.

B. sb.

1. A labial sound.

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* III. xiv. 380 The Labials are represented by two curve Figures for the Lips. **a. 1709** W. BAXTER *Let. in Gloss. Antiq. Rom.* (1731) 409 The third Sort are Labials formed by the Lips alone. **1849-50** THACKERAY *Pendennis* xlvii. You have but the same four letters to describe the salute which . . . you bestow on the sacred cheek of your mistress—but the same four letters and not one of them a labial. **1864** MAX MÜLLER *Sci. Lang.* Ser. II. iv. 162 It is a fact . . . that the Mohawks . . . have no p, b, m, f, v, w—no labials of any kind.

2. A labial part or organ, e.g. one of the plates or scales which border the mouth of a fish or reptile, one of the labial palpi of insects.

1895 W. K. PARKER *Mammalian Desc.* ii. 46 The finished labials (lip-cartilages) of the types just referred to.

Hence **La'bially** *adv.*, with a labial sound or utterance.

1798 H. T. COLEBROOKE tr. *Dig. Hindu Law* (1801) I. xxvii. Sometimes pronounced gutturally, sometimes labially **Labialism** (lābē'biālizm). *Phonetics.* [f. LABIAL + -ISM.] Tendency to labialize sounds; labial pronunciation.

1881 *Encycl. Brit.* XIII. 810/2 In one set [of cognate words] we see the phenomenon of labialism, in the other assimilation, but no touch of labialism.

Labialize (lābē'biālize), *v. Phonetics.* [f. LABIAL + -IZE.] *trans.* To render (a sound) labial in character; to 'round' (a vowel). Also *absol.* Hence **La'bialized** *ppl. a.*

1867 A. J. ELLIS *E. E. Pronunc.* i. iii. § 3. 160 Round or Labialized Vowels. *Ibid.* 162 That (u) is almost (a) labialized or rounded. *Ibid.* 163 By merely neglecting to labialise, (u, u) are converted into (æ, v). **1874** SWEET *Hist. Eng. Sounds* 74 The i has been gutturalized and labialized into u by l. **1876** DOUSE *Grimm's Law* § 57. 140 The labialized K's.

Hence **Labialization**, the action of labializing or the condition of being labialized; 'rounding' (of a vowel).

1867 A. J. ELLIS *E. E. Pronunc.* i. iii. 74 The vowels differ by the important distinction of labialisation. **1877** SWEET *Primer Phonetics* § 36. 13 Rounding, . . . a contraction of the mouth cavity by lateral compression of the cheek passage and narrowing of the lip aperture, whence the older name labialization.

Labiate (lābē'biāt), *a. and sb.* [ad. mod. L. *labiāt-us*, f. LABI-UM: see -ATE 3.] **A. adj.**

1. Bot. *a.* Lipped: applied to flowers which have the corolla or calyx divided into two parts opposed in such a way as to suggest lips; bilabiate. **b. Belonging to the N.O. *Labiatæ*, consisting of herbaceous plants and under-shrubs, characterized by flowers of the form above described, opposite leaves, and usually square stalks, e.g. the mints, ground-ivy, the dead nettles, etc.**

1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Labiate Flowers* (among Herbalists) are those that have one or two Lips; some of which represent a kind of Helmet, or Monk's Hood. **1785** MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* iv. 46 The white Dead-nettle bears a monopetalous labiate flower. **1835** LINDLEY *Introduct. Bot.* (1848) 1. 334 When the two lips are separated from each other by a wide regular orifice, . . . the corolla is said to be labiate or ringent. **1862** BELLEW *Miss. Afghanistan* 451 The greensward . . . was covered with a variety of labiate herbs, amongst which the wild thyme, mint, basil, sage, and lavender were recognized. **1881** Sci. *Gossip* 254 The black horehound and other labiate plants.

2. a. Anat. and Zool. Formed like or resembling in shape, function, etc. a lip or labium. **b. Ent.** Of an orifice: Having thickened, fleshy margins.

In recent Dicts.

B. sb. Bot. A labiate plant.

1845 LINDLEY *Sch. Bot.* vi. (1862) 95 Order XLIV. *Lamiaceæ* —Labiates. **1861** S. THOMSON *Wild Flowers* III. (ed. 4) 196 The common bugle, . . . one of the labiates. **1879** LUBBOCK *Sci. Lect.* i. 19 Generally in the Labiates, the corolla has the lower lip adapted as an alighting board for insects.

Labiated (lābē'biētēd), *a. Bot. and Zool. ? Obs.* [Formed as prec. + -ED.] Lipped, labiate.

1707 SLOANE *Jamaica I.* 173 Small stalks, having . . . many white labiated flowers. **1776** WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (1796) III. 26 The labiated shape of the calyx. **1835** KIRBY *Hab. & Inst. Anim.* i. xii. 333 In some [Annellidans] it [the mouth] is simple, orbicular or labiated.

Labiatiflorous (lābē'biētēfōrōs), *a. Bot.* [f. mod. L. *labiātus* LABIATE + *-flōrus* (f. *flōr-*, *flōs* FLOWER) + -OUS.] Having a labiate corolla. Also **La-biatiflōral** *a.* (in recent Dicts.).

1855 GRAY *Expos. Lex.*, *Labiatiflorus* . . . labiatiflorous. **1880** GRAY *Struct. Bot.* 417 Labiatiflorous. Said of certain Compositae with bilabiate corollas.

Labidometer (lābēdō'mētr), *Surg.* [f. Gr. λαβίδο-, λαβίς forceps + μέτρον -METER. Cf. F. *labidomètre*.] An instrument consisting of a pair of obstetric forceps with a graduated scale attached for measuring the size of the foetal head.

1853 in DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.* (ed. 9).

† **Labies**, *sb. pl. Obs.* [Plural of **labie*, **laby*, ad. LABI-UM. Cf. obs. F. *labie* (Cotgr.).] Lips.

1541 R. COPLAND *Galen's Therap.* 2 Civ. Yf a shepherde sawe the labies of a sore harde, flynty, wan, and blacke . . . he wold haue no dowbte for to cut it.

Labile (lābē'bil, lābē'bīl), *a.* Also *5 laby1, 7 labil*. [ad. L. *labilis*, f. *lābī* to slip, fall, LAPSE: see -ILE Cf. F. *labile*.]

1. Liable or prone to lapse. † *a.* Prone to fall into error or sin; *Theol.* liable to fall from innocence (*obs.*). **b. Of a fund, etc.: Lapsable.**

1447 BOKENHAM *Segutys* (ROXB.) 147 My laby1 mynde and the dulnesse Of my wyt. **1678** GALE *Crit. Gentiles* III. 119 The supralapsarian Divines, who make man as labile the object of reprobation. **1740** CHEYNE *Regimen* iv. 140 All Creatures being finite and free, must necessarily, by their Nature, be labile, fallible and peccable. **1894** *Foran* June 449 These funds are no more labile than any other form of trust or mortmain.

† **2. Apt to slip away, slippery.** *lit. and fig. Obs.* **1623** COCKERAM, *Labile*, slipperie, unstable. **1654** J. R. TAYLOR *Real Pres.* 14 Now a man would think we had him sure; but his nature is labile and slippery.

3. Prone to undergo displacement in position or change in nature, form, chemical composition, etc.; unstable. Now only in *Physics* and *Chemistry*.

1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* II. xii. (1632) 340 Pithagoras [said] that each thing or matter was ever gliding and labile. **1654** J. R. TAYLOR *Real Pres.* § 1 Wood . . . can . . . be made thin, labile and inconsistent. **1878** FOSTER *Physic* II. v. 363 More labile than tissue proteid and yet more stable than the circulating proteid. **1885** BURDON-SANDERSON in *Nature* Sept. 26 Protoplasm . . . comes to consist of two things . . . of acting part which lives and is stable, and of acted-on part which has never lived and is labile, that is, in a state of metabolism. **1894** LD. SALISBURY in *Pop. Sci. Monthly* Nov. 40 The genius of Lord Kelvin has recently discovered what he terms a labile state of equilibrium.

4. Electr. Said of the application of a current by moving an electrode over an affected region instead of holding it firmly at one part.

1888 in *Syd. Soc. Lex.* **1893** A. S. ECCLES *Sciatica* vi. 65 With the anode labile over the foot, leg, and thigh. **1896** *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 369 The battery current labile over the affected muscles.

Hence **Lability**, proneness to lapse, instability of form or nature.

1646 GAUL *Cases Cons.* 34 Vanity of Science, error of Conscience, lability of innocence. **1654** J. R. TAYLOR *Real Pres.* xi. § 3. 247 Consistence or lability, are not essential to wood and water. **1740** CHEYNE *Regimen* v. (1796) 218 But Sensibility and Intelligence, being by their Nature and Essence free must be labile, and by their Lability may actually lapse, degenerat [etc.].

Labimeter, *Surg.* [ad. F. *labimètre*, incorrectly f. Gr. λαβίς (nom.): see LABIDOMETER.] = LABIDOMETER.

1853 in DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.* (ed. 9).

Labio- (lābē'bio), taken as comb. form of L. *labium* lip, (*a*) in *Phonetics*, with the sense 'formed with lips and (some other organ)', as *labio-dental* *adj.* and *sb.*, *labio-guttural*, -lingual, -nasal, -palatal (hence *labio-palatalize* vb.), -velar *adjs.*; (nonce-wd.) *labio-palato-nasal* *adj.*; (*b*) *Path.*, 'affecting or having to do with the lips and (some other part)', as *labio-alveolar*, *labio-glosso-laryngeal*, -pharyngeal, *labio-mental* [L. *mentum* chin], etc. (*Syd. Soc. Lex.* 1888). Also *labi-omancy* [Gr. *labra* divination], lip-reading.

1660 HOLDER *Elem. Speech* 71 P. and B. are Labial: Ph. and Bh. are *Labio-dental. *Ibid.* 138 The Labiodentals. **1748** *Phil. Trans.* XLV. 405 The labial and labio-dental Consonants. **1837** COOK tr. *Sievers' O. E. Gram.* 100 A sonant spirant, either labial or labio-dental. **1874** A. J. ELLIS *E. E. Pronunc.* iv. xi. § 2 No. 7. 1353 Labials . . . Labio-dentals. *Labio-linguals. **1876** *Chin. Soc. Trans.* IX. 82 Progressive labio-glosso-laryngeal paralysis. **1897** *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 862 In labio-glosso-laryngeal paralysis anaesthesia of the larynx has been observed. **1879** H. NICOL in *Encycl. Brit.* IX. 632/1 French and Northern Provençal also agree in changing Latin *fl* to a 'labio-guttural' to a *labio-palatal vowel. **1686** *Flor. Stafforsh.* 288 So . . . skill'd was she in this Art [which we may call *Labiomancy] . . . that . . . when in bed, if she might lay but her hand on their lips so as to feel the motion of them, she could perfectly understand what her bedfellows said. **1812** *Europ. Mag.* LXII. 287 [Title of article.] Labiomancy. **1874** A. J. ELLIS *E. E. Pronunc.* iv. xi. § 2 No. 7. 1350 Granting that consonants may be labialised, or palatalised, or *labio-palatalised. **1867**

O. W. HOLMES *Guardian Angel* ii. (1891) 16 A sort of half-suppressed *labio-palato-nasal utterance. 1894 LINDSAY *Latin Lang. Index*, *Labiovelar Gutturals].

Labion, variant of LABEON.

Labiose (lə'bi-ōs), *a. Bot.* [f. LABI-ATE, with substitution of suffix.] (See quot.)

1832 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* i. ii. § 7. 119 If the [polypetalous] corolla . . . resembles what is called labiate in gamopetalous corollas, it is termed *labiose*.

Labirinth, -ynth, obs. forms of LABYRINTH.

|| **Labium** (lə'bi-ŭm). [L. = 'lip'.] A lip or lip-like part. (Cf. LABRUM.)

1. *Anat.* † *a.* One of the sides of the aperture of a vein. Obs.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guttemean's Fr. Chirurg.* 28/4 When we bende the elbow, both the labia or lippes of the veyn do separate themselves.

b. Chiefly in pl. *labia*, in full *labia pudendi*: The lips of the female pudendum; the folds of integument on either side of the vulva.

1722 QUINCY *Lex. Physico-Med.* (ed. 2) 174 The *Labia*, or Lips of the great Chink. 1806 *Med. Jnrl.* XV. 21 When the uterus remains within the labia. 1872 THOMAS *Dis. Women* 101 An ichorous, fetid, nauseating fluid bathes the labia majora. 1879 T. BRYANT *Pract. Surg.* II. 229 In women, the labium may be the seat of an inguinal hernia.

2. In insects, crustaceans, etc., the organ which constitutes the lower covering or 'floor' of the mouth and serves as an under lip. (Cf. LABRUM.)

1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* II. 209 They [Myriapoda] have . . . a labium or lip without palpi, formed of united portions. 1862 in *Goldsmith's Nat. Hist.* II. 575 The mouth has usually two mandibles, a labium, or lip below, and from three to five pairs of jaws. 1878 BELT *Gegenbaur's Comp. Anat.* 245 When those gnathites are fused in the middle line the so-called labium is formed.

b. *Conch.* The inner lip of a univalve shell.

1839 SOWERBY *Conch. Man.* 54 *Labium*, or inner lip. Is used to express that side of the aperture which is nearest the axis, and generally contiguous to the body whorl, the lower part of this, when sufficiently distinct from the part which overwraps the body whorl, is called the Columella. 1851 RICHARDSON *Geol.* viii. 240 The *labium*, or columellar lip.

3. *Bot.* The lip, esp. the lower or anterior lip, of a labiate corolla. (Cf. GALEA.)

1823 CRABB *Technol. Dict.*, *Labium*, the Lip, the exterior part of a labiate or ringent corolla. It is distinguished into upper and lower; but sometimes the upper lip is called the *labium*, and the lower *galea*. 1880 GRAY *Struct. Bot.* 419 A bilabiate corolla or calyx . . . is cleft into an upper (superior or posterior) and a lower (inferior or anterior) portion or lip (labium).

4. The lip of an organ pipe (Stainer & Barrett *Dict. Mus. Terms*).

|| **Lablab** (lə'b-læb). [Arab. لبلاب *lablāb*.] The Egyptian or black bean, a native of India, but naturalized in most warm countries.

1823 CRABB *Technol. Dict.*, *Lablab*, the *Dolichos Lablab* of LINNÆUS. 1856 *Treas. Bot.*, *Lablab*, a genus of tropical pulse formerly included in *Dolichos*. The two recognised species are natives of India, but . . . they are now found naturalised in most tropical countries. 1886 A. H. CHURCH *Food Grains India* 161 Of the numerous forms of *Lablab* the majority are eaten as a green vegetable.

Labor: see LABOUR.

† **Laborant**, *Obs.* [ad. L. *laborant-em*, pr. pple. of *laborāre* to LABOUR.] A laboratory workman; chemist's assistant; a working chemist.

1605 BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* ii. iii. (1848) 105 As I am wont to reverence vulgar Chymists, I then envy'd their Laborants, whose employment requires them to attend the Fire. 1680 — *Exper. Chem. Princ.* i. 39 We caused the Laborant with an iron rod dexterously to stir the kindled part of the Nitre. 1694 *Phil. Trans.* XVIII. 203 Glauber . . . a very Chymist or Laborant, and nothing at all of a clear Philosopher.

† **Laborate**, *v. Obs. rare.* In 7 labourate. [f. ppl. stem of L. *laborāre* to LABOUR.] *trans.* To elaborate.

1662 J. CHANDLER tr. *Van Helmont's Oriat.* 298 The transpiring or breathing thorow of Spirits labourated in the heart.

† **Laboration**, *Obs. rare*—1. Also 5 -acōn. [ad. L. *laborātion-em*, n. of action f. *laborāre* to LABOUR.] Working, work, labour.

c1460 ASHBY *Poems* 77 Wisdām must haue grete application in meche redyng and other laboracion. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Laboration*, a labouring.

Laboratorial (lə'bōrətō'ri-āl), *a.* [f. LABORATORY + -AL.] Pertaining to the laboratory.

1862 H. MARRVAT tr. *In Sweden* II. 368 A large glass bowl, with a laboratorial spout. 1881 *Nature* XXIII. 509 Their courses of instruction whether lectures or laboratorial.

Laboratorian, *a. and sb. rare.* [f. LABORATORY + -AN.] *A. adj.* = prec. *B. sb.* A chemist who works in a laboratory.

1860 PIESSE *Lab. Chem. Wonders* 155 Young laboratorians at home . . . will not be slow to show their dexterity. *Ibid.* 173 The laboratorian chemists can liquify this metal.

Laboratory (lə'bōrətō'ri). Also 7 **laboritary**, *laboratory*. [ad. med. L. *laborātōri-um*, f. L. *laborāre* to LABOUR: see -ORY. Cf. F. *laboratoire*, It., Sp., Pg. *laboratorio*; also ELABORATORY.]

1. A building set apart for conducting practical investigations in natural science, orig. and esp. in chemistry, and for the elaboration or manufacture of chemical, medicinal, and like products.

1605 TIMME *Quersit*, III. 191 Wee commonly prouide that

they bee prepared in our laboratorie. a 1637 B. JONSON *Mercurij Vind.* Induction, A Laboratory or Alchemist's work-house. 1683 WILDMING in *Collect.* (O. H. S.) I. 258 For seeing y^e Laboratory . . . oo oo oo. 1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* II. 392 He had a Laboratory to prepare all Medicines that he used on his Patients. 1764 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) III. 248 His best pieces were representations of chymists and their laboratories. 1802 *Med. Jnrl.* VIII. 87 To establish in London a laboratory, or manufacture of artificial mineral waters. 1812 SIR H. DAVY *Chem. Philos.* Introd. 9 The greater number of the experiments were made in the laboratory of the Royal Institution. 1881 SIR W. THOMSON in *Nature* 435 The electro-magnetic machine has been brought from the physical laboratory into the province of engineering.

b. *transf. and fig.*

1664 POWER *Exper. Philos.* i. 65 The Soul (like an excellent Chymist) in this internal Laboratory of Man, by a fermentation of our nourishment in the Stomach [etc.]. 1794 SULLIVAN *View Nat.* I. 461 Fissures and caverns of rocks are the laboratories, where such operations are carried on. 1814 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* 15 The soil is the laboratory in which the food is prepared. 1850 MAURY *Phys. Geog. Sea* xviii. § 740 Like the atmosphere it [the sea] is a laboratory in which wonders by processes the most exquisite are continually going on. 1870 J. H. NEWMAN *Gram. Assent* ii. viii. 260 A notion neatly turned out of the laboratory of the mind.

2. *Mil.* 'A department of an arsenal for the manufacture and examination of ammunition and combustible stores' (Voyle *Milit. Dict.* 1876).

1716 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5439/3 The Ammunition Laboratory . . . was . . . set on Fire. 1804 WELLINGTON *Let. in Gurw. Desp.* (1837) III. 528 The arsenal, the laboratory [etc.]. . . are under his immediate superintendence. 1846 GREENER *Gunnery* 85 A fuse, invented . . . by a person employed in the laboratory at Woolwich.

3. *Metallurgy*. 'The space between the fire and flue-bridges of a reverberatory furnace in which the work is performed; also called the *kitchen* and the *hearth*' (Raymond *Mining Gloss.* 1881).

1839 URE *Dict. Arts*, ed. 822 The flame and the smoke which escape from the sole or laboratory pass into condensing chambers. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 393 The laboratory is 9 feet long, 6 feet 6 inches wide, and connects with the chimney, 2 feet 6 inches square, by a flue.

4. *attrib.*, as *laboratory apparatus*, *chemist, experiment, fire, forge, furnace, machinery, man*, (sense 2) *stores, work; laboratory-chest*, a chest containing ammunition and explosive stores.

1860 PIESSE *Lab. Chem. Wonders* 145 As the botanist does with plants so does the 'laboratory-chemist with the salts. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) D d, A 'laboratory-chest is to be on board each bomb-vessel, in the captain's cabin, in which all the small stores are to be kept. 1898 *Daily News* 8 Feb. 5/2 Most of this evidence has had to be tested by 'laboratory experiments. 1870 TYNDALL *Heat* v. § 185, 148 My assistant dissolved the substance in a pan over our 'laboratory fire. 1866 ODING *Anim. Chem.* iv. 78 Whether the chemist may not effect in his 'laboratory-machinery a similar intercombination of deoxidised carbonic acid and water. 1822-34 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) IV. 449 Coal heavers, dustmen, 'laboratory-men, and others who work among dry powdery substances. 1828 SPERMAN *Brit. Gunner* 3 Ammunition and 'Laboratory Stores. 1881 LOCKYER in *Nature* 218 Whether we passed from low to high temperatures in 'laboratory work.

† **Laboriferous**, *a. Obs. rare*—^o. [f. L. *laborifer* (f. *labor* (i) LABOUR + *-fer* bearing) + -OUS: see -FEROUS.] (See quot.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Laboriferous*, that takes pains, that endures labour, painful, difficult.

Laborinth, -ynth, obs. forms of LABYRINTH.

† **Laboriose**, *a. Obs.*—^o. [ad. L. *laboriōs-us* (see LABORIOUS).] 'Laborious, pains-taking' (1727 Bailey vol. II.).

Laboriosity (lə'bō'ri-ŏs-ī-ti). *rare.* [f. L. *laboriōs-us* (see next) + -ITY. Cf. F. *laboriosité*.] Laboriousness.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Laboriosity*, painfulness, laboriousness, or laborosity. 1840 *Blackw. Mag.* XLVIII. 132 Numberless low and quarl dissertations . . . attest their invincible laborosity. 1842 BLACKIE in *Tait's Mag.* IX. 749 The lumbering laborosity of dead grammars and dictionaries.

Laborious (lə'bō'ri-ŏs), *a.* Also 6 -yous (e). [ad. F. *laborieux* (12-13th c. in Hatz.-Darm.) or ad. L. *laboriōs-us*, f. *labor* LABOUR: see -IOUS.]

1. Given to labour or toil; doing much work; assiduous in work, hard-working.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 90 If thou wilt here Of hem that whol virtuous Were and therto laborious. c1407 SCOGAN *Moral Balade* 69 Therefore laborious Ought ye to be, beseeching god . . . To yeve you might for to be virtuous. 1555 EDEN *Decades* 318 Thinhabitantes are men of good corporature . . . and laborious. 1634 RAINBOW *Labour* (1635) 5 The limbs of your industry are so strong and laborious. a 1648 LD. HERBERT *Autobiog.* Life (1886) 192 He . . . was observed seldom or never . . . to sweat much, though he were very laborious. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* iv. 242 All . . . combine to drive The lazy Drones from the laborious Hive. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 21 ¶ 5 Laborious Ben's Works will bear this Sort of Inquisition. 1758 HUME *Pol. Disc.* i. 17 Their own steel and iron, in such laborious hands, become equal to the gold and rubies of the Indies. 1857 LD. DUFFERIN *Lett. fr. High Latitudes* (1867) 78 Those calm laborious minds . . . pursuing day by day with single-minded energy some special object. 1871 MORLEY *Voltaire* (1886) 9 He was always serious in meaning and laborious in matter.

b. = LABOURING ppl. *a. i.*

1777 HUME *Ess. & Treat.* I. 280 By this means . . . a greater

number of laborious men are maintained, who may be diverted to the public service. 1795 BURKE *Th. Scarcity* Wks. VII. 378 The moral or philosophical happiness of the laborious classes.

2. Of actions, conditions, etc.: Characterized by or involving labour or much work; toilsome. † Of wages: Hardly earned. Obs.

14. . . *Chaucer's Friar's T.* 130 (Corpus MS.) My office [is] ful laborious. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 83 Nothyng is more . . . laborously to kepe, than is virginite. 1549 LELAND (title) *The laborious Journey and Serche of Johan Leylande for Englandes Antiquities*. 1607 TOPSELL *Hist. Four-f. Beasts* (1658) Pref., I have not any accesse of maintenance, but by voluntary benevolence for personal pains, receiving no more but a laborious wages. 1611 BIBLE *Ecclus.* vii. 15 Hate not laborious worke, neither husbandrie. 1637 MILTON *Lycidas* 72 To scorn delights, and live laborious dayes. 1725 POPE *Odys.* iii. 127 Shall I the long laborious scene review, And open all the wounds of Greece anew? 1752 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 204 ¶ 11 Forced jests, and laborious laughter. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* III. 202 The subject of minute and laborious disquisition. 1845 M. PATTON *Ess.* (1889) I. 7 In a laborious anxiety to be correct, they have evaporated away all the spirit of their book. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* i. iv. 33 These days were laborious and instructive. 1878 JEVONS *Primer Pol. Econ.* 43 The great advantage of capital is that it enables us to do work in the least laborious way.

b. Of concrete objects: Entailing labour in construction or execution; involving much elaboration. † Also (*rare*—¹), Causing wearisome toil.

1555 EDEN *Decades* To Rdr. (Arb.) 49 The laborious Tabernacle which Moises builded. 1666 PEPYS *Diary* 14 July, Up betimes to the office to write fair a laborious letter. 1705 ADDISON *Italy* (1733) 105 The long laborious Pavement here he trades. 1824 MISS FERRIER *Inher.* xlvii, A most laborious and long-winded letter. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* ProL 20 Laborious orient ivory sphere in sphere. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. iii. 45 We have a large and laborious outfit to arrange.

3. *Midwifery*. Attended with severe labour.

1637 T. MORTON *New Eng. Canaan* (1883) 148 Very apt are they to be with child, and very laborious when they beare children. 1753 N. TORRIANO *Gangr. Sore Throat* 23 Labours in such Circumstances are generally laborious. 1754-64 SMELLIE *Midwifery* I. 242 Laborious births. 1855 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.*, *Labour, Laborious, or Instrumental* . . . that requiring the use of extracting instruments for its completion . . . also called *Difficult Labour*.

† 4. Pertaining to labour. *Obs. rare*—¹.

1634 QUARLES *Div. Fancies* II. lxxvi. (1660) 89 Me thinks that they should change their trade [sc. that of the theatre] for shame Or honour't with a more laborious name.

Laboriously (lə'bō'ri-ŏs-ī-ly), *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY 2.] In a laborious manner; with labour or assiduous toil.

c1510 MORE *Picus* Wks. 16 Thei, that . . . in the space of this temporall death laboriously purchase themself eternall death. 1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys. Mech.* viii. 65 The Experiment was laboriously try'd. 1725 POPE *Odys.* xi. 597, I chuse laboriously to bear A weight of woes. 1823 D'ISRAELI *Chas.* I. (1830) III. i. 12 Never was there a Monarch who employed his pen so laboriously. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. xviii. 180 The laboriously-earned results of the expedition. 1883 J. HAWTHORNE in *Harper's Mag.* Nov. 934/2 The . . . beams of the . . . ceiling . . . were laboriously carved.

Laboriousness (lə'bō'ri-ŏs-ī-nēs). [f. as prec. + -NESS.] Laborious character or condition; assiduity in work; toilsomeness.

1624 W. TIRWHITT tr. *Balsanz's Lett.* (vol. I.) 89 That great laboriousness they so much frame to themselves. 1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Chr. Mor.* 38 To strenuous minds there is an inquietude in overquiesness, and no laboriousness in labour. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. 135 The exceeding Laboriousness of my Work. 1818 HALLAM *Middle Ages* (1853) II. 62 Masdeu, in learning and laboriousness, the first Spanish antiquary. 1851 LYTTON & FANE *Tannhäuser* 32 Leaf and stem disintertwined itself With infinite laboriousness.

† **Laborosity**, *Obs. rare*—^o. [f. L. **laboriōs-us* (see next) + -ITY.] Laboriousness.

1656 [see LABORIOSITY].

† **La'borous**, *a. Obs.* Forms: 4-7 *laborous*, 5 -ose, 5-8 *labourous*, 6 -orouse, -crus, 5-6 -erous, Sc. *laubo(u)r(ō)ous*. [a. OF. *laboros*, -us, *laboureux*: —L. **laboriōs-us*, f. *labor* LABOUR (cf. *dolōriōsus*, f. *dolor*): see -OUS.] = LABORIOUS.

c1386 CHAUCER *Friar's T.* 130 Myn offyce is ful laborous [Corpus MS. laborious]. a 1450 *Fysshynge w. angle* (1883) 4 Huntynge haukyng and fowlyng be so laborous & greuous pat [etc.]. c1450 tr. *De Imitatione* II. iii. 125 Whether all laborose pynge be not to be suffrid for euerlasting lif? c1460 ASHBY *Poems* 87 Be ye then right laborous. c1470 HENRY WALLACE xi. 958 His labourous mynd on othir materis wrocht. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* III. vi. 199 Quhow thow may all laborous pane sustene. 1561 T. NORTON *Cato's Inst.* II. 72 We ned not a longer or more laborous pr fce. 1591 SPENSER *M. Hæberd* 266 For husbands life is laborous and hard. 1593 T. HYLL *Gardening* 3 Then must you dig a pit (although y^e same will be very laborous). 1656 EARL MONK. *Advt. fr. Parnass.* 153 Why should we undertake the laborous business of dividing the world into equal partitions? 1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4057/3 After a laborous March. 1782 T. VAUGHAN *Fish. Follies* I. 67 Reading and writing . . . were too laborous [ed. 2 (1810) laborious] for the nerves of a man of fashion.

Hence † **La'borously** *adv.* † **La'borousness**.

c 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. v. 69 *Obp.* pat . . . desiren laborously pynge euerlasting. *Ibid.* III. xxxvi. 106 Pat pat is laborously gotten by mannys witte. 1530 PALSGR. 237/1 *La'bourousnesse, laboriosité*. 1531 ELYOT *Gov.* III. x. (1880) II. 275 He laborously and studiously discussed controuersies.

Labour, labor (lā'bor), *sō*. Forms: 4-5 *la-bore*, 4-6 *-ur*, *-oure*, 5-6 *Sc. laubour*, 4- *labour*, 5- *labor*. [a. OF. *labor*, *labour* (mod.F. *labour*), ad. L. *labōrem* labour, toil, distress, trouble. Cf. Pr. *labor*, *laor*, Sp. *labor*, Pg. *lavor*, It. *lavor*.]

As in *favour*, etc., the spelling with *-our* is preferred in the British Isles, while in the U.S. *-or* is more common.]

1. Exertion of the faculties of the body or mind, esp. when painful or compulsory; bodily or mental toil. *Hard labour*: see *HARD* a. 18b. † *To do one's labour*: to exert oneself, make efforts (to do something).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 23699 þan sal it [þe erth] blisced be and quit o labour, and o soru, and sit. 13. E. E. *Allit. P.* A. 633 Why schulde he not her [i.e. innocents'] labour alow? c 1386 CHAUCER *Priores's T.* 11 To telle a storie I wol do my labour, c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10770 Hit were labour to long hir lotis to tell. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Aelian* (1839) 2 He that wylle haue . . . worship and glorie may not haue hit withoute grete labour. 1533 GAU *Richt Vay* (1888) 93 O heunille fader gif vsz alsa necessar thingis to our corporal sustentatione be our aune richus laubour. 1535 COVERDALE *Eccl.* ii. 18, I was weery of all my labour, Which I had taken vnder the Sonne. 1611 BIBLE *Ps.* civ. 23 Man goeth forth vnto his worke: and to his labour, vntill the evening. 1619 DRAYTON *Idea* lxx, Labour is light where Loue . . . doth pay. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* ii. 1021 So he with difficulty and labour hard Mōd on, with difficulty and labour hee. 1754 HUME *Pol. Disc.* i. 12 Everything in the world is purchas'd by labour, and our passions are the only causes of labour. 1781 COWPER *Hope* 20 Pleasure is labour too, and tires as much. 1827 LYTTON *Falkland* 15 Nothing seemed to me worth the labour of success. 1833 TENNYSON *Lotos-Eaters* 87 Ah, why Should life all labour be?

personified. c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 4994 With hir Labour and Travaile Logged been. 1764 GOLDSM. *Trav.* 82 Nature . . . Still grants her bliss at Labour's earnest call. 1804 GRAHAME *Sabbath* 2 Mute is the voice of rural labour. *transf.* 1842 COMBE *Digest* 267 The stomach, having less labour imposed upon it, will require less food.

b. Phr. *Labour in vain*, lost labour. [1377 LANGL. *P. Pl. B.* Prol. 181 [They] helden hem vn-hardy and here conseil feble, And leten here labours lost & alle here longe studie. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 293 Whan he sigh . . . that his labour was in veine.] 1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxvi. 13 The leill labour lost, and leill seruice. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* cxxvii. 2 It is but lost labour that ye ryse vp early. 1615 T. ADAMS *England's Sicken*, to Let Nature doe her best, we dwelt at the Signe of the *Labour-in-vaine*. Onely Christ hath washed vs. a 1670 HACKET *Abd. Williams* ii. (1693) 67 That Commisssion ended at *Labour in vain*; not, as the old Emblem is, to go about to make a Black-moor white, but to make him that was White to appear like a Black-moor. 1679 DRYDEN *Pr. & Cr.* ii. ii. The sign-post for the *labour in vain*. 1747 WESLEY *Prim. Physick* (1762) p. xviii, Add to the rest (for it is not labour lost) that old unfashionable medicine, Prayer.

c. Bodily exercise. (Cf. *gr. nóvos*.) 1584 COGAN *Haven Health* i. (1612) 1 Labour then, or exercise is a vehement mousing, the end whereof is alteration of the breath or winde of man. 1666 HARVEY *Morb. Angl.* x. (1672) 28 Moderate labour of the body is universally experienced to conduce to the preservation of health.

d. An alleged term for a 'company' of moles. 1866 *Bk. St. Albans* f.vj b, A Labor of Mollis.

2. *spec.* in modern use: Physical exertion directed to the supply of the material wants of the community; the specific service rendered to production by the labourer and artisan.

1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N. I.* Introd. 1 The annual labour of every nation is the fund which originally supplies it with all the necessities and conveniences of life, which it annually consumes. *Ibid.* l. i. v. 35 Labour, therefore, is the real measure of the exchangeable value of all commodities. 1798 MALTHUS *Popul.* iv. iv. (1860) II. 348 If the population of this country were better proportioned to its food, the nominal price of labour might be lower than it is now. 1825 *Edin. Rev.* XLIII. 14 The . . . remedy is to diminish the supply of labour. 1824-59 GWILT *Archit. Gloss.*, *Labour*, a term in masonry employed to denote the value of a piece of work in consideration of the time bestowed upon it. 1848 MILL *Pol. Econ.* i. iii. § 1 (1876) 28 Labour is indispensable to production, but has not always production for its effect. 1863 BARRY *Dockyard Econ.* 45 The difficulty of organising labour, particularly in masses, is well known. 1885 *Act* 48 & 49 *Vic.* c. 56 Preamble, Doubts have arisen as to whether or not it be lawful for an employer of labour to permit electors in his regular employ to absent themselves.

b. The general body of labourers and operatives, viewed in its relation to the body of capitalists, or with regard to its political interests and claims. Chiefly attrib. (see 8).

1880 S. WALPOLE *Hist. Eng.* III. xiii. 228 Labour . . . was gradually discovering the truth of the old saying, that God helps those who help themselves. *Mod.* The parliamentary representation of labour.

3. An instance of bodily or mental exertion; a work or task performed or to be performed. *A labour of Hercules*, a *Herculean labour*: a task requiring enormous strength. *Labour of love* (see *Love* *sō*).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2229, I rede we bigin a labourer . . . and make a toure. 1432-50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 11 If that a pigmei scholde make him redy to conficte after the labores of Hercules . . . plenerly finisched. 1535 COVERDALE *Rev.* xiv. 13 Yee the sprete sayneth, that they rest from their labours. 1539 TAVERNER *Prov.* 34 Labourers ones done, be swete. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* i. ii. 257. 1599 — *Much Ado* ii. i. 380. 1604 E. GRIMSTONE *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* iv. vii. 226 They were two insupportable labours in searching of the metall; first to digge and breake the

rockes, and then to drawe out the water all together. 1617, 1732 [see *HERCULEAN* a. 3]. 1702 ROWE *Lameri. Ded.* When they shall reckon up his Labours from the Battle of Senef. 1732 LAW *Serious* C. iii. (ed. 2) 32 Whose lives have been a careful labour to exercise these virtues. 1835 LYTTON *Rienzi* i. l. 4 My labours of the body, at least, have been light enough. 1871 DAVIES *Metric Syst.* ii. 29 The rich treasures of their labors.

4. The outcome, product, or result of toil. Also pl. *Obs. exc. arch.* [Cf. L. *hominumque boumque labores*, Virgil.]

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 1866 3eildes til your creatur þe tend part o your labour. 1432-50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 7 Y . . . intende to compile a tretys . . . excerpte of diuerse labores of auctores. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* civ. 44 They toke the labours of the people in possession. 1550 CROWLEY *Epigr.* 307 To worke what they can, and lyue on theyr labours. 1611 BIBLE *Transl.* Pref. 12 Others haue laboured, and you may enter into their labours. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* iii. 688 The waxen Labour of the Bees. 1709 SWIFT *Vind. Bickerstaff* Wks. 1755 II. i. 174, I saw my labours, which cost me so much thought and watching, bawled about by common hawkers. 1730 POPE *Iliad* xviii. 556 Five ample plates the broad expanse (of the shield) compose, And godlike labours on the surface rose. 1736 Col. *Rev. Pennsylv.* IV. 176 The Thing they want is the peaceable Possession of their Labours.

† 5. Trouble or pains taken. (*Obs. pl.*) *Obs.* 14. *Sir Beues* (MS. O.) 928 'Haue this', he sayde, 'for thy labour!' 1520 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* 27 The auditors . . . be diligent and take labors herapon. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* ii. l. 139 If it please you, take it for your labors; And so good-morrow Seruant. 1611 BIBLE *Transl.* Pref. 2 The Emperor got for his labour the name Pupillus. a 1656 USSHER *Power of Princes* II. (1683) 141 He caused the Fellow to be soundly whipped for his labour.

† b. *esp.* The exertion of influence in furthering a matter or obtaining a favour. *To make labour*: = *LABOUR* v. 13. *Obs.*

1454 T. DENYES in *Paston Lett.* No. 199 (1807) I. 274 Afturard my wif was sum dele easid bi the labour of the Wardeyn of Flete, for the cursid Cardenale had sent hir to Newgate. 1461 J. PASTON *Ibid.* No. 408 II. 35, I undirstand ther shall be labour for a coroner that day, for ther is labour made to me for my good wyll here. 1482 CAXTON *Chron. Eng.* ccxliiii. 315 By labour of lordes that wente bytwene ther was a poyntement taken that ther was no harme done. 1491 *Act* 7 *Hen. VII.* c. 22 Preamble, I pray you make labour unto my Lady Warwyk to write to the King of France. 1540 *Act* 32 *Hen. VIII.* c. 42 § 2 Without any further sute or labour to be made to kynges highnes . . . for the same. 1542 UDALL in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camd.) 2 Your labour for my restitution to the roume of Scholemaister in Eton. 1565 STOW in *Three 15th c. Chron.* (Camd.) 136 Y^e paryshe of S. Marie Magdalyn in Mylkestret, makynge labour to y^e byshope, had by hym a mynyster apoyntyd to serue them with communion that day.

6. The pains and efforts of childbirth; travail. Phr. in *labour*.

1595 SPENSER *Epithal.* 383 Sith of wemens labours thou hast charge, And generation goodly dost enlarge. 1611 BIBLE *Gen.* xxxv. 16 Rachel traueiled, and she had hard labour [COVERDALE: the byrth came harde vpon hir]. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII.* v. i. 18 The Queens in Labor They say in great Extremity, and fear'd Shee'l with the Labour, end. 1799 *Med. Frl.* II. 477 [She] had then been in labour about two hours. . . Interrogating her afterwards respecting her former labours [etc.]. 1819 SHELLEY in *Dowden Life* (1887) II. 308 She has . . . brought me a fine little boy, after a labour of the very, very mildest character. 1889 J. M. DUNCAN *Lect. Dis. Women* vi. (ed. 4) 34 In the first labour the woman's power and especially the labour, including the uterine, power is the greatest.

b. *fig.* 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* iii. vii. 81 With Newes the times with Labour, And throws forth each minute, some. 1612 BACON *Ess.*, *Beauty* (Arb.) 208 As if nature were rather busie not to erre, then in labour to produce excellency. 1634 HEYWOOD *Maydenhd. well lost* i. B 3 b, My brain's in labour, and must be deliuered Of some mischeife. 1665 MANLEY tr. *Grotius' Low C. Warres* 121 And now that sentence is brought forth, wherewith . . . the Warre had now been in labour for the space of nine years. 1797 T. HOLCROFT tr. *Stolberg's Trav.* (ed. 2) II. lxxvi. 29 We behold . . . the mountain incessantly in labour.

† 7. Eclipse. [A Latinism.] *Obs.* 1 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* ii. 679 Teach me the various Labours of the Moon, And whence proceed th' Eclipses of the Sun [L. *defectus solis varios, lunaeque labores*].

8. attrib. and Comb.: simple attrib., as *laboursphere*; (sense 2 b) *labour bank*, *leader*, *member*, *party*, *question*; objective and objective gen., as *labour-easing*, *-saving*, *-worthy* adjs.; instrumental, as *labour-bent*, *coarsened*, *dimmed* adjs.; also *labour book*, a book containing accounts of labour employed; † *labour-fellow*, fellow-labourer; † *labour-house*, a laboratory; *labour-market*, the supply of unemployed labour considered with reference to the demand for it; *labour-pains*, pains of childbirth; *labour-show* *Obstetrics*, the mucous discharge streaked with blood which immediately precedes the occurrence of labour; *labour-starve* v. *trans.*, to impoverish (land) by expending too little labour upon it; *labour-time* (see *quot.*); *labour-yard*, a yard in a workhouse or prison, where enforced labour is done by the inmates.

1847 *Illustr. Lond. News* 28 Aug. 135/3 The Chartists are raising subscriptions to establish a bank, to be called the 'Labour Bank'. 1883 *Fortn. Rev.* i. Nov. 609 The . . . 'labour-bent back of the labourer. 1893 *Frl. R. Agric. Soc.* Dec. 665 Taking notes from farmers' 'labour-books. 1866 HOWELL *Venet. Life* xx. 345 Her 'labour-coarsened hands. 1867 M. ARNOLD *Heine's Grave* 89 The weary Titan!

with deaf Ears, and 'labour-dimm'd eyes. 1837 WHEELWRIGHT tr. *Aristoph.* I. 196 The fertile vine, whose tendrils bear The 'labour-easing grape. 1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par.*, *Phil.* 9 My 'labourfellowes in y^e gospell. 1557 N. T. (Geneva) 1 *Thess.* iii. 2 Timothyus . . . our labour fellowe in the Gospel of Christe. 1712 BLACKMORE *Creat.* 169 Did chynic chance the furnaces prepare, Raise all the 'labours of bouses of the air? 1892 ZANGWILL *Bow Myst.* viii. 113 A hand was laid upon the 'labour leader's shoulder. a 1618 SYLVESTER *Spectacles* ix. (Grosart) II. 298 Th' idle Lubber, 'labour-loathing. 1861 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Audi Alit.* III. 149 The expenditure consequent on this, is thrown into what people call the 'labour-market. 1876 H. FAWCETT *Pol. Econ.* ii. iv. 146 The home labour-market is relieved by emigration. 1895 WHITAKER'S *Almanack* 134 The House of Commons . . . Liberals, 267 (including 4 'Labour Members). 1754-64 SMELLIE *Midwifery* I. 197 If it is delivered without any other assistance than that of the 'labour-pains the birth ought to be called natural. 1799 ADOLPHUS *Mem. Fr. Rev.* I. 2 The dauphiness . . . was unexpectedly seized with labour-pains, and delivered. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 18 May 3/1 The position attained by the new 'Labour party. 1888 E. BELLAMY *Looking Backward* v. What solution, if any, have you found for the 'labour question? 1777. ADAM SMITH (Worcester). A 'labour-saving machine. 1870 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. I. (1873) 170 Only too thankful for any labor-saving contrivance whatsoever. 1822-34 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) IV. 60 *Leucorrhoea Nabothi*, 'Labour-show. 1868 J. H. NEWMAN *Verses Var. Occasions* 140 Severed. From thy loved 'labour-sphere. 1891 *Daily News* 28 Mar. 2/6 The land of Lincolnshire . . . was 'labour-starved. 1898 J. ARCH *Story of Life* viii. 183 Hundreds and hundreds of labour-starved acres. 1887 KIRKPUR in *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 212/1 The 'labour-time which we take as the measure of value is the time required to produce a commodity under the normal social conditions of production with the average degree of skill and intensity of labour. 1640 FULLER *Joseph's Coat* ii. (1867) 116 It will be a 'labour-worthy discourse. 1856 READE *Never too late* x. He went into the 'labour-yard, looked at the cranks [etc.].

Labour, labor (lā'bor), *v.* Forms: 4 *laborie*, -y, *labre*, 4-5 *labore*, -er, 4-6 *laboure*, 5 -owre, *Sc. lauber*, 5-6 *labur*, *Sc. laubour*, 6 -or, -ur, -yr, 4- *labor*, 5- *labour*. [a. F. *labourer* (early *laborer*, 10th c.), ad. L. *labōrāre*, f. *labōr*-, *labor* (see *prec.*). Cf. It. *lavorare*, Sp. *labrar*, Pg. *lavarar*.]

In mod. Fr., Sp., and Pg. the word is chiefly restricted to the specific sense 'to plough', the wider sense having passed to the vb. represented in Eng. by *TRAVAIL*.

1. Transitive senses.

1. To spend labour upon (the ground, † vegetable growths, etc.); to till, cultivate. Now *poet.* or *arch.* Also, in recent use, to work (a mine).

13. E. E. *Allit. P.* A. 503 To labor vnye watz dere þe date. c 1470 HENRY WALLACE *viii.* 1607 The abill ground gett labour thryftely. 1481 CAXTON *Godfrey* viii. (1893) 29 They laboured non longe by eryng. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. clxxxviii. 223 The landes were voyde and nat laboured. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* xv. 123 The grond that i labury. 1566 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* iii. 197 He gaue her landes and steddings, with seruantes to labour thame. 1602 CAREW *Cornwall* 82a. To labor the Lords vineyard. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* xii. 18 Labouring the soile, and reaping plenteous crop. 1666 PHILLIPS (ed. 5) v. s. v. To Labour the Ground, is to manure the Ground by removing the Earth. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 115 § 5 The Earth must be laboured before it gives its Increase. 1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. France* 411 The English labourer . . . hazards much when he labours land for himself. 1844 SCOTT *St. Roman's* xxviii. The garden was weeded, and the glebe was regularly laboured. 1833 [see LABOURED *pp.* a.]. 1876 MORRIS *Sigurd* II. 140 Fair then was the son of Sigmund as he toiled and laboured the ground. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 3 Sept. 2/1 A claim must be properly laboured by the owner or by someone paid by him.

2. *gen.* To spend labour upon; to work upon; to produce or execute with labour. (Also with cogn. obj.) *Obs. or arch.*

c 1430 *Pligr. Ljyf Manhode* II. lx. (1869) 99 Litel rouht hire of spinnynge, or to laboure ooper labour. 1432-50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 67 In eny other wellie which hath be labored by diuerse kynges of Egipte. c 1440 JACOB'S *Well* 4 Now haue I smagyd and cast all myn hool werk of þis wellie; which I schal labour to 300 lxxxix. dayes and y^e, ere it be performyd. 1523 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 328 All manere goods and marchandis as shalbe labored, tracted, and adventured by any of the inhabitants of this cite. 15. WITHALS *Dict.* (1568) 111/1 Claye labored to make pottes. 1599 Broughton's *Lett.* vii. 24 With this Rabbinical rubbish . . . haue you laboured a lomie and sandie building. 1611 BIBLE *Transl.* Pref. 1 Whether it be by devising any thing our selues, or reusing that which hath bene laboured by others. 1623 WHITBOURNE *New-foundland* 82 The other are to labour the fish at land, (of which sixteen) seven are to be skiffull hadders, and splitters of fish. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* iv. 82 They . . . labour Honey to sustain their Lives. — *Æneid* vi. 859 Anvils, labour'd by the Cyclops Hands. 1725 POPE *Odys.* viii. 371 A wondrous net he labours. 1830 TENNYSON *Poems* 111 Love laboured honey busily. I was the hive and Love the bee. 1832 STANISH *Maid of Jaen* 8 The diamond labour'd from the mine.

† b. *To labour one's needs*: to work for one's livelihood. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 6688 A man . . . That . . . wol but only bidde his bedis, And never with honde labour his nedis.

† 3. To use labour upon in rubbing, pounding, or the like; hence, to rub, pound, beat, etc. (Cf. *work* vb.) *Obs.*

1846 Bk. *St. Albans* a v b, Take y^e white of an egge, & labur thesame in a sponge. 1544 PHAER *Regim.* (1560) Sijj b, Laboure the sope and the rose water wel together. *Ibid.* S v b, Red coral . . . hanged about the neck, wherupon the childe should oftentimes labour his gummies. 1569 R. ANDROSE tr. *Alexis's Secr.* iv. iii. 25 Boyle them,

laboring them with the spatter. 1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* II. (1617) 79 As he trotteeth, labour his contrarie side with the calfe of your leg. a 1661 FULLER *Worthies* (1840) III. 486 Take to every six gallons of water one gallon of the finest honey, and put into the boorn, and labour it together half an hour.

4. To labour, ply with blows. *Obs. exc. dial.*

1594 CAREW *Huart's Exam.* Wits xiii. (1596) 211 The Asse . . if he be laboured with a cudgell, he setteth not by it. 1645 SLINGSBY *Diary* (1836) 177 Our horse did so fast labour y^e their long tucks y^e they could not endure it. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 639 Take a Plant of stubborn Oak; And labour him with many a sturdy Stroak. *mod. Sc.* He took a stick an' labour'd [or labber'd] the beast terrible wi'd.

5. To work at or treat laboriously; to take great pains with (a matter); to work out in detail, to elaborate. Now almost exclusively in *to labour a point, a question*, and similar expressions.

c 1449 PECKOC *Repr.* I. xvi. 91 So precise and vnackeable occupation to be had and laborid among hem. 1548 UDALL *Erasmus Par.* Pref. 13 b, Verai fere studentes dooe vse to reade and labour anye autour in anye one particular facultee or discipline. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* II. xxiii. § 5. 220 Science of government, which wee see is laboured and in some part reduced. a 1619 FOTHERBY *Atheomastix* II. xi. § 4 (1622) 317 Which point, hee . . hath laboured exactly, with much finenesse and subtilty. 1691 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* p. lii, The Invention of the New-River-Water was much labour'd. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 92 ¶ 12 These lines, laboured with great attention. c 1750 SHENSTONE *Solitude* 29 How the nightingales labour the strain. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 787 Th' accomplished plan That he has touch'd, retouch'd, many a long day Labor'd, and many a night pursued in dreams. 1797 BURKE *Regic. Peace* iv. Wks. 1842 II. 357 Though he labours this point, yet he confesses a fact . . which renders all his labours utterly fruitless. 1846 ELLIS *Elgin Marbles* II. 225 In a single figure, parts are often highly laboured. 1863 C. CLARKE *Shakesp. Char.* x. 254 The reason why the poet has so laboured the character of his hero. 1892 A. J. BALFOUR *Sp. in Standard* 11 Apr. 3/5. I do not desire on the present occasion to labour this proposition.

† b. = ELABORATE v. 2. *Obs.*

1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 373 In the cavity of this ventricle the vital spirits are laboured. 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* II. vi. 96 The Heart . . is the fountain of Life and labors the vital Spirits.

6. To endeavour to bring about (a state of things); to work for or with a view to (a result); to work hard for (a cause or the like). (Cf. 12.) *Obs. or arch.*

In early legal use often associated with *sue*. 1439 E. E. *Wills* (1882) 118 The mater so to be laboryd and seywd that he be constrained there to do hit. 1463 in *Bury Wills* (Camden) 40 If ony will labour the contrarye. 1484 *Certificate in Surtees Misc.* (1890) 42 Pe foresaid forged and untrue testimonyall, shewed [pretend sewed] & labord by pe said Richard Davis. 1523 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 328 If ony such person . . shall sue or labour ony such writte. 1611 B. JONSON *Cailline* III. i. Two things I must labour, That neither they upbraid, nor you repent you. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage, Descr. India* (1864) 28 The Mother of Echebar . . laboured a peace, but not prevailing, fell sicke. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* IV. xviii. (1647) 199 [She] laboured his cause day and night. a 1661 — *Worthies* (1840) III. 2 When Shalover woods . . were likely to be cut down, the university by letters labored their preservation. 1678 DRYDEN *Kind Keeper* II. i. Dram. Wks. 1725 IV. 303 Is this a Song to be sung at such a time when I am labouing your Reconciliation? 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* 52 And labour that first palm of noble minds, A manly course of terror from the tomb. 1793 BURKE *Observ. Cond. Minority* Wks. 1842 I. 612 How much I wished for, and how earnestly I laboured, thatre-noun. 1817 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* I. III. iv. 621 In labouing the ruin of Nujeeb ad Dowlah.

† 7. To endeavour to influence or persuade; to urge or entreat. (Cf. 13.) *Obs.*

1461 *Paston Lett.* No. 404 II. 31 Tudyman, Staplyton, and Heydon, with theyr affenye labour the Kyng and Lords unto my hurt. 1556 J. HEYWOOD *Spider & F.* IV. title, The butterflie . . fleeth into the tree: laboring the flies to haue the ant heerd speake ere he die. 1577-87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 1225/2 He was laboured and solicited dailie by wise and learned fathers, to recant his diuells & erroneous opinions. 1598 SPENSER in *Wks.* (ed. Grosart) I. 539 The landlords . . began . . to labour the Erle of Tircone unto their parte. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 604 Hec began cunningly to labour diuers of the noblemen one by one. 1622 BACON *Hen. VII* 119 Yet would not the French King deliver him up to King Henry (as hee was laboured to doe). 1633 CAMPION *Hist. Irel.* II. III. 75 [He] laboured the King . . earnestly for their pardons and obtained it.

† b. To advocate strenuously, urge (a matter). 1477 *Paston Lett.* No. 783 III. 172 That ye schuld labur the mater to my maister. 1616 F. COTTINGTON in *Bucclench MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 183 Much it is laboured there that he should come as ordinary, and not for a small time.

† 8. (with *compl.*) To bring into a specified condition or position by strenuous exertion. *Obs.*

c 1485 *Digby Myst.* III. 1823 Per is a woman . . þat hether hath laberyd me owt of mercyll. 1550 CROWLEY *Way to Wealth* 171 Loke if thou haue not laboured him oute of his house or ground. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* v. iii. Wks. 1856 I. 134, I have bene labouring generally fauour firme. 1611 *Second Maidens's Trag.* v. ii. in *Hazl. Dodsley* X. 405 Our arms and lips Shall labour life into her. Wake, sweet mistress! 1615 T. ADAMS *Spirit. Navigator* 34 Whiles he labours them to Hell, winde and Tide are on his side. a 1617 P. BAYNE *Ephes.* (1658) 17 Men must labour their hearts to a sense of the worth of the benefits. 1633 EARL MANCH. *Al Mondo* (1636) 16 To labour the eye to see darkness. 1655 MOUTET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* (1746) 151 Drink . . a good Draught of your strongest Beer . . and then labour it out, as Plowmen do. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 65 Sisypheus that labours up the Hill The rowling Rock in vain.

† 9. To impose labour upon; to work (an animal); to use (the body or its parts, *occas.* the mind) in some work. *Obs.*

1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* XVIII. xvii, The hors was passynge lusty and freshe by cause he was not laboured a moneth afore. c 1500 *Yng. Children's Bk.* in *Babes Bk.* (1868) 19 A byrde hath wenges forto flye. So man hath Armes laboryd to be. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 303 b, Thou were so ferre our laboured & faynt for payne. 1535 COVERDALE *Deut.* xxi. 3 A yonge cowe which hath not bene laboured, ner hath drawn in the yocke. 1545 ASCHAM *Toph.* 1. (Arb.) 46 A pastyme . . where euery parte of the bodye must be laboured. 1638 *Tariton's Test.* Cj b, My fore-horse . . being let blood and drencht yesterday, I durst not labour him. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1298 This Idols day . . Labouring thy mind More then the working day thy hands.

† b. To cause to undergo fatigue. *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Shipman's T.* 1298, I trowe . . that our gode man Hath yow laboured st the night bight. c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 13490 A tempest hym toke . . þat myche labourt the lede er he lond caght. 1496 *Bk. St. Albans, Fishing* (1810) h v, Yf it fortune you to smyte a grete fysshe with a halle barnays: thenne ye must lede hym in the water and labour him there till he be drownyd and ouercome. 1632 J. FEATLY *Hon. Chastr.* 25, I will not labour your eares with the many and vulgar arguments to proue a God.

† 10. To burden, overwhelm, oppress, distress.

1450-1530 *Myrr.* Our Ladye 240 The drede of god, by whiche she was ful sore laboured & troubeled. 1482 *Monk of Evesham* (Arb.) 19 Sore laboured with grete febulnes and weakenes. 1611 SPED *Hist. Gl. Brit.* IX. xviii. (1632) 908 Nature being sore laboured, sore wearied and weakened.

II. Intransitive senses.

11. To use labour, to exert one's powers of body or mind; in early use chiefly said of physical work, *esp.* performed with the object of gaining a livelihood; to exert oneself, toil; to work, *esp.* to work hard or against difficulties.

1362 LANGL. P. *Pl. A.* VII. 26, I wol helpe þee to labore whil my lyf lastip. *Ibid.* 117 We haue no lymes to labore [C. ix. 135 laboure] with. *Ibid.* 250 þat Fisysch schal . . beo fayn . . his fisysk to lete, And leorne to labre wile lond leste lyfde faile. *Ibid.* B. xv. 182 Þanne wil he some tyme Labory in a lauendrey. c 1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 387 He . . preyde hem to labouren in this ned, And shapen that he faille nat to spede. 1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* III. 267 Not . . to laboure þe lawe as lewde men on plowes. c 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) vi. 64 Thei tylen not the Lond, ne thei laboure nought. c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 5362 He . . Hade laburt so longe, hym list for to rest. c 1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* xiv. (1835) 142 This serche . . hath be a digression from the mater in wich we labour. 1542 BRINKLOW *Compl.* xvi. (1874) 40 He that laboryth not, let him not eate. 1611 BIBLE *Isa.* xlix. 4, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought. 1651 HOBBS *Leviath.* II. xxx. 181 It is not enough, for a man to labour for the maintenance of his life. 1698 FRYER *East India & P.* III. Who Run . . or else Dance so many hours to a Tune . . when they labour as much as a Lancashire man does at Roger of Coverly. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1879) I. 239 Those who laboured at the oars. 1895 *Bookman* Oct. 16/2 [He] labours hard over his proofs of the book.

indirect pass. 1715 DE FOE *Fann. Instruct.* I. i. (1841) I. 22 You must be instructed and laboured with to be a good child.

† b. *refl.* in same sense. *Obs.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troilus* IV. 981 (1009), I mene as though I laboured me in this. To enqueren which thing cause of which thing be. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* C viij b/1 Grete in contemplacion of heuently thynges and a tylyar in labouryng hymself. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 171 b, The more y^e enforcest & laborest thy selfe in y^e begynnynge.

12. To exert oneself, strive (for some end); to endeavour strenuously (to accomplish or bring about something).

1398 TREVISIA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. lxxxvii. (1495) 836 They . . labouren to helpe eche other with all theyr myghte. c 1430 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 847 Laboryng the Seruice of God to Multiply. 1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxi. 10 Is lane of ws . . Bot labouris ay for vithris destruction. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 2 b, They laboured . . to knowe the natures of thynges in this worlde. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* cxx. 7, I laboured for peace. — 2 *Macc.* iv. 7 Iason the brother of Onias laboured to be hye prest. 1604 E. G[IRKSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. iv. 131 They which saile from West to East, labour alwaies to be out of the burning Zone. 1611 BIBLE *Isa.* xxii. 4, I will weepe bitterly, labour not to comfort me. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII.* III. ii. 191 For your highness' good I ever labour'd More than mine own. 1682 DRYDEN *Mac Flecknoe* 157 When false flowers of rhetoric thou would'st cull, Trust nature, do not labour to be dull. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 95 ¶ 4 True Affliction labours to be invisible. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* xxv, I laboured to become cheerful. 1796 JANE AUSTEN *Pride & Prej.* vii, Most earnestly did she labour to prove the probability of error. a 1862 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* (1873) III. v. 387 Water is constantly labouring to reduce all the inequalities of the earth to a single level. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* VII. § 3 (1882) 371 Parker was labouring for a uniformity of faith and worship amongst the clergy.

† 13. To exert one's influence in urging a suit or to obtain something desired. *Const. to* (a person).

1475 *Plumpton Corr.* 31, I have receiued from you diuers letters . . that I shold labour to Sir John Pilkinton, to labor to my lord of Gloucester or to the king. *Ibid.* 51 This day com Wylliam Plumpton to labor for Haveray Parke. 1533 MORE *Apol.* viii. Wks. 860/2 If I desired a manne to geue me a thyng, and laboured muche to hym therefore, c 1555 HARRISFIELD *Divorce Hen. VIII* (Camden) 236 He laboured to the Pope to have a dispensation. 1577-87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* I. 188/1 His coosen . . who was about to labour to the king for his pardon.

14. To move or travel, *esp.* with implication of painful exertion or impeded progress. *lit. and fig.* Now rare.

a 1400-50 Alexander 1814 Pai labourde vp a-gayn þe lift an elcten dais. c 1450 LONELICH *Graill* xlii. 82 Nasciens that In the se was Abrod, Vpp and down laboured. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. xxiv. 34 The kyng . . returned agayne into Englande, and laboured so longe that he came to Wyndesore. 1530 PALSCR. 600/2 This horse is nat very fayre, but he laboureth well on the waye, . . il chemine bien. 1611 BIBLE *Yosh.* vii. 3 Let about two or three thousand men goe vp, . . and make not all the people to labour thither. 1715-20 POPE *Iliaid* xli. 458 He poised, and swung it round; then, toss'd on high, It flew with force and labour'd up the sky. 1877 L. MORRIS *Epic of Hades* 1. 3 The stream Which laboured in the distance to the sea.

b. quasi-trans. *To labour one's way*: to pursue it laboriously.

1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. xxiii. 231 Laboring our way with great difficulty upon the ice-belt.

† c. To make little progress, suffer impediments.

1736 CHANDLER *Hist. Persce.* 360 The job was labouring for three years space. 1765 T. HUTCHINSON *Hist. Mass.* I. iii. 360 A petition of Capt. Hutchinson and others labored, although their title was originally derived from the Indian sachems and proprietors, and the lands had been long possessed.

15. To be burdened, troubled, or distressed, as by disease, want, etc.; to be trammelled by or suffer from some disadvantage or defect. *Const. under* (also *† of, with, on, in*).

c 1470 HENRY Wallace VII. 345 Lawberand [v. r. lau-bourit] in mynd that had beyne all that day. 1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* I. 16 No manuelle . . if the eye in colour labouring, this Muscle sometime be affected also. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 106 Whereby vnprofitable marishes were drained . . and such places relieved as laboured with the penury of waters. 1641 MILTON *Reform.* II. (1851) 69 This our shaken Monarchy, that now lies labouring under her throws. 1644 BULWER *Chiron.* 15 Speech labours of a blinde crampe, when it is too concise, confused or obscure. 1662 H. MORE *Philos. Writings* Pref. general xi, Men of very excellent spirits may labour with prejudice against so worthy an Author. a 1677 BARROW *Euclid* (1714) Pref. 3 Seems . . to labour under a double Defect. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 746 The wheasing Swine With Coughs is choak'd, and labours from the Chine. 1709 BERKELEY *Ess. Vision* § 83 The visive faculty . . may be found to labour of two defects. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 267 ¶ 3 Aristotle himself allows, that Homer has nothing to boast of as to the Unity of his Fable. . . Some have been of opinion, that the Æneid also labours in this Particular. 1769 WARBURTON *Lett.* (1809) 434, I was then labouring on my old rheumatic disorder. I have not yet got rid of it. 1784 tr. Beckford's *Vathek* (1868) 113 From time to time he laboured with profound sighs. 1839 in *Spirit Metrop. Conserv. Press* (1840) I. 273 Some timid conservatives . . labour in the same mistake. 1857 KINGSLEY *Two Y. Ago* (1877) 416 You are labouring under an entire misapprehension. 1862 SIR B. BRODIE *Psychol. Inq.* II. iv. 110 If he laboured under a perpetual toothache.

† 16. Of women: To suffer the pains of child-birth; to travail. Also *fig. Obs.*

1454 *Paston Lett.* I. 274 Afur she was arested she laboured of hir child, that she is with all. 1527 ANDREW BRUNSWYKE's *Distyll. Waters* K. iv, Yf a woman dronke it, the chyld sholde dye, and she sholde labour before her ryght tyme. 1548-9 (Mar.) *Bk. Com. Prayer, Litany*, All women labouryng of chyldre. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* v. ii. 521 When great things labouring perish in their birth. 1604 — *Oth.* II. i. 128 But my Muse labours, and thus she is deliuer'd. 1653 *Parish Reg. Finghall, Yks.* (MS.), Baptised Elizabeth the daughter of John Parke of Wensley, whose wife laboured at Burton in her journey homeward. 1711 POPE *Temple of Fame* 212 Here, like some furious prophet, Pindar rode, And seem'd to labour with th' inspiring God.

17. Of a ship: To roll or pitch heavily at sea.

1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* ix. 40 We say a ship doth Labour much when she doth rowle much any way. 1748 ANSON's *Voy.* I. vi. 104 The ship laboured very much in a hollow sea. 1819 BYRON *Juan* II. xli, The ship labour'd so, they scarce could hope To weather out much longer. 1840 R. H. DANA *Def. Mast* xxv. 82 The ship was labouring hard under her top-gallant sails.

LABOUR-: see LABOR-

† LABOURABLE, a. *Obs.* [a. F. *labourable* (1409 in *Hatz.-Darm.*) arable, f. *labourer* to LABOUR.] Capable of being laboured or worked.

1481 CAXTON *Godfrey* lxvii. (1893) 112 A londe . . ful of . . good felde labourable. 1545 in *Archiv Stud. neu. Spr.* XCIX. 23, I am Sunday moste honorable: That day all thynges laborable Ought for to rest. 1611 COTGR., *Labourable*, labourable, workable, fit to be wrought on; also, nautical. 1693 EVELYN *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* I. 21 Three Foot of good Mould, very soft or labourable on the Top. 1738 WARBURTON *Div. Leg.* II. 274 To drain the swampy Marshes of this vast extended Level: and to render the whole Labourable.

LABOURAGE (lā'·lōrédz). Also 5 labourage, 9 laborage. [a. F. *labourage* (12-13th c. in *Hatz.-Darm.*), f. *labourer* to LABOUR. In sense 3, f. LABOUR sb. + -AGE.]

† 1. Ploughing; *concr.* ploughed or cultivated land. *Obs.*

1475 *Bk. Noblesse* 65 Labouragis and approwementis of londes and pastures. *Ibid.* 70 In tileng, ering, and labourage of his londs to bere corne and fruit. 1502 *Ord. Crysten Men* (W. de W. 1506) iv. xxi. 286 Wichche by huntyngey endomageh getrely cornes, grasse, or other labourages.

† 2. Labouring, labour, work. *Obs.*

1484 CAXTON *Fables of Esop* VI. x. (1889) 205 They returned to their labourage. 1666 HEXHAM *Dutch Dict., Arbedyng*, labourage, labouring, or taking pains.

3. Payment for labour.

1826 MS. *Bill of John Earle, Hull*, Laborage, Shipping, and Wharfage 4s. 1890 *East. Morn. News* 14 Feb. 3/5, I allude specially to the question of labourage, which shows a very great increase.

Laboured, labored (lā'boird), *pp. a.* [f. *LABOUR v.* + -ED ¹.]

1. + Cultivated, tilled, ploughed (*obs.*); also, of a mine, worked.

1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Oct. 53 Whereon he earst had taught his flocks to feede, And laboured lands to yield the timely eare. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 414 Root up wild Olives from thy labour'd Lands. 1833 TENNYSON *Enone* 113 Or laboured mine undrainable of ore.

† 2. Employed in labour; hard worked; oppressed with labour or toil. *Obs.*

1595 SHAKS. *John* II. i. 232 Your King, whose labour'd spirits Fore-wearied in this action of swift speede. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 291 What time the labour'd Oxe In his loose traces from the furrow came. 1682 DRYDEN *Dk. Guise* I. 1, Turn'd out, like labour'd Oxen, after Harvest.

† b. Worn with use. *Obs.*

1535 COVERDALE *1 Sam.* xiii. 21 The edges of the plow-shares, and mattocks, & forckes, and axes were laboured, and the poyntes blont.

3. Wrought, produced, or accomplished with labour; highly elaborated; hence in depreciatory sense, performed or accomplished only by the expenditure of excessive toil or tedious elaboration, and consequently showing indications of heaviness or want of spontaneity. Also, of physical action: Heavy, performed with great effort.

1608 SHAKS. *Per.* II. iii. 17 In framing an Artist, art hath thus decreed, To make some good, but others to exceed, And you are her labour'd scholler. a 1658 CLEVELAND *Elegy B. Jonson* 65 The marbled Glory of thy labour'd Rhyme. 1703 POPE *Thebais* 202 Labour'd columns in long order plac'd. 1740 PITT *Æneid* x. 750 High in my Dome, are Silver Talents roll'd With Piles of Labour'd and Unlabour'd Gold. 1755 BURKE *Subl. & B. v.* v. There is not perhaps in the whole *Æneid* a more grand and laboured passage than the description of Vulcan's cavern in *Etna*. 1826 J. FOSTER in *Life & Corr.* (1846) II. 84 Other writing of a laboured and tedious kind. 1856 OLMSTED *Slave States* 215 A labored investigation of evidence. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 15 The dialogue is generally weak and laboured. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 156 The laboured beat of the engines. 1898 G. MEREDITH *Odes Fr. Hist.* 72 Laboured mounds, that a foot or a wanton stick may subvert.

Labourer, laborer (lā'borair), [f. *LABOUR v.* + -ER ¹.] One who labours.

1. One who performs physical labour as a service or for a livelihood; *spec.* one who does work requiring chiefly bodily strength or aptitude and little skill or training, as distinguished, e.g., from an artisan (often with defining word prefixed, as *agricultural, bricklayer's, dock, farm, mason's labourer*, etc.).

Statute of Labourers: the mod. designation of the statute *De Serventibus* (23 Edw. III.), regulating the rate of wages. c 1325 *Poem temp. Edw. II* (Percy) lxxv. A wretched laborer That lyeth by hys hond. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 6 It maketh me drawe out of the way In solein place by my selfe, As doth a laborer to delive. 1442-3 *Durham Acc. Rols* (Surtees) 275 Will'o' Harpur laborere laboranti infra Infirmarym, 7s. 7d. 1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* III. xi. 113 As Kyngge Pellinore rode in that valey he met with a pource man a labourer. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* iv. xi. 91 With fire and swerd to perseyw and down thyrng The laboraris [L. colonos] descend from Dardanus. 1543 tr. *Act 23 Edw. III.* heading, Here begynneth the Statute of Labourers. 1548 *Act 2 & 3 Edw. VI.* c. 15 § 4. No Person . . . shall . . . let or disturb any . . . Brickmaker, Tile-maker, Plummer or Labourer. 1590 GREENE *Newer too late* (1600) 119 The labourer to the fields his plough-swaynes guides. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) F 44, *Travailleurs*, the ordinary, or labourers, &c. employed to assist in fitting out shipping for the sea. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 342 Common labourers earn between one shilling and one shilling and three pence a-day. 1847 JAMES CONNIE *xx*, I am a labourer by trade. 1878 JEVONS *Primer Pol. Econ.* 71 Bricklayers' labourers refuse . . . to raise bricks to the upper parts of a building by a rope and winch. 1891 *Daily News* 1 Sept. 3/1 An intelligent villager—not a labourer, but a man of the working-class.

† b. *Mil.*

1548 HALL *Chron.*, *Hen. V* 56 b, The pyoners cast trenches and the laborers brought tymbre. *Ibid.*, *Hen. VIII* 114 Of bill men fye. M. of pioners and laborers ii. M. vi. C.

c. *Labourer-in-trust*: one of a number of officers (ranking next below the 'clerks of works') who formed part of the staff employed for the repairs of the royal palaces. The office ceased to exist in 1824.

1853 W. JERDAN *Autobiog.* IV. 52 He became what is called a labourer-in-trust on the establishment which has the charge of the Royal palaces. 1884 *Trans. Lond. & Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* VI. 486 Mr. Adam Lee, the Labourer-in-Trust of the Houses of Parliament.

2. *gen.* One who does work of any kind, a worker. a 1420 HOCCELEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 1348 Swych laborer þe kythe heere in þys lyf, þat god þi soule, . . . Reioice may. c 1511 *1st Eng. Bk. Amer.* (Arb.) 33/1 They be . . . great laborers. 1562 *Child Marriages* (1897) 97 The said Ellin was taken for an honest wenche and a good laborer. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 55 Which Kine are of the smallest body, and yet the greatest laborers. 1611 BABLE *Luke* x. 7 The labourer is worthy of his hire. 1785 PABLY *Mor. Philos.* Wks. 1825 IV. 25 To the labourer, every interruption is a refreshment. 1841 TRENCH *Parables* ix. (1877) 176 In the kingdom of heaven it is God who seeks his labourers, and not they who seek Him.

3. One of the class among colonial insects that performs the work of the community; a 'worker'.

1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* I. ii. 67 Since I nor wax nor honie can bring home, I quickly were dissolved from my hieue To giue some Labourers roome. 1781 SMETHMAN in *Phil. Trans.* LXXI. 145 The working insects, which, for

breuity, I shall generally call labourers. 1834 McMURTRIE *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 430 The neuters or labourers . . . as to size, are intermediate between the males and females.

Hence † **Labourers**, a female labourer.

1570 in *Gutch Coll. Cur.* II. 10 For Clementes paynes in the kychen a daye, laberss. 1809 *Spirit Publ. Jnrls.* (1810) XLII. 164 Two other fellow-labourers.

Labourhood (lā'bahud), *rare* ¹. [See -HOOD.]

Laborious condition, laboriousness.

1858 BAILEY *Age* 21 A life of most melodious labourhood.

Labouring, laboring (lā'borij), *vbl. sb.* [f. *LABOUR v.* + -ING ¹.] The action of the vb. LABOUR; performance of labour or work; cultivation (of land); † travail of child-bearing; laboured or heavy motion, etc.

c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 6593 That he ne shal . . . With propre hondis and body also, Gete his fode in labouring. 1486 *Nav. Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 23 Marriners reteyned for the . . . labouring in castyng out of the ballast. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. xcxi. 228 There was no labouryng of the yerth. 1524 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 329 The . . . acte . . . made against the labouring of writts. 1596 SHAKS. *1 Hen. IV.* II. i. 157 Thou variest no more from picking of Pursses, then giuing direction, doth from labouring. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeant's Fr. Chirurg.* 35 b/2 Some women ar as yet not vsed unto the labouryng of childe. 1611 BIBLE 2 *Macc.* ii. 31 To vse breuitie, and auoyde much labouring of the worke. 1619 VISCT. DONCASTER *Let. in Eng. & Germ.* (Camden) 134 There had bene some . . . underhand labouring, to promote the Duke of Bavaria. 1644-5 CHAS. I. *Let. Wks.* (1662) 332 There were great labourings to that purpose. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. v. 56 To render the ships stiffer, and . . . prevent their labouring in hard gales of wind. 1881 *Daily Tel.* 28 Jan. The heavy labouring of the brig. 1887 HALL CAINE *Deemster* xxiv. 158 He . . . pressed one hand hard at his breast to quiet the labouring of his heart. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Apr. 2/1 Doing a bit of dock-side labouring.

attrib. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* I. i. 4 Vpon a labouring day. 1754 ERSKINE *Princ. Sc. Laws* (1809) 356 By labouring time is understood, that time, in which that tenant . . . is ploughing. 1856 OLMSTED *Slave States* 55 A slave woman is commonly esteemed least for her laboring qualities.

b. *concr.* A farm. *Sc.*

1782 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Observ. Scot. Dial.* 181 A labouring, a farm. a 1814 J. RAMSAY *Scott. & Scotsm.* in *18th c.* (1888) II. ix. 180 My noble hostess took me then (1792) to see her labouring or farm.

Labouring, laboring (lā'borij), *pp. a.* [f. *LABOUR v.* + -ING ².]

1. That labours or toils; *esp.* (of persons) performing or engaged in unskilled labour, as in *labouring man, population*.

1398 TREVISIA *Barth. De P. R.* ix. xxiv. (1495) 361 In the euentyde labouryng men ben rewarded and payed and goo to reste. 1504 ATKINSON tr. *De Imitatione* I. ii. 154 A pore homely labouryng man. 1535 COVERDALE *Eccles.* v. 12 A labouryng man slepeth sweetly, whether it be litle or moch that he eateth. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* XI. i. 121 Labouring Art can neuer ransome nature From her inadyde estate. 1649 BLITH *Eng. Improv. Impr.* (1653) 8 Labouring Countrie people for the most part brew their own Beer. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* III. 330 Of labouring Pioners A multitude with Spades and Axes arm'd. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* iv. 808 The waxen Work of lab'ring Bees. 1725 POPE *Odys.* XII. 526, I . . . oar'd with lab'ring arms along the flood. 1797 BURKE *Reg. Peace* III. (C. P. S.) 219 We have heard many plans for the relief of the 'Labouring Poor'. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xx. IV. 421 Other writers did their best to raise riots among the labouring people. 1879 JEFFERIES *Wild Life Southern C.* 194 The labouring lads often amuse themselves searching for these creatures [bats].

b. Of cattle: Engaged in or used for labour.

1523 FITZHERB. *Surv.* xxv. 49 Laborynge horses and mares. 1715 LEONI *Palladio's Archit.* (1742) I. 57 Stables for labouring Cattle, such as Oxen and Horses. 1807 ROBINSON *Archaeol. Græca* III. xix. 312 The custom of killing laboring oxen.

† 2. Of a woman: Suffering the pangs of child-birth, travelling. Also *transf.* *Obs.*

1545 RAYNOLD *Byrth Mankeynde* (? 1564) 61 The midwife shall sit before the labouryng woman. a 1700 DRYDEN (*Worck*). The laboring mountain must bring forth a mouse. a 1704 T. BROWN *Sat. Quack Wks.* 1730 L. 64 Cure hogs of measles, visit labouring swine.

3. Striving or struggling against pressure or some obstacle; that is in trouble or distress; (of the heart, etc.) struggling under emotion or suppressed feeling; also in physical sense, heaving, palpitating; (of a ship) rolling or pitching heavily. (Often with more or less direct reference to 2.)

c 1425 *Found. St. Bartholomew's* (E. E. T. S.) 51 [They] besought the Apostle that with his woonnye pyte to [read he] wolde succur this labouryng virgine. 1586 MARKLOWE *Few of Malta* I. ii. 1 Pde passe away my life in penitence. . . To make attemperment for my labouryng soule. 1593 SHAKS. *2 Hen. VI.* III. ii. 163 [The blood] Being all descended to the labouring heart. 1604 *Obs.* II. i. 189 Let the labouring Barke climbe hills of Seas Olympus high. 1693 in *Dryden's Juvenal* (1697) 88 When Falem Wines the lab'ring Lungs did fire. 1706 ROWE *Ulyss.* II. i. Her labouring Heart is rent with Anguish. 1758 GLOVER *Leonidas* I. 268 Her lab'ring bosom blotted with her tears. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* v. xxx. The vest Drawn tightly o'er his labouring breast. 1850 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* (1865) III. xxx. 389 The labouring vessel of the state was guided into port by his policy. 1878 WHITE *Life in Christ* II. xvii. 202 The thought of it weighs more and more heavily on the labouring mind.

† b. Of the moon: Eclipsed. (A Latinism.)

1638 WILKINS *New World* I. (1684) 9 She was able to make noise enough to deliver the labouring Moon. 1665 GLANVILL *Scepis Sci.* xix. 122 Nor do the eager clamors of

contending Disputants yield any more relief to eclipsed Truth; then did the sounding Brass of old to the labouring Moon. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 665 While the labouring Moon Eclipses at thir charms.]

4. *Labouring oar*: the oar which requires the most labour to work it; hence *fig.* *esp.* in phr. *To pull, tug, ply the labouring oar*: to take a great or arduous share of the work.

1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* v. 157 Three Trojans tug at ev'ry lab'ring Oar. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 141 P. 1, I shall still let the labouring Oar be managed by my Correspondents. 1779 HUME *Dial. conc. Nat. Rel.* xi. (ad fin.) II. 443 Tug the labouring oar. 1894 W. B. CARPENTER *Son of Man among Sons of Men* iv. 106 They vainly ply the labouring oar. 1900 G. C. BRODRICK *Mem. & Impressions* 386 Having found it difficult to pull a labouring oar on the City Council, without neglecting other duties.

Hence **La'bouringly adv.**, laboriously.

1862 LYTTON *Strange Story* II. 276 Reason is coming back to her—slowly, labouringly.

Labourless, laborless (lā'boiless), *a.* [f. *LABOUR sb.* + -LESS.] Without, devoid of, or unaccompanied by labour; requiring no labour; doing no labour.

1608 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. III. *Schism* 694 There (labour-less) mounts the victorious Palm. 1675 HOBBS *Odys.* (1677) 225, I doubt thou ne'r wilt labour any more, But rather feed thy carcass labourless. 1854 *Fraser's Mag.* I. 70 This labourless Hercules. 1880 TENNYSON *Voyage of Maeland* viii, Bread enough for his need till the labourless day dipt under the West. 1888 RHYS *Hibbert Lect.* 643 A fabled age of . . . labourless plenty and social equality.

† b. Not requiring fatiguing toil. *Obs.*

1630 BREWERWOOD *Sabaot* 48 In forbidding of worke, . . . they intend not your precise abstinence from any light and labourless worke. 1631 R. BYFIELD *Doctr. Sabb.* 109 Such light and labourless worke were no transgressions.

Laboursome, laborsome (lā'boissəm), *a.* [f. *LABOUR sb.* + -SOME.]

† 1. Given to labour; hard-working; = LABORIOUS ¹. *Obs.*

1551 EDW. VI *Pol. Ess.* Lit. Rem. (1857) II. 481 So ought ther no part of the commonwealth to be but laborsom in his vocation. 1575-85 ABP. SANDYS *Serm.* III. 46 The vineyard that shall fructifie must fall into the hands of a skilful and laboursome husbandman. 1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* I. (1617) 79 The braine of a man being a busie and laborsome workmaister. 1620 — *Farew. Husb.* II. xvii. (1668) 75 Although it [the ant] be but a little creature, yet it is so laboursome, that [etc.].

2. Requiring, entailing, or accompanied by labour; = LABORIOUS ². Now *rare* or *dial.*

1577-87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* II. 281/1 The painefull diligence, and the laboursome industrie of a famous lettered man, M. Peter White. 1594 T. B. La *Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 33 Those studies, which seeme laborsome in youthfull yeeres, are made right pleasant rest vnto old age. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* I. ii. 59 (Qo. 1604), Hath . . . wrong from me my slow leave, By laboursome petition. 1611 CORVAT *Credulities* 350 A way . . . very laboursome and painful to trauell. 1656 EARL MONM. *Advt. fr. Farnass*. 150 The laborsom journey which leads towards the obtaining of Supreme Honors and Dignities. 1855 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss. s.v.*, We have a large laboursome hill to climm. 1898 TRASK *Norton-sub-Hamdon* 33 Life was laboursome, but not without hope.

† b. Of land: Difficult of cultivation. *Obs.*

1604 E. GRIMSTONE *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* IV. ii. 208 The like hath God done for this land so rough and labour-some, giving it great riches in mines.

3. Of a ship: 'Subject to labour or to pitch and roll violently in a heavy sea' (1850 *Rudim. Nav.* 128).

1691 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* 127 What makes a Ship Roll and laboursome in the Sea? 1764 *Chron.* in *Ann. Reg.* 80/1 Most . . . died in the passage, it beng so very long, and the ship so very laboursome. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* II. 336 The . . . topsail should be the last . . . sail taken in, in a laboursome ship.

Hence **La'boursomely adv.**, laboriously; **La'boursomeness**, laboriousness.

1554 EDW. VI *Jnrl. Lit. Rem.* (1857) II. 420 They had . . . passed many a strait very painfully and laborsomly. 1561 DAUS tr. *Bullinger on Apoc.* (1573) 68 b, 'And they have no rest, &c.', signifie not any laboursomes or paynefulness, but a continual holdyng on and tunable agrement in praysing God. 1592 R. D. *Hypnerot.* 6 b, Which immince . . . forme . . . mounting up laboursomly foote by foote, conteyned 1420 degrees or steppes. 1880 RHODA BROUGHTON *Second Th.* I. i. ix. 152 It seems as if to each breath a heavy stone were tied, so laboursomely does he drag it up.

Labrador (lə'brədɔː), the name of a large peninsula in British North America, used *attrib.* in the following specific collocations: **Labrador blue**, the tint of blue reflected from labradorite; **Labrador duck**, a sea-duck of the north-east coast of North America, *Camptolæmus labradorius*; **Labrador falcon**, a very dark variety of gorfalcon found in Labrador, *Falco labradorius*; **Labrador feldspar**, spar, stone (also simply **labrador**) = LABRADORITE; **Labrador hornblende** = ENSTATITE (so called because it comes from Labrador and resembles hornblende); **Labrador tea**, either of the two shrubs of the genus *Ledum* (N.O. *Eriacæ*) of North America, viz. *L. latifolium* and *L. palustre*, which have evergreen leathery leaves that have been used for tea.

1881 A. LESLIE *Nordenskiöld's Voy. Vega* II. xi. 55 If . . . one walks along the beach on the snow which at ebb is dry . . . there rises at every step one takes an exceedingly

intense, beautiful, bluish-white flash of light, which in the spectroscopic gives a one-coloured *labrador-blue spectrum. 1884-5 *Riverside Nat. Hist.* (1888) IV. 151 The *Labrador duck is now extinct, or at least very nearly so. 1794 KIRWAN *Min. I.* 324 *Labrador Felspar of Werner. 1807 AIKIN *Dict. I.* 428 Labrador Felspar . . . is smoky-grey. 1794 KIRWAN *Min. I.* 221 *Labrador Hornblende. 1819 BAKEWELL *Min. I.* 315 Hypensthenite, Labrador Hornblende. 1799 W. TOOKE *View of Russ. Emp. I.* 121 If we except . . . window-mica, and a little *labrador spar. 1778 WOLFE in *Phil. Trans.* LXIX. 23 The *Labrador stone is also a Feld spar. 1794 KIRWAN *Min. I.* 324, I conclude Labrador to be specifically different from common felspars. 1834 ALLAN *Min. I.* 134 A grey felspar totally distinct from the species Labrador. 1784 M. CUTLER in *Life, Fossils & Corr.* (1888) I. 103 Large beds of what is called the *Labrador tea, of a very aromatic taste and smell. 1882 *Garden* 29 Apr. 286/2 Labrador Tea . . . is really a good and distinct hardy bush.

Labradorite (ləbrədɔɪt). *Min.* [f. prec. + -ITE. (Named *Labradorstein* by Werner in 1780, because it came from Labrador.)] A kind of felspar, which shows a brilliant variety of colour when turned in the light.

1814 ALLAN *Min.* 18 Opalescent [felspar], Labrador stone . . . Labradorite. 1850 DAUBENY *Atomic Theory* xii. (ed. 2) 417 Recent lavas . . . are made up principally, of labradorite, a silicate with 1 atom only of acid, and of hornblende or augite.

Hence **Labradoritic** *a.* In mod. Dicts.

Labral (ləˈbrəl), *a.* [f. LABRUM + -AL.] Pertaining to a labrum or lip-like part.

1877 HUXLEY *Anat. Inv. Anim. vi.* 259 A suture . . . connected with the labral suture by one or two sutures.

† **Labras**, *Obs. rare* = ¹. Pistol's blunder for *Labra*, pl. of *labrum* lip.

1598 SHAKS. *Merry W. I.* i. 166, I combat challenge of this Latine Bilboe: word of denial in thy labras there.

Labratory, rare obs. form of LABORATORY.

† **Labrax** (ləˈbræks). [mod.L., a. Gr. λαβράξ.] A ravenous sea-fish, perh. the *loup de mer*, bass, (Liddell and Scott); *Ichthyol.*, a genus of fishes of the perch family, including the sea-bass.

1854 BADHAM *Halieut.* ii. 19 Oppian . . . strongly recommends as bait a living labrax, if you can get one.

Labret (ləˈbrɛt). [f. LABRUM + -ET.] An ornament consisting of a piece of stone, bone, shell, etc. inserted in the lip.

1857 A. ARMSTRONG *N. W. Passage* vii. 193 In the Esquimaux . . . we observed the lower lip perforated in the males, for the admission of labrets or lip ornaments. 1872 R. F. BURTON *Zanzibar I.* iv. 113 As a rule, the South American 'Indians' pierce for their labrets the lower lip. 1884 J. G. BOURKE *Snake Dance of Moquis* xxii. 243 They do not tattoo, do not use nose-rings or labrets.

Labrinth, obs. form of LABYRINTH.

Labroid (ləˈbrɔɪd), *a.* and *sb.* *Ichthyol.* [ad. mod.L. *Labroidea*, *f. Labrus*, generic name, *f. labrum* lip; see -OID.]

A. adj. Pertaining to the family *Labridæ* or superfamily *Labroidea* of acanthopterygian fishes of which the typical genus is *Labrus*.

1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIII. 262/1 Those Labroid fishes which approach the genus *Labrus* in having the lips thick and fleshy. 1864 *Reader No.* 86. 239/3 A new Labroid genus allied to *Trochocopus*. 1892 *Athenæum* 26 Mar. 407/2 The labroid fishes of America and Europe.

B. sb. A labroid fish.

1854 OWEN in *Circ. Sci.* (c. 1865) II. 96/2 Sparoids, labroids. 1865 *Reader No.* 110. 143/2 Fishes which . . . pass to the type of Labroids and Lophioids.

Labrose (ləˈbrɔʊs), *a.* [ad. L. *labrōsus*, *f. labrum* lip.] Having (large) lips; see also quot.

1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Labrose*, that has a Brim, Border, or Bank. Also in recent Dicts.

† **La'brous**, *a. Obs. rare* = ⁰. [f. LABRUM + -OUS, after L. *labrōsus*.] = prec.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Labrous*, that hath a brim, bank or border. Also that hath great lips.

|| **Labrum** (ləˈbrʊm). Pl. *labra*. [L., cogn. w. LABIUM.] A lip or lip-like part. (Cf. LABIUM.) **a.** In insects, crustaceans, etc. : A part forming the upper border or covering of the mouth. **b. Conch.** The outer lip of a univalve shell.

1816 T. BROWN *Elem. Conchol.* 154 *Labra*, the lip. 1806 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. 381 In the *Ephemerina* the parts of the mouth except the labrum and palpi appear to be mere rudiments. 1834 McMURTRY *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 301 A mouth composed of a labrum, two mandibles, a ligula, and one or two pairs of jaws, and branchia. 1849 MURCHISON *Siluria* x. (1867) 237 (*Pterygotus*) The mouth . . . protected by a large heart-shaped labrum. 1851 RICHARDSON *Geol.* viii. 240 The *labrum*, or outer lip, is the expansion, or continuation of the body of the shell, on the right margin of the aperture. 1880 HUXLEY *Cray-Fish* ii. 51 In front, the mouth is overlapped by a wide shield-shaped plate termed the upper lip or *labrum*.

† **Labruscose**, *a. Obs. rare* = ⁰. [f. L. *labrusca*, -um wild vine and its fruit.] (See quot.)

1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Labruscose*, full of or abounding with wild Vine or Briony.

Laburnum (ləbʊˈnʌm). Also 8 *liburnum*. [L. (Pliny).] A small leguminous tree, *Cytisus Laburnum*, a native of the Alps, much cultivated on account of its profuse racemes of bright yellow flowers. Applied also to other species, as *C. alpinus* (Scotch laburnum), and similar plants of other genera (see quot. 1898).

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* vi. lxvi. 741 Of Anagyris, Laburnum, and Arbor Juda. Laburnum . . . The flowers do grow very thick together hanging by a very slender stem. 1682 WHEELER *Journ. Greece* iv. 290 The Flowers [of *Anagyris foetida*] also grow out in little bunches, like the other Laburnum but larger. 1754 DODSLEY *Agriculture* ii. 387 And pale laburnum's pendent flowers display Their different beauties. 1764 WESLEY *Jrnl.* 11 June, We have a tree. . . the wood of which is of full as fine a red as mahogany, namely, the Liburnum. 1784 COWPER *Task* vi. 149 Laburnum, rich In streaming gold. a 1821 KEATS *Ep.* 271 The dark-leaved laburnum's drooping clusters. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* lxxiii, Laburnums, dropping-wells of fire. 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.*, Laburnum, Native, the Tasmanian Clover-tree, *Goodenia lotifolia* . . . Laburnum, Sea-coast, also called Golden Chain, *Sophora tomentosa*.

b. attrib., as *laburnum chain*, gold, yellow.

1893 N. GALE *Country Muse* Ser. II. 2 The glory of laburnum-gold. 1899 *Daily News* 23 May 2/3 The laburnum chains are dwarfed. *Ibid.* 27 Feb. 6/6 Rose-pinks, laburnum-yellows, leaf-greens.

Labyrinth (ləˈbɪrɪnθ), *sb.* Forms: 6 *labor-yinth*, *lab(e)rinth*, *-irynth*, 6-7 *-arynth*, 7 *-erynth*, *-irynth*, *-orynth*, 7-8 *poet. labyrinth*, 6- *labyrinth*. [ad. L. *labyrinthus*, a. Gr. λαβύρινθος, of unknown (prob. non-Hellenic) origin. Cf. *F. labyrinth* (1418 in Hatz.-Darm.)]

1. A structure consisting of a number of intercommunicating passages arranged in bewildering complexity, through which it is difficult or impossible to find one's way without guidance; a maze.

a. With references to the structures so named in classical antiquity.

1387 TREVISIA *Hypden* (Rolls) I. 9 Bis matir, as laborintus, Dedalus hous, had many halkes and hurnes . . . wyndynges and wrynkylynges. 1494 FAVAN *Chron.* vii. ccxxviii. 277 This house, after some wryters, was named, *labor intus* or *Deladus* (*v. r.* *Labyrinthus* or *Dedalus*) werke. 1549 *Compt. Scott.* vi. 64 Dedalus made the labyrinth to keip the monstir minotaurus. 1592 SHAKS. *1 Hen. VI.* v. iii. 188 Thou mayst not wander in that Labyrinth, There Minotaur and vgly Treasons lurke. 1591 SPENSER *Ruins of Rome* 22 Crete will boast the Labyrinth. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny I.* 99 The Labyrinth built vp in the lake of Mæris without any iot of timber to it. *Ibid.* II. 578 This Labyrinth in Crete is counted the second to that of Ægypt; the third is in the Isle Lemnos; the fourth in Italy. 1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* II. xii. 112 Theodorus, . . . the builder of the Lemnian labyrinth.

b. In mod. landscape gardening, a maze formed by paths bordered by high hedges.

1611 CORVAT *Criticities* 298, I sawe a fine Labyrinth made of boxe. 1666 PEYPS *Diary* 25 June, Here were also great variety of other exotique plants, and several labyrinths. 1753 CHAMBERS *Cycl. Supp.* s.v., Labyrinths are only proper for large gardens, and the finest in the world is said to be that of Versailles. 1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. France* 7 The labyrinth [at Chantilly] is the only complete one I have seen, and I have no inclination to see another; it is in gardening what a rebus is in poetry.

2. *transf.* An intricate, complicated, or tortuous arrangement (of physical features, buildings, etc.).

1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 465 A mazy labyerinth of small veines and arteries. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 277 Co. What chance good Lady hath bereft you thus? *La.* Dim darknes, and this leafy Labyrinth. 1730-46 THOMSON *Autumn* 415 The scented dew Betrays her [sc. a hare's] early labyrinth. 1777 WATSON *Philip II* (1793) II. xiii. 133 Leyden lies . . . in the midst of a labyrinth of rivulets and canals. 1778 ROBERTSON *Hist. Amer. I.* n. 122 He was entangled in a labyrinth, formed by an incredible number of small islands. 1843 LYTON *Last of Barons* i. iv. 56 He suddenly halted. . . to find himself entangled in a labyrinth of scattered suburbs. 1873 SYMONDS *Grk. Poets* xii. 400 The labyrinth of peristyles and pediments in which her children dwell.

† **b. Rushy labyrinth** = Gr. ἐκ σχοίων λαβύρινθος (Theocritus), applied to a bow-net of rushes. *Obs.* 1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Gard. Cyrus* ii. 42 The rushy labyrinths of Theocritus.

c. (a) Metallurgy. A contrivance of winding channels used for distributing and separating the ores in the order of the coarseness of grain. **(b)** A chamber of many turnings for the condensation of fumes arising from dry distillation, etc. (Knight *Dict. Mech.* 1875).

1839 URE *Dict. Arts*, etc., *Labyrinth*, in metallurgy, means a series of canals distributed in the sequel of a stamping-mill; through which canals a stream of water is transmitted for suspending, carrying off, and depositing, at different distances, the ground ores.

3. *Anat.* A complex cavity hollowed out of the temporal bone consisting of a bony capsule (*osseous labyrinth*) and a delicate membranous apparatus (*membranous labyrinth*) contained by it; the internal ear. In birds, 'the membranous capsule which encloses the end-organs of the auditory nerve' (Newton *Dict. Birds* 1893, 180).

1666 PHILLIPS (ed. 5), *Labyrinth*. In Anatomy, the Third Cavity in the innermost part of the Ear, resembling the Shell of a Snail. 1709 BLAIR in *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 125, I search'd for the Labyrinth, or *Lineæ Semiculares*, but could find none. 1722 QUINCY *Lex. Physico-Med.* (ed. 2) 126/2 The Labyrinth made of three Semicircular Pipes, above half a Line wide, excavated in the *Os Petrosum*. 1840 G. V. ELLIS *Anat.* 290 There is, a fluid, contained in the osseous labyrinth, and in it the membranous labyrinth floats. 1873 MIVART *Elem. Anat.* ix. 393 A labyrinth composed of three semicircular canals is also almost universal.

b. Applied to other organs of complex or intricate structure (see quotes).

1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.*, *Birds* i. i. (1824) II. 214 It is some-

times also seen that the wind-pipe makes many convolutions within the body of the bird, and it is then called the labyrinth. 1888 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Labyrinth*, a name given to the cells in the lateral masses of the ethmoid bone. . . *L., ethmoidal*, the irregularly divided space formed by the anterior, middle and posterior cells of the ethmoid bone. . . *L., olfactory*, the contorted structure formed by the upper end of the middle turbinate bones.

4. *fig.* A tortuous, entangled, or inextricable condition of things, events, ideas, etc.; an entanglement, maze.

1548 HALL *Chron.*, *Rich. III* 47 When the Earle was thus . . . escaped all ye dangerous labyrinths and snares that were set for him. 1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* i. xxx. K. b, The Geometer . . . without practise . . . shall fall into manyfouled errors, or inextricable Labyrinths. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* ii. iii. 2 How now Thersites! what lost in the Labyrinth of thy furie? 1622 MALYNE *Ac. Law-Merch.* 211 All will run into a Labyrinth and confusion. 1648 SIR E. DERING *Sp. on Relig.* xvi. 74 We shall run our selves into a . . . Labyrinth of words, and lose the matter. 1756 BURKE *Phil. Nat. Soc. Wks.* 1842 I. 17 The more deeply we penetrate into the labyrinth of art, the further we find ourselves from those ends for which we entered it. 1816 T. L. PRACOCK *Headlong Hall* v, Unravelling the labyrinth of mind. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* i, He found himself . . . involved in the labyrinth of mercantile concerns without the clew of knowledge necessary for his extraction. 1823 LAMB *Elia* Ser. I. *South-Sea Ho.*, She traced her descent, by some labyrinth of relationship . . . to the illustrious, but unfortunate, house of Derwentwater. 1828 MACAULAY *Ess.*, *Hallam* (1851) I. 53 In this labyrinth of falsehood and sophistry the guidance of Mr. Hallam is peculiarly valuable. 1876 MOZLEY *Univ. Sermon* iv. 92 Even in the dark labyrinth of evil there are unexpected outlets. 1885 *Law Times* LXXIX. 130/1 To thread the labyrinth of the statutes under which London is governed.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *labyrinth cave*, *thread*; *labyrinth-like*, *-stemmed* adjs.; *labyrinth fret* *Arch.* (see quot.); *labyrinth vesicle* *Anat.*, a cavity or furrow in the labyrinth of the ear.

1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* viii. xi, From slavery and religion's *labyrinth caves Guide us. 1842-59 GWILT *Archit. Gloss.*, **Labyrinth Fret*, a fret, with many turnings, in the form of a labyrinth. 1851 PENROSE *Athen. Arch.* 56 The labyrinth fret beneath the mutules. 1622 DRAVTON *Poly-olb.* xxii. 22 In *Labyrinth-like turnes, and twinings intricate. 1855 RICHARDSON *Geol.* 302 The labyrinth-like arrangement of the dentine, from which Professor Owen derived the name *Labyrinthodon*. 1866 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* v. ix. iv. 240 Its forests are sombre-leaved, *labyrinth-stemmed. 1823 in Joanna Baillie *Collected Poems* 210 Life's *labyrinth-thread deceives, and seems but sand. 1878 BELL *Tr. Gegenbaur's Comp. Anat.* 44 The *labyrinth-veicles of the Vertebrata.

La'byrinth, *v.* [f. LABYRINTH *sb.*] *trans.* To enclose in or as in a labyrinth; to arrange in the form of a labyrinth.

1808 J. BARLOW *Columb.* ix. 201 Close labyrinth'd here the feign'd Omniscient dwells. 1820 KEATS *Lamia* ii. 53 How to entangle . . . Your soul in mine and labyrinth you there. 1846 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* (1851) II. iii. § i. v, The purple clefts of the hill side are labyrinth'd in the darkness.

Labyrinthal (ləbɪˈrɪnəl), *a. rare*. [f. LABYRINTH *sb.* + -AL.] Labyrinthine. Hence **Labyrinthally** *adv.*

1669 *Addr. Hopeful Yng. Gentry Eng.* 42 The soul is . . . more labyrinthally and securely imprisoned. 1797 *The College* 42 Each lymphatic fills From myriad springs its labyrinthical rills. 1881 *Arctic Cruise of the Corwin* 30 (Cent.) The labyrinthical ice mazes of the Arctic.

† **La'byrinthed**, *a. Obs. rare* = ¹. [f. as prec. + -ED.] Full of labyrinths or complications.

1650 tr. *Cassius's Ang. Peace* 57 Thorow the labyrinthed Successions of so many Ages.

† **Labyrinthial**, *a. Obs.* Also -all. [f. as prec. + -IAL.] Labyrinthine.

a 1550 *Image Iphocr.* II. 310 in *Skelton's Wks.* (1843) II. 426 By lawes absynthyall And labyrinthiall. a 1711 KEN *Hymnartum* Poet. Wks. 1721 II. 34 He o'er the Universe presides, And Labyrinthial Casualties guides.

Labyrinthian (ləbɪˈrɪniən), *a.* Also 7 -ean, 7, 9 -ean. [f. LABYRINTH *sb.* + -IAN.] = LABYRINTHINE, in various senses.

1588 J. HARVEY *Discourse Probleme* 42 This intricate Labyrinthian monument. 1597-8 BP. HALL *Sat.* (1753) 48 His linnen collar labyrinthian set. 1609 HEYWOOD *Brit. Troy* xiii. iii. 332 To guide me through the labyrinthean maze In which my brain's intangled. 1614 RALEIGH *Hist. World* v. vi. § 7. 647 The Labyrinthian head of Martius could not allow of such plaine reason. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 15 The Labyrinthian Mazes and web of the small arteries. 1742 *Young Nt. Th.* ix. 1029 The labyrinthian turns they take The circles intricate, and mystic maze. 1837 *Fraser's Mag.* XVI. 71 The labyrinthean mazes of a female heart. 1854 BAKEWELL *Geol.* 43 This peculiar labyrinthian structure of the teeth. 1864 HAWTHORNE *Grimshawe* xxi. (1891) 286 It is a labyrinthian house for its size. 1900 H. W. SMYTH *Grk. Medic Poets* p. xcii, Clews to guide us through the labyrinthian mazes of the theme.

Labyrinthibranch (ləbɪˈrɪnɪbræŋk), *Ichthyol.* [ad. mod.L. *Labyrinthibranchii* (see below), f. Gr. λαβύρινθος LABYRINTH + βράγχια gills.] One of the *Labyrinthibranchii*, a family or division of acanthopterygian fishes. So **Labyrinthibranchiate** *a.*, pertaining to the *Labyrinthibranchii*, which have labyrinthine gills.

Labyrinthic (ləbɪˈrɪnpɪk), *a.* [ad. late L. *labyrinthicus*, a. Gr. λαβύρινθικος, f. λαβύρινθος LABYRINTH.] = LABYRINTHINE, in various senses. *Labyrinthic cavity*: the labyrinth of the ear. *L. teeth* (see quot. 1888).

1641 VICARS *God in Mount* 20 Its craft and labyrinthick intricacy [sc. of an oath]. **1708** W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Rev.* XXVII. 529 The labyrinthine paths of hypothesis and fiction. **1811** SHELLEY *S. Irreine* x, Thence was I led into a train of labyrinthine meditations. **1831** CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* (1858) 20 In that labyrinthine combination, each Part overlaps, and indents, and indeed runs quite through the other. **1836-9** TODD *Cycl. Anat.* II. 536/2 In many fishes the labyrinthine cavity forms one with that of the cranium. **1875** HUXLEY in *Encycl. Brit.* I. 762/2 The complicated or labyrinthine structure exhibited by transverse sections of the teeth of typical Labyrinthodonts. **1888** SYD. Soc. Lex., *Labyrinthine teeth*, teeth which have numerous radiating, sinuous, vertical grooves, which penetrate their substance and interdigitate with similarly shaped processes of the pulp-cavity; as in the Labyrinthodon.

Labyrinthical (læbīrīn'pikāl), *a. rare.* [Formed as prec. + -AL.] = prec.

1628 DONNE *Serm.* xlviii. 486 Poor intricate Soule! Riddling perplexed labyrinthical Soule. **1670** SWAN *Spec. Mundi* 449 The ears be like certain doors, with Labyrinthical enties, and crooked windings. **1681** H. MORE *Expos. Dan.* Pref. 19, I preferred it before what was more operose, intricate and labyrinthical. **1879** (LINGHAM) *Sci. of Taste* v. 141 Our laws are a labyrinthical fabric of artificial and incomprehensible complexity.

Hence **Labyrinthically** *adv.*

1849 CARLYLE *Irish Journ.* 115 The muddy meanders of Cork harbour labyrinthically indenting it.

Labyrinthiform (læbīrīn'pifōrm), *a.* [ad. mod.L. *labyrinthiniformis*, *f. labyrinthin-* LABYRINTH: see -FORM.] Having the form of a labyrinth; characterized by sinuous and intricate conformations, markings, etc.; *Ichthyol.* having labyrinthine gills.

1835 KIRBY *Hab. & Inst. Anim.* II. xix. 295 Her next labour is to spin a spiral or labyrinthine form line. **1868** NAT. *Encycl.* I. 657 The pharyngeal apparatus being labyrinthiform. **1870** tr. *Pouchet's Universe* 253 The anabasis, fills with water a labyrinthine cavity which is also situated above its branchiae. **1883** F. DAY *Ind. Fish* 30 The labyrinthine climbing-perch and its allies.

Labyrinthine (læbīrīn'pōin, -in), *a.* [f. LABYRINTH *sb.* + -INE.]

1. Pertaining to, or of the nature or form of, a labyrinth; having or consisting of many intricate turnings or windings.

1747 SPENCE *Polymetis* (L.), She [Ariadne] preserved him in the labyrinthine mazes of Crete. **1817** SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* i. 53 The long and labyrinthine aisles. **1837** HOWITT *Rur. Life* ii. vi. (1862) 163 The midges are celebrating their airy and labyrinthine dances with an amazing adroitness. **1863** N. HAWTHORNE *Our old Home* 240 The lanes, alleys and strange labyrinthine courts. **1863** H. W. BATES *Naturalist on Amazon* iv. 132 A large flat Helix with a labyrinthine mouth. **1872** NICHOLSON *Palæont.* 351 The parietes of the teeth are deeply plaited and folded, so as to give rise to a complicated 'labyrinthine' pattern in the transverse section of the tooth. **1876** RUSKIN *Arrows of Chace* (1880) 1. 172 Your labyrinthine magnificence at Burlington House.

2. *fig.* Intricate, complicated, involved, inextricable.

1840 DE QUINCEY *Style* i. Wks. 1890 X. 158 To follow the discussion through endless and labyrinthine sentences. **1853** F. W. ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. iii. iv. (1872) 45 An entangled, labyrinthine enigma. **1865** SAT. *Rev.* 7 Jan. 16/1 [Brown- ing] is apt to entangle the reader in labyrinthine thoughts.

3. Pertaining to the labyrinth of the ear.

1876 CLIN. Soc. Trans. IX. 101 Labyrinthine disease.

Labyrinthodon (læbīrīn'pōdōn), *Palæont.* [mod.L. (R. Owen), *f. Gr. λαβύρινθος LABYRINTH + δόντι-, δόντος tooth: cf. note s.v. GLYPTODON.*] Any of the large fossil amphibians of the genus *Labyrinthodon*, characterized by teeth of labyrinthine structure having the enamel folded and sunk inward.

1847 ANSTED *Anc. World* vii. 132 The numerous and gigantic labyrinthodonts, as large as a rhinoceros. **1854** R. OWEN in *Circ. Sci.* (c1865) II. 97/2 The extinct gigantic lizard-like toad, called *Labyrinthodon*. **1876** PAGE *Adv. Text-bk. Geol.* xvi. 294 The batrachian or frog-like labyrinthodon.

Labyrinthodont (læbīrīn'pōdōnt), *sb. and a. Palæont.* [Formed as prec.]

a. sb. = prec.

1849-52 OWEN in Todd *Cycl. Anat.* IV. 867/2 A singular family of gigantic extinct Batrachians which I have called 'Labyrinthodonts'. **1873** DAWSON *Earth & Man* viii. 201 The crocodilian newts or labyrinthodonts of the Carboniferous.

B. adj. Having labyrinthine teeth; *spec.* pertaining to the genus *Labyrinthodon* of fossil amphibians.

1867 SMYTH *Coal* 39 Amphibian Labyrinthodont reptiles. **1876** PAGE *Adv. Text-bk. Geol.* xiv. 254 Those labyrinthodont reptiles that come boldly into force in the Permian and Triassic eras.

Lac (læk). Forms: *a.* (6 lacha, lacta), 6-9 lacca, (7 lacha, 8 laca, lakka), *b.* 6-8 lac (e, 7 lache, 7-8 lacque, 8 lacc, 8-9 lacque), 7-lac. [ad. Hindustani *lākḥ*:—Prakrit *lakkha*:—Skr. *lākṣhā*, also *rākṣhā*. Cf. *F. laque*, Pr., Sp. *laca*, It. *lacca*.]

1. (Also *gum-lac*.) The dark-red resinous incrustation produced on certain trees by the puncture of an insect (*Coccus* or *Carteria lacca*). It is used in the East as a scarlet dye. The incrustated twigs are called *stick-lac*; the resin broken off the twigs and

trituated with water to remove the colour is called *seed-lac*; melted, strained, and formed into irregular thin plates, it is known as *shell-lac* or *SHELLAC*.

a. **1553** EDEN *Treat. Newe Ind.* (Arb.) 21 marg., *Lacha, Lacca*, or *Lacta*, is ye gumme of a tree wherewith silke is colored. **1628-62** HEYLIN *Cosmog.* iii. (1682) 217 Lacca (a gum there made by Ants, as here Bees make Wax). **1693** Phil. Trans. XVII. 931 Manna and Gum Lacca he clearly shews to be Spontaneous Exudations. **1753** CHAMBERS *Cycl. Suppl.* s.v. *Lacca*, A tincture of gum lac may be thus prepared. **1763** W. LEWIS *Comm. Phil. Techn.* 223 Lacca . . is found incrustated on sticks or branches of trees. **1809** WILFORD in *Asiat. Researches* IX. 65 This Amber of Ctesias is obviously the Indian Lacca, which has many properties of the Amber.

b. **1618** T. BARKER in *St. Papers Col., E. Indies* 1617-21 (1870) 159 Saffron, gumlac, indigo, copper. **1662** J. DAVIES tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* II. (1669) 122 At Bantam . . they sell store of Lacque, whereof they make Spanish wax. **1698** Phil. Trans. XX. 273 Gum Lac is the House of a large sort of Ants, which they make on the Boughs of Trees. **1727** BRADLEY *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Gum*, Powder of Oister-shells, or Gum Lacque in Powder. **1794** PEARSON in *Phil. Trans.* LXXXIV. 385 White lac, in its dry state, has a saltish and bitterish taste. **1838** T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 550 Lac . . is deposited in different species of trees in the East Indies, namely, the *ficus indica*, *ficus religiosa*, and *rhamnus fijiuba*. **1877** C. W. THOMSON *Voy. Challenger* I. i. 15 The different varnishes and lacs remain soft and sticky.

†2. The colour of lac; crimson. Also, a pigment prepared from lac. *Obs.* (Cf. *LAKE sb.* 6.)

1677 GREW *Collections Plants* iii. § 13 Spirit of Sulphur on a Tincture of Violets turns it from Blew to a true Lacque, or middle Crimson. **1689** MARVELL *Instr. to Painter* 636 Scarce can burnt iv'ry feign a hair so black, Or face so red, thin ochre and thy lac. **1763** Brit. Mag. IV. 659 There are three sorts of lacque: the fine Venice lacque, the Columbine lacque, and the Liquid lacque.

†b. An extractive pigment; = *LAKE sb.* 6.

1682 Weekly Memorials 27 Mar. 74 He also teaches us a way of preparing a sort of Lacca, or Paint, out of every Flower, by which it may be drawn or pictur'd in its own . . Native Colour.

†3. The varnish made from lac; also applied to various resinous varnishes used for coating wood, etc.; = *LACQUER* 2 a, 2 b.

1598 W. PHILLIPS tr. *Linschoten* i. lxviii. 117 Desks, Targets, Tables [etc.] . . that are all covered and wrought with Lac of all colours and fashions. **1669** Phil. Trans. IV. 985 No Arts are to be met amongst them, that are not known in Europe, except that of making Lacca. **1697** DAMPIER *Voy.* (1729) II. i. 24 The Lac with which Cabinets and other fine things are overlaid. **1727** A. HAMILTON *New Acc. E. Indies* I. ii. 126 The Lac is clear enough, but always clammy.

4. Ware coated with lac or lacquer.

1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* I. (1669) 24 Boxes of Lacque or Silver. **1861** C. P. HODGSON *Resid. in Japan* 28 By degrees, the eye becomes accustomed to old lacque. Old lacque is, like old lace, inimitable. **1888** Pall Mall G. 11 Feb. 3/1 The gems of Mr. S.'s unrivalled collection are here to show the supreme masterpieces in 'lac'.

5. *attrib.*, as *lac-panel*, *-resin*, *-tree*, *-varnish*; *lac-cochineal*, the insect that produces lac (*Coccus lacca*); *lac-dye*, a scarlet dye prepared in India from lac; *lac-lake*, the purple or scarlet pigment obtained from lac.

1813 BINGLEY *Anim. Biog.* III. 191 The 'lac cochineal'. **1846** Pope's *Trav.* Trade p. xxxi, Cochineal, Indigo, 'Lac-dye'. **1883** Cassell's *Fam. Mag.* Oct. 683/r Comparatively few people know how the lac-dye they read of in commerce is produced. **1895** Daily News 24 May 6/6 A gold box . . with old 'lac panels'. **1876** PREBCE & SIVERTWRIGHT *Telegraphy* 296 The 'gum lac resin is employed to consolidate the carbon-penoxide of manganese mixture. **1763** W. LEWIS *Comm. Phil. Techn.* 331 The species, called by Mr. Miller the true 'lac tree, was found to contain, in its bark . . a somewhat milky juice. **1688** G. PARKER & J. STALKER *Japaning* I The other [strainer] for your 'Lac-varnish. **1799** G. SMITH *Laboratory* I. 178 Make a paste of chalk and lac varnish.

Hence † *Lac v. trans.*, to cover or varnish with 'lac'; to lacquer.

1698 Phil. Trans. XX. 275 And then with a Brush [they] lay it smooth on any thing they design to Lac. **1727** A. HAMILTON *New Acc. E. Indies* I. xi. 125 They make fine Cabinets, both lack'd and inlaid with Ivory. *Ibid.* 126 They lack wooden Dishes and Tables, but not so well as in China.

Lac (læk). *Anglo-Indian*. Forms: 7 laches, le(c)k, leake, lacque, laquesaa (? from Skr.), 7-9 lak, lack, 9 lac. [ad. Hindustani *lākḥ*:—Skr. *lakṣha* masc. and neut., *lakṣhā* fem.] One hundred thousand: *a.* of things in general; *occas.* used for an indefinite number; *b.* *spec.* of coins, esp. in a *lac* of rupees.

a. **1613** PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* v. vi. (1614) 478 Euery Laches containeth an hundred thousand yeares. **1653** H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* lvii. 225 There was slain . . sixteen Laquesas of men, each of which an hundred thousand. **1698** J. FRYER *E. India & P.* 104 With Lamps to the Number of two or three Lacques, which is so many Hundred thousand on our Account. **1800** Asiat. Ann. Reg. 62/2 The troops of that country [China] were upwards of three lacs of horsemen. **1804** MRQ. WELLESLEY in Owen *Desp.* (1877) 454 Calamities would fall on lacs of human beings. **1820** T. MAURICE *Hist. Hindostan* I. i. iv. 126 Four Yugs, or forty-three lacs and twenty thousand yeares. **1881** LUBBOCK in *Nature* No. 618. 407 The Laccadives . . meaning literally the 'lac of islands'.

b. **1613** PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* v. xvii. (1614) 544 Euery Crou is a hundred Leckes, and euery Lecke a hundred thousand thousand [sic] Rupias. **1615** CORYAT *Lett. fr. India*

in *Crudities* (1776) III. L 6, The whole Present was worth ten of their Leakes, as they call them; a Leak being worth ten thousand pound sterling. **1687** A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* iii. i. ix. 18 Great sums of money are reckoned by Leaks, Crouls. **1692** in J. T. Wheeler *Madras in Old Time* (1861) I. 262 A lak of Pagodas. **1773** Gentl. Mag. XLIII. 145 Whilst Patriots of presented lacs complain, And Courtiers bribe to excess arraign. **1802** WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Great Cry & Little Wool* Wks. 1812 V. 175 The lacs are not easily got Nor honestly made in a hurry. **1859** THACKERAY *Virgin* xliii, Making rather too free with jaghires, lakhs, gold mohurs. **1871** MATTEER *Travancore* 72 The annual revenue of the Travancore State amounts . . to about forty lacs of rupees.

Lac, *obs.* form of *LACK sb.* 1 and *v.* 1

Lacca, *laco*, *lacca*: see *LAC* 1.

Lacage: see *LAC* 6.

Laccar, *obs.* form of *LACQUER*.

Laccate, *sb. Chem.* [See -ATE 1.] A salt of laccic acid.

1794 PEARSON *Table Chem. Nomencl.* § 31.

Laccate (læk'et), *a. Bot.* [f. mod.L. *lacca* *LAC* 1 + -ATE 2.] Of leaves: Having the appearance of being lacquered. In some mod. Dicts.

Lacce, **Lacch** (e, *obs.* forms of *LACK v.* 1, *LATCH v.*

Lacchesse, *obs.* variant of *LACHES*.

Laccie (læk'sik), *a. Chem.* [f. mod.L. *lacca* *LAC* 1 + -IE. Cf. *F. laccique*.] Only in *laccic acid*, the acid procured from lac.

1794 PEARSON *Table Chem. Nomencl.* § 31 Laccic Acid. **1819** J. G. CHILDREN *Chem. Anal.* 277 Laccic acid is obtained from stick-lac.

Laccin (læk'sin). [f. as prec. + -IN. Cf. *F. laccine*.] The colouring principle in lac.

1838 THOMSON *Organic Bodies* 552 A colouring matter, a peculiar body to which he [Dr. John] gave the name of laccin.

Laccolite (læk'olite). *Geol.* [f. Gr. *λάκκος* a reservoir + -LITE. So named by Gilbert in 1877.] A mass of igneous rock thrust up through the sedimentary beds, and giving a dome-like form to the overlying strata.

1877 GILBERT *Rep. Geol. Henry Mts.* ii. 10 For this body the name *laccolite* . . will be used. **1896** Pop. Sci. Jrnl. L. 247 These are connected . . with Plutonic plugs, laccolites. Hence **Laccolitic** *a.*, pertaining to a laccolite.

1877 DUTTON in Gilbert *Rep. Geol. Henry Mts.* 69 Laccolitic nuclei. **1879** *Nature* XXI. 179 It is not likely that the Henry Mountains are the only ones constructed on the laccolitic type.

Laccolith (læk'olip). *Geol.* [f. as prec. + *λίθος* stone.] = *LACCOLITE*.

1879 DANA *Man. Geol.* (ed. 3) 840 The laccolith, as is seen, rests on horizontal strata.

Lace (læ's), *sb.* Forms: 3-4 las, 4-5 laas, (4 lasse, *Sc.* laise, 5 laace), 5-7 lase, (5 *Sc.* les, 6 laze, *Sc.* lais), 4-lace. [ad. OF. *laz*, *las* (mod.F. *lacs*, with etymologizing spelling), *f.* popular L. **lacium* (L. *laqueum*) a noose. Cf. It. *laccio*, Sp., Pg. *lazo*.]

†1. A net, noose, snare. Chiefly *fig.* *Obs.*

13- K. *Alis*. 7698 Woman the haveth bycought: Woman the haveth in hire las! **c1385** CHAUCER *Knt's T.* 2389 Vulcanus had caught thee in his las. **1430-40** LYDGE. *Bochas, Dance Machabree* (1554) 222 Sithens that death me holdeth in his las. **1491** CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) i. i. 6 b j, How they myghte eschewe the laces and temptacions of the deuyll. **1590** GREENE *Never too late* ii. 1600 O b, Thus folded in a hard and mournfull lace Distrest sate he. **1600** FAIRFAX *Tasso* ii. xxi, The king had snared ben in lous strong lace. **1603** HOLLAND *Philarch's Mor.* 973 And yet if the polype can get and entangle him once within his long laces, hee [the lobster] dies for it.

†2. A cord, line, string, thread, or tie. *Obs.* exc. *spec.* as in 3 a.

a1300 CURSOR M. 15880 (Gött.) Par he [fudas] liuerd his maistr up pai bunden had wid las [Cott. lazas]. **c1340** *Ibid.* 22676 (Fairf.), I salle . . breke paire bandis & pair lacs. **1390** GOWER *Conf.* III. 237 They taugthen him a lace to braide. **1405-6** Acc. *Rolls Durham* (Surtees) 400 Cum . . lacez et anulis pro ridellis. **1412-20** LYDGE. *Chron. Troy* III. xxii, And hym to treyne [they] layde out hoke & lase. **a1425** WYNTOUN *Orig. Cron.* iv. x. 1231 Off gold throwyn all lyk a les. **1463** in *Bury Wills* (Camden) 42 A stoon and a reed lace with a knoppe. **1484** CAXTON *Fables of Esop* i. xviii, (1889) 27 The ratte beganne . . to byte the lace or cord. **1535** COVERDALE *Eccles.* xii. 6 Or euer the syluer lace be taken awaye. **1639** FULLER *Holy War* III. viii. (1647) 123 Pitie it was that Rahab's red lace was not tied at his window.

†b. *transf.* and *fig.* *Obs.*

a1547 SURREY in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 4 To seke the place where I my selfe had lost, That day that I was tangled in the lace. **1555** EDEN *Decades* 200 Abowte whose leaues there growe and creepe certeyne cordes or laces. **1598** LYTE *Doodeens* i. xx. 30 The roote hath many small strings or threddy laces hanging thereby. **1641** J. JACKSON *True Evang.* T. ii. 143 The red scarlet lace of Christs blood, must be entoriled and interwoven into a bracelet, with a white silken thread of holiness and regeneration. **1650** FULLER *Pisgah* ii. iv. 103 Some fancy a small Lace of land (or rather a thread for the narrowness thereof) whereby Naphtali is tyed unto Judah.

3. *spec.* *a.* A string or cord serving to draw together opposite edges (chiefly of articles of clothing, as bodices, stays, boots and shoes) by being passed in and out through eyelet-holes (or over hooks, studs, etc.) and pulled tight. Cf. *boot-, shoe-, stay-lace*.

† *Under lace*: under the bodice; in ME. poetry = 'under gore'.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1830, I schal gif yow my girdel, bat gaynes yow lasse. Ho last a lace lyztly, bat leke ymbe hir sydez. 1a 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 843 And shod he was with greet maistrye, With shoon deopced, & with laas. c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints, Baptista* 1208 To quham I ame nocht wylth loute na of his schone be laise tak oute. c 1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 79 To wenen pat be lace of oure ladi smok listeh hem of children. c 1440 *Ipomydon* 326 (Kölbinger) He.. drew a lace of sylke full clere, Adowne than felle hys mantillye. c 1440 *Bone Flor.* 1817 They.. betoke hur to the marynere, That lovely undur lace. 1534 MORE *Picus* Wks. 30 Ne none so small a trifle or conceyte, Lase, girde, point, or proper gloue straitte. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI.* iv. ii. 49 She was indeed a Pedler's daughter, and sold many Laces. 1611 *Bible Exod.* xxviii. 28 They shall bind the brestplate.. unto the rings of the Ephod with a lace of blew. 1625 K. Long tr. *Barclay's Argenis* i. x. 28 Sprinkling water in her face, and cutting her laces, they made her fit abate. 1676 GREW *Anat. Flowers* i. § 3 As Teeming Women, gradually slaken their Laces. 1709 BLAIR in *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 96 Like so many Thongs or Laces whereinto a piece of Leather had been cut. 1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* i. 193 The Flowers being a re-semblance to tags at the End of long Laces. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) i. xvi. 106 When I recovered, [I] found.. my laces cut, my linen scented with hartshorn. 1879 BROWNING *Net Bratts* 133 He taught himself the make of Laces, tagged and tough. 1885 *Law Rep.* Q. B. D. XV. 360 The two ends were rivetted or laced together with metal rivets or leatheren laces.

¶ Formerly sometimes used to render *L. fibula* 'brooch'.

1382 WYCLIF *Macc.* x. 88 He sente to hym a golden lace [*L. fibulam*]. c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 283/1 *Lace, fibula, laqueum.* 1570 LEVINS *Manuf.* 6/35 *A lace, fibula.*

† b. A cord used to support something hanging, e.g. a sword; a baldrick, belt. *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Pro.* 21 His hat heng at his bak down by a laas. 1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* xvi. 63 Eneas.. had a bystoreye.. hangynge at a silken lace by his side. a 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* xxii. 66 He hade about hys necke a ryche borne hangynge by two lases of golde. 1597 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 115 His quauer by his naked thys Hang in ane siluer lace.

† 4. ? *transf.* from 3 a. In building: A tie beam; a brace. Also, a panelled ceiling (= *L. laquear*).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 1728 Noe.. self festind bath band and lace. *Ibid.* 8778 Quen al was purueid on be place, And bunden samen bak and lace. c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 283/1 *Lace* of an howserole, *laquearea*. 1502 *Nottingham Rec.* iv. 235 Setting in a lace to Posternie Bridge rayle. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 581 A man may.. bestow them [beams] againe fast enough without laces to bind them.

5. Ornamental braid used for trimming men's coats, etc.; † a trimming of this. Now only in *gold lace, silver lace*, a braid formerly made of gold or silver wire, now of silk or thread with a thin wrapping of gold or silver.

a 1548 HALL *Chron.* Hen. VIII. 239 Flatte golde of Dama-ma-ke with small lace myxed betwene of the same golde, and other laces of the same so gwyng trasverse wyse, that the grounde lytle appered. 1591 GREENE *Disc. Coynage* iii. 36 The Tayler had.. so much gold lace, beside spangles, as valued thirteene pound. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Peace* ii. Surely, thought I, This [a rainbow] is the lace of Peaces coat. 1634 PEACHAM *Gentl. Exerc.* 135 Garters deepe fringed with gold lace. 1681 DRYDEN *Prolog. to Univ. of Oxford* 16 Lack but a coper lace to druggist suit. 1702 *Land. Gaz.* No. 3793/4 Mary Presbury.. Gold and Silver Lace-seller. 1704 SWIFT *T. Tub* § 2. 67 So without more ado they got the largest Gold Lace in the Parish, and walkt about as fine as Lords. 1787 O'KEEFE *Farmer* ii. iii. But now a saucy Footman, I strut in worsted Lace. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* an. 1749. In a scarlet waistcoat, with rich gold lace, and a gold-lace hat. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* *Lace*, the trimmings of uniforms.

† b. *transf.* A streak or band of colour. *Obs. rare*—l. (Cf. *LACE* v. 6.) 1613 [see GUARD sb. 11 c].

6. A slender open-work fabric of linen, cotton, silk, woollen, or metal threads, usually ornamented with inwrought or applied patterns. Often called after the place where it is manufactured, e.g. *Brussels lace*. For *bobbin-, chain-, pillow-, point-, etc. lace*, see the first member. Also *BONE-LACE*, *BRIDE-LACE*.

1555 WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* i. v. 50 The men satte at home spynnyng, and woorkyng of Lace. 1613 (*title*) The King's Edict prohibiting all his Subjects from using any Gold or Silver, either fine or counterfeited; all Embroiderie, and all Lace of Millan, or of Millan Fashion. 1715 GAY *Epist. Earl Burlington* 118 The busy town.. Where finest lace industrious lasses weave. 1837 GORING *Microg.* 208 Manufactured fabrics, such as lace, blond, muslin, [etc.] *transf.* 1866 G. MACDONALD *Ann. Q. Neighb.* xi. (1878) 211 In the shadows lay fine webs and laces of ice.

7. A 'dash' of spirits mixed with some beverage, esp. coffee. (Cf. *LACE* v. 1 g and *LACED ppl.* a. 1 6.)

In quot. c 1704 the meaning may be 'sugar', as Johnson supposes. (Cf. quot. a. 1700 s.v. *LACED ppl.* a. 1 6.)

c 1704 PRIOR *Chamelon* 26 He drinks his coffee without lace. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 448 ¶ I he is forced every Morning to drink his Dish of Coffee by itself, without the Addition of the *Spectator*, that used to be better than *Lace* to it. 1755 JOHNSON, *Lace*, sugar. A cant word. [With quot. c 1704.]

8. General comb.: a. simple attributive, as (sense 3 a) *lace-hole*, (sense 6) *lace-curtain*, *-tracery*, *-trade*, *-work*, *-worker*; *lace-like* adj. b. objective, as *lace-buyer*, *-designer*, *-dresser*, *-maker*, *-making*, *-mender*, *-seller*, *-weaver*. c. instrumental and

parasynthetic, as *lace-covered*, *-curtained*, *-edged*, *-loaded*, *-trimmed* adjs.

1679 *Land. Gaz.* No. 1391/4 Taken.. from two **Lace*-buyers.. two Geldings. 1883 F. M. CRAWFORD *Dr. Claudius* ii. A dainty **lace-covered* parasol fell over the edge. 1891 C. JAMES *Rom. Rigmorale* 128 Daintily, **lace-curtained* windows. 1890 *Daily News* 16 Apr. 2/4 Thomas Argyll, .. **lace-designer*. 1879 E. JAMES *Ind. Househ. Man.* 31 **Lace*-edged antimaccassars. 1871 *Figure Training* 34 At the age of fourteen or thereabouts, the front rows of **lace-holes* may be omitted. 1833 J. KENNIE *Alph. Angling* 45 All the species of dragon-fly, with the exception of one or two, being characterised by very clear, **lace-like*, pellucid wings. 1873 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. ii. 125 *Lacelike* curves of ever-gaining, ever-receding foam. 1836 T. HOOK *G. Gurney* iii. 86 The strapping, state-fed, **lace-loaded* lacqueys of the Mansion-House. 1589 RIDER *Eng.-Lat. Dict.*, A **Lace*-maker, *fibularius*. 1611 COTGR., *Passementier*, a *Lace*-maker. 1848 MILL *J. ol. Econ.* i. v. § 9. 100 Weavers and lacemakers. 1835-37 SOUTHEY in *Cowper's Wks.* i. 202 **Lace* making was the business of the place. 1844 G. DODD *Textile Manuf.* vii. 207 ¶ *Lace*-menders examine every piece, and mend, with needle and thread, every defect. 1702 *Land. Gaz.* No. 3793/4 Gold and Silver **Laceseller*. 1890 R. BOLDEWOOD *Miner's Right* xlii. 185/1 A faint **lace* tracery of mist. 1894 REES *Cycl.* s.v. *Lace*. The **lace* trade of Nottingham. 1894 *Daily News* 5 June 8/4. Scarves of crepon with **lace*-trimmed ends. 1715 *Land. Gaz.* No. 537/7 The Company of **Lace*-Weavers at Augsburg. 1802 *Brooks's Gazetteer* (ed. 12) s.v. *Lacie*, Famous for watchmakers, laceweavers, goldsmiths. 1849 A.B. SMITH *Pottleton Legacy* xxiv. 242 A white cravat the ends of which were in open **lace*-work. 1873 TRISTRAM *Moab* ix. 173 Numbers of stones with very pretty lacework of various patterns. 1896 *Daily News* 1 Oct. 2/2 His sister, another **lace*-worker, is in charge of the family during their sojourn in London.

9. Special comb.: *lace-bark* (tree), (a) a West Indian shrub (*Agave lintearia*), so called from the lace-like layers of its inner bark; (b) in New Zealand, *Plagianthus betulinus*, ribbon-wood; *lace-border*, a geometrid moth (*Acidalia ornata*) with a broad lace-like border to the wings; *lace-coral*, a fossil polyzoan of the family *Fenestellidae*; *lace-fern*, (a) a small elegant fern (*Cheilanthes gracillima*) having the under side of the frond covered with matted wool; (b) any of the several species of the genus *Hymenophyllum*; *lace-frame* (see *FRAME* sb. 13 b); *lace-glass*, Venetian glass with lace-like designs; † *lace-head*, a head-dress of lace; *lace-leaf* (plant), *Olivirandra fenestralis*, of Madagascar; *lace-lizard*, an Australian lizard (*Hydrosaurus varius*); *lace-man*, a man who manufactures or deals in lace; *lace-paper*, paper cut or stamped in imitation of lace; *lace-pigeon* (see *quots.*); *lace-pillow*, the pillow or cushion which is laid on the lap of a woman engaged in making pillow-lace; *lace-plant*, ? = *lace-leaf plant*; *lace-runner* (see *quot.*); † *lace-shade*, a lace veil; *lace-tree*, ? = *lace-bark tree*; *lace-wing* (fly), a fly with delicate lace-like wings, esp. one of the genus *Chrysopa*; also *lace-winged fly*; *lace-woman* a woman who works or deals in lace.

1756 P. BROWNE *Jamaica* 371 The Lagetto or **Lace*-bark Tree. The bark is of a fine texture, very tough, and divides into a number of laminae. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 76 In Jamaica a species is found which is called the *Lace* Bark Tree. 1869 E. NEWMAN *Brit. Moths* 79 The **Lace* Border (*Acidalia ornata*). 1885 LADY BRASSEY *The Trades* 239 The **lace*- or fringe-fern.. grew in wild profusion. 1895 *Daily News* 5 Dec. 6/1 Selling a couple of old **lace*-frames to some Frenchmen for 200l. apiece. 1883 MOLLETT *Dict. Art* 156 There are six kinds of Venetian glass.. (6) Reticulated, filigree, or **lace* glass. 1884 *Mag. of Art* Feb. 155/2 Briati.. was especially celebrated.. for his beautiful work in lace-glass. 1724 RAMSAY *Tea-T. Misc.* (1733) 1. 35 Shou'd a.. Flanders' lace head.. Gar thee grow forgetful? 1809 *Edin. Rev.* x. 78 He will wear of lace-heads and ruffles. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* (1870). **Lace*-leaf plant, *Olivirandra*. 1880 J. SIBREE *Jr. Gl. African Isl.* iv. 100 This is the *Lace* leaf plant, or water-yan; in scientific phraseology, *Olivirandra fenestralis*. 1881 F. MCCOY *Prodromus Nat. Hist. of Victoria* 4 Dec. (Morris). The present **Lace* Lizard is generally arboreal. 1669 *Pervs Diary* 26 Apr. Calling at the **lace*-man's for some lace for my new suit. 1737 FIELDING *Miser* v. vii. The laceman will be here immediately. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 5 Dec. 3/1 A laceman of a good many years' standing. 1765 *Treat. Dom. Pigeons* 143 The **Lace* Pigeon.. They are valued on account of.. the peculiarity of their feathers; the fibres, or web of which, appear dissipated from each other throughout their whole plumage. 1869 BRENT *Pigeon Bk.* 54 The *Lace* or Silky Pigeon.. The fibres of the feathers are all dissipated.. which gives them a lacy or silky appearance. 1793 COWPER *Let.* 9 Jan. In T. Wright *Life* (1892) 260 The *Lace* pillow is the only thing they dandle. 1865 C. KNIGHT *Passages Work. Life* III. x. 205 The jingling rhymes sung by young girls while engaged at their lace-pillows. 1885 LADY BRASSEY *The Trades* 426 A plant.. called the **lace*-plant, from the extreme delicacy and beauty of its foliage. 1844 G. DODD *Textile Manuf.* vii. 225 The term *embroidery* does not seem to be much used in.. the Nottingham lace-trade, most of those who work on net with the needle being termed **lace*-runners'. 1803 JANE PORTER *Thaddeus* (1831) 275 Her **lace*-shade.. half veiled and half revealed her graceful figure. 1887 MOLONEY *Forestry* W. Afr. 460 The public may.. see in our stores the rare **Lace* tree of Jamaica. 1863 WOOD *Nat. Hist.* III. 491 The beautiful **Lace*-wing Flies, or Hemerobiidae.. Several species of the *Lace*-wings are also called.. Golden Eyes. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. 94 The beautiful **lace*-winged flies (*Hemerobius*). 1609 B. JONSON *Silent Wom.* ii. iii, Tailors, lineners, **lace*-women, embroiderers. 1896 *Daily News* 1 Oct. 2/2 She is a lacewoman in the Exhibition.

Lace (lɛ's), *v.* Forms: 4 *lacye*, 5 *lacyn*, (1^{yc}oe), 5-6 *lase*, 6 *Sc. laise*, 7 ? *leese* (sense 2 d), 4- *lace*. *Pa. pple.* 3 *i-laced*. [ad. OF. *lacier* (F. *lacer*): = popular *L. *laciare* to ensnare, f. **lacium*: see *LACE* sb. Cf. Fr. *lassar*, Sp. *lazar*, Pg. *laçar*, It. *lacciare*.]

† 1. *trans.* To catch in, or as in, a noose or snare; to entangle, ensnare. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 3178, I trowe never man wiste of peyne, But he were laced in Loves cheyne. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* (E. E. T. S.) 13,076 Folks under my demeyne, Swych as be lacyd in my cheyne. c 1485 *Digly Myst.* v. 580 Fortune in worldes worshepe me doth lace.

2. To fasten or tighten with, or as with, a lace or string; to tie on; to fasten the lace of. In mod. use *spec.* to fasten or tighten (boots, stays, etc.) with a lace or laces passed alternately through two rows of eyelets. Also with *down, on, together*.

a 1225 *Ancr.* R. 420 Sum wummon.. wereð.. be strapeles adun to hire uest i-laced full ueste. a 1300 K. Horn 870 Horn his brunie gan on caste, And laced hit wel faste. c 1386 CHAUCER *Miller's T.* 81 Hir shoes were laced on hir legges hye. c 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxvi. 121 Pai er.. laced togyder with lacez of silke. c 1450 St. Cuthbert (Surtees) 3933 He kist be clathes as fai hade bene lased And on the saint body brasyd. 1530 *Palsgr.* 600/2, I wyll lace my doublet first for takynge of colde. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* iii. ii. 46 A paire of bootes that have bene candle-cases, one buckled, another laced. 1672 *Wise Man Treat. Wounds* i. iv. 43, I caused a straight stocking to be laced on both legs. 1709 STEELE & ADDISON *Tatler* No. 75 ¶ 8 To see me often with my Spectacles on lacing her Stays. 1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuilder's Assist.* 129 Lacing the Mizon. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* iii. viii. 380 The galeon was.. provided against boarding.. by a strong net-work.. which was laced over her waist. 1763 *Brit. Mag.* IV. 286, I lace and unlade ladies stays of the first fashion, every day of my life. 1789-96 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 35 They fix the rein-deer to a kind of sledge.. in which the traveller, well secured from cold, is laced down. 1869 *Fremman Norm. Comp.* (1876) III. xiii. 250 Ofttimes he laced and ofttimes he unlaced his mantle. 1885 *Law Rep.* Q. B. D. XV. 360 The two ends were.. laced together with.. leatheren laces.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

13.. *Minor Poems* fr. Vernon MS. xxiii. 466 Heil beo whom be godhed In vr flesch was laced. a 1550 *Christis Kirke* Gr. xviii, Hir glitterand hair that wes full gowdin, Sa hard in lufe him laist. 1576 FLEMING *Panopli. Epist.* 35 When he sawe the perill of us all, linked and laced to the daunger of hym selfe. 1578 N. BAXTER tr. *Calvin on Jonah* 64 Jonas.. stood harde laced [*L. quasi constrictus*], because [etc.]. 1860 DARWIN in *Life & Lett.* (1887) II. 298 Each series of facts is laced together by a series of assumptions.

c. *intr.* (quasi-pass.) To admit of being fastened or tightened with laces.

1792 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Wks.* III. 37 She walling, in most piteous case, Of stubborn stays—that would not lace. 1888 P. FURNIVALL *Phys. Training* 6 Shoes.. should.. lace from the toe, as high up the foot as is possible.

d. *Naut.* ('To apply (a bonnet) by lacing it to a sail' (Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 1867). Also with on. (Cf. F. *laccr*).

1635 BREYTON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 169 You may take off the main bonnet and top bonnet, .. and in a short time you may lace them on again. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* i. 16 Leese in [ed. 1684 *Lace* on] your Bonnets.

3. To compress the waist of (a person) by drawing the laces tight. With qualifying adv. (*straitly, tight, etc.*). Also *fig.* To lace in: to compress the waist of (a person) by lacing. Similarly, to lace down.

a 1566 R. EDWARDS *Damon & Pithias* (1571) B iv, Whiche bothe are in vertue so narrowly laced, That [etc.]. 1599 PORTER *Angry Wom. Abingt.* (Percy Soc.) 107, I do not love to bee last in, when I goe to lace a rascall. 1668 R. STEELE *Husbandman. Call.* x. (1672) 262 They grow crooked by being laced too strait. 1700 CONGREVE *Way of World* iii. x, Like Mrs. Primly's great Belly; she may lace it down before, but it burnishes on her Hips. 1825 SCOTT *Fam. Lett.* 23 Jan. (1894) II. 230 Rather straitly laced in her Presbyterian stays. 1882 *World* 21 June 18/1 The bodice.. laced-in a waist of twenty inches.

b. *refl.*, and *intr.* for *refl.*

1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 195 Better advised are the Venetian Dames, who never Lace themselves. 1871 *Figure Training* 9 To lace or not to lace. *Ibid.* 99, I can, if disposed, lace in to sixteen inches.

4. *trans.* To thread or interlace (a fabric of any kind) with a lace, string, or the like; to embroider. Chiefly in *pa. pple.*

1483 *Wardr. Acc.* in *Antiq. Repert.* (1807) I. 30 The foresaide canopies sowed with oon ounce of silk, and lyced with 1 lb. xj ounces of grene threde. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 21 You shall have a net made of strong thred laced with a thong. 1630 R. N. Camden's *Eliz.* ii. 68 Silkes, glittering with gold and siluer, eyther imbrodyered or laced. 1774 WEST *Antiq. Furness* p. xxii, Marle and soil, laced with fibres of vegetables. 1879 H. GEORGE *Progr. & Pov.* vii. v. (1881) 253 We.. lace the air with telegraph wires. 1880 *Paper & Print. Trades Jnl.* No. 32. 38 Oblong vellum binding laced with cat-gut.

b. To pass (a cord, etc.) in and out through a fabric by way of ornament, through holes, etc. † Also with *in*. Also *fig.*

1638 SANDERSON *Serm.* (1681) II. 108 To lace in a prayer, a blessing, a thanksgiving. 1880 ZAEHNSDOERF *Art Book-binding* (1890) iv. 57 The boards having been squared, they are to be attached to the book by lacing the ends of the cord through holes made in the board.

c. To intertwine, to place together as if interwoven.

1883 HALL CAINE *Cobra*, of *Crit.* vi. 176 The poet. lacing and interlacing his combinations of thought and measure. 1889 F. M. PEARD *Paul's Sister* i. viii. 218 Lucy. 'laced her white fingers across her forehead.

† d. ? *nonce-use*. To pierce repeatedly with shots. 1622 R. HAWKINS *Voy. S. Sea* v. 21 Whereupon the Gunner at the next shot, laced the Admirall through and through. 5. To ornament or trim with lace.

1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* iii. iv. 20 Cloth a gold, and cuts, and lac'd with silver. 1720 LADY M. BERTIE in *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 21 The under petticoat very richly laced with two or three sorts of lace. 1727 SWIFT *Further Acc. E. Curll* Wks. 1755 III. i. 161 Have not I clothed you in double royal. 'laced your backs with gold. 1760 tr. *Keyser's Trav.* II. 354 A chair covered with velvet, and laced with gold. 1841 JAMES BRIGAND xxvi. The king was habited... in black velvet richly embroidered and laced with gold.

6. To mark as with (gold or silver) lace or embroidery; to diversify with streaks of colour.

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* iii. v. 8 Looke Loue what envious streakes Do lace the seuering Cloudes in yonder East. c 1600 — *Sonn.* lxvii. That sinne by him advantage should atchieue, And lace it selfe with his societie. 1605 — *Macb.* ii. iii. 118 Here lay Duncan, His Silver skinned, laced with his Golden Blood. 1602 MARSTON *Antioch's Rev.* i. iii. Wks. 1836 I. 81 The verge of heaven Was ringed with flames, and all the upper vault Thick lac'd with flakes of fire. 1648 GAGE *West. Ind.* xvii. (1655) 113 A pleasant and goodly valley, laced with a River. 1850 WHIPPLE *Ess. & Rev.* (ed. 3) I. 280 The gloom of his meditations is laced with light in all directions. 1850 BECK'S *Florist* 200 Very smooth, stout petal laced with rosy purple. 1860 KINGSLEY *Misc.* II. 252 A Waterfall of foam, lacing the black rocks with a thousand snowy streams. 1861 L. L. NOBLE *After Icebergs* 67 Boats.. freighted with the brouner cod, laced occasionally with a salmon. *Ibid.* 139 The ocean with its waves of Tyrian dye laced with silver.

† b. *Painting. absol.* To insert streaks of any colour, e. g. white. *Obs.*

1634 PRACHAM *Gentl. Exerc.* 74 It is the best white of all others to lace or garnish, being ground with a weak gumme water.

c. *intr.* Of a flower: To acquire the streaks of colour prized by fanciers. (Cf. LACED *ppl. a.* 4.) 1852 BECK'S *Florist* 210 The varieties [of pinks] generally laced very well.

7. To lash, beat, thrash.

1599 [see 3]. 1615 BAND, *Rufes & Cuffe* (Halliiv.) to If I meet thee, I will lace thee roundly. 1618 FLETCHER *Loyal Subj.* v. iv. He was whipt like a top; I never saw a whore so lac'd. 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Fables, Life of Esop* xi Go your ways... or I'll lace your coat for you. 1783 AINSWORTH *Lat. Dict.* (Morell) 1, To lace, *cædo, verbo*. 1847 C. BRONTE *J. Eyre* xxi. (1857) 234 A.. switch.. waiting to leap out imp-like and lace my quivering palm. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Wordbk.*, *Lace*, to beat or punish with a rattan or rope's end.

† 8. *Cookery*. To make a number of incisions in (the breast of a bird). *Obs.*

1658 T. MAYERNE *Archimag. Anglo-Gall.* No. 36. 33 Take a Wigewon, or Mallard.. and with your knife lace the down the breast. a 1704 *Compleat Servant-Maid* (ed. 7) 33 Lace down the Breast on both sides. 1796 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* xxvii. 382 Cut off the legs, lace the breast down each side.

9. To put a 'lace' of spirits (or † of sugar) into (a beverage); to mingle or 'dash' (with spirits).

[1677: see LACED *ppl. a.* 6.] 1687 MIEGE *Gr. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v. To lace Coffee, *mettre un peu de Sucre dans une tasse de Café*. 1815 SCOTT *Guy* M. xi. He had his pipe and his tea-cup, the latter being laced with a little spirits. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* i. ix. (1878) 84 Polly loves a mug of ale, too, and laced with brandy. 1881 BLACKW. *Mag.* CXXXIX. 195 Abraham began by lacing his cups for him. 1898 STEVENSON *St. Ives* 53 A jug of milk, which she had handsomely laced with whiskey after the Scottish manner.

10. *Comb.*, as *lace-boots*; also *lace-up* adj. and sb. 1827 *Sporting Mag.* XX. 272 Strong lace-boots coming just over the ankle. 1836 DICKENS *Sk. Bos* (1850) 45/2 To fit a pair of lace-up half-boots on an ideal personage. 1841 J. T. HEWLETT *Parish Clerk* I. 22 A stout pair of lace-ups. 1851-61 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* III. 410 He wore the heavy high lace-up boots, so characteristic of the tribe.

Hence *Lacing ppl. a. nonce-use* = INTERLACING. Also *Lacer*, one who laces, in comb. *tight-lacer*.

1871 *Figure Training* 48 So far as I have observed, tight-lacers are, as a rule, active, brisk, healthy young people. 1873 G. C. DAVIES *Mount. & Mere* xiii. 99 We catch glimpses of it sometimes through the lacing branches.

Laced (læd), *ppl. a.* 1 [f. LACE v. + -ED.]

† 1. Of a plant: Entwined with a climbing plant. 1533 ELYOT *Cast. Helth* iii. v. (1541) 60b, Lased sauerie. 1551 TURNER *Herbal* 90 We call in england saury that hath doder growinge on it, laced saury; and tyme that hath the same, laced tyme. 1555 EDEN *Decades* 200 The herbe which we caule lased saury. 1640 PARKINSON *Theat.* Bot. 1740.

2. Of shoes, etc.: Made to be fastened or tightened with laces.

1676 WISEMAN *Chirurg. Treat.* i. xxiii. 124 A pair of laced Stockings. 1697 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3275/4 One pair of new Laced Shoes. 1813 J. THOMSON *Lect. Inflamm.* 447 The laced stocking was much used, and is particularly recommended by Wiseman. 1874 T. HARDY *Far fr. Madding Crowd* viii. He wore breeches and the laced-up shoes called ankle-jacks.

3. Ornamented or trimmed with lace: a. with edgings, trimmings, or lappets of lace. b. with braids or cords of gold or silver lace.

a. 1668 DAVENANT *Man's the Master* ii. i. Wks. 1874 V. 23, I left your lac'd linen drying on a line. 1673 E. BROWN *Trav. Germ.*, ed. (1677) 112 Two Feather-Beds, with a neat laced sheet spread over. 1720 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5881/3 A fine Valencia grounded laced Suit of Night Clothes. 1765

H. WALPOLE *Vertues Anecd. Paint* (1786) III. 221 They are commonly distinguished by the fashion of that time, laced cravats. 1873 MISS BROUGHTON *Nancy* i. 82 Mother bends her laced and feathered head in distant signal from the table top.

b. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* v. v. (1848) 314 A Lac'd, or an Imbroider'd suit.. would, now.. make a Man look.. like.. a player. 1786 MAD. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 12 Aug., We met.. such superlative men in laced liveries, that we attempted not to question them. 1841 CATLIN *N. Amer. Indians* (1844) II. lv. 198 H.s coat.. was a laced frock.

4. Diversified with streaks of colour. Of birds: Having on the edge of the feathers a colour different from that of the general surface. Of a flower: Marked with streaks of colour.

1834 MUDIE *Brit. Birds* I. 74 The principal ones [fancy pigeons] are.. the Jacobine, the Laced [etc.]. 1867 TEGETMEIER *Pigeons* xxiii. 177 Examples of very good laced Fantails. 1882 GARDEN 7 Oct. 312/2 The edged, tipped, or laced Dahlias require a good deal of shading. 1888 *Poultry* 27 July 377 Hen nicely laced on breast.

† 5. *Laced mutton* (slang): a strumpet. *Obs.*

Mutton was used alone in the same sense. The adj. may mean 'wearing a bodice', possibly with a pun on the culinary sense LACE v. 8, though the latter is not recorded so early. 1578 WHETSTONE *Prom. & Cass.* i. iii. Biiij, And I smealt, he lou'd lase mutton well. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* I. i. 102. 1599 N. BRETON *Phisition's Let.*, You may.. eat of a little warm mutton, but take heed it be not Laced, for that is ill for a sickle body. 1607 R. C. tr. H. Stephen's *World of Wonders* 167 The diuell take all those married villains who are permitted to eat laced mutton their bellies full. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* iv. Prolog. (1737) p. lxxxiii, With several cooked Quails, and lac'd Mutton.

6. Of a beverage: Mixed with a small quantity of spirits. (But see quot. a 1700; also 1687 in LACE v. 9.) 1677 WYCHERLEY *Pl. Dealer* III. i. Prithee, captain, let's go drink a dish of laced coffee, and talk of the times. a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crivo*, Lac'd Coffee, Sugar'd. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 317 ¶ 39 Mr. Nisby of opinion that laced Coffee is bad for the Head. 1819 ANDERSON'S *Cumberland. Ball.* 108 Set on kettle, Let aw teake six cups o' leac'd tea. 1886 *Illustr. Lond. News* Summer No. 14/2 He took a sip at his laced coffee.

7. Of the spokes of a bicycle: Set so as to cross one another near the hub.

1885 *Cyclist* 19 Aug. 1107/2, 52in. Rudge bicycle No. 1, laced spokes.

† 8. *Laced stool*: ? one made with a cane or rush seat, or one with a cloth sac stretched by cords.

1649 in *Bury Wills* (Camden) 212, I give vnto my daughter Anna.. a greene chaire and foure laced stooles.

9. *Comb.*, as *laced-jacketed*, -waistcoated adjs.

1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* Wks. 1883 VII. 495 A couple of brocaded or laced-waistcoated toupets. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. F.* xlviii. The laced-jacketed band of the Life Guards.

† Laced, *ppl. a.* 2 *Her. Obs.* Also 5 lassed, 6 lased. [more correctly lassed, for lessed, pa. pple. of LESS v.] Lessened, diminished.

1846 Bk. *St. Albans. Her.* b. iij. b. A lased cotarmure is on the modieris parte. 1562 LEIGH *Armorie* (1597) 98 A gentlewoman borne, wedded to one, having no cote Armour, they haue issue a sonne, .. The same sonne .. may beare her cote armour, during his lile, with a difference Cynquefoyle, by the curtesie of armes, and this is called a lased cote armour. 1586 FERNE *Blas. Gentrie* 66 She must be an heiire to her auncestour, or els her issue can not beare the Laced coat.

Lacedæmonian (læsdémōniān), a. and sb.

[f. L. *Lacedæmoni-us*, Gr. *Λακεδαιμόνιος* (f. *Lacedæmōn*, Gr. *Λακεδαίμων*) + -AN.] A. adj. a. Of or pertaining to Lacedæmon (Sparta) or its inhabitants. b. Of speech or correspondence = LACONIC. B. sb. A native of Lacedæmon.

1780 COWPER *Let.* 16 Mar., Wks. 1837 XV. 50 Till your letters become truly Lacedæmonian, and are reduced to a single syllable. 1807 ROBINSON *Archæol. Græca* II. xv. 168 Their clothing was so thin that 'a Lacedæmonian vest' became proverbial. 1870 EMERSON *Soc. & Solit.* iv. 87 If any one wishes to converse with the meanness of the Lacedæmonians. 1900 *Daily News* 15 Mar. 6/3 The 46th owed their name of 'The Lacedæmonians' to their colonel's stirring speech on the ancient Spartans.

Lace-piece. *Shipbuilding*. [? f. LACE sb. 4 + PIECE.] The part of the prow of a wooden vessel above the cut-water and behind the figure-head. Also called *lacing* (see LACING *vbl. sb.* 3 d).

1874 THEARLE *Nav. Archit.* 64 The main rails extended generally from the catheds to the lace piece.

Lacerability (læserābiliti), [f. next: see -ITY.] The condition of being lacerable.

1847-9 TODD *Cycl. Anat.* IV. 713/1 Simple lacerability is frequently set down to softening.

Lacerable (læserābl), a. [ad. late L. *lacerabilis*, f. *lacerare* to LACERATE. Cf. F. *lacerable*.] That may be lacerated, susceptible of laceration.

1656 in BLOUNT *Glossogr.* 1666 HARVEY *Morb. Angl.* xxii. 51 The Lungs .. must necessarily lyve open to great.. damages .. because of their thin, and lacerable composure.

1835-6 TODD *Cycl. Anat.* I. 346/2 The bronchi are .. easily lacerable tubes. 1879-80 J. M. DUNCAN *Lect. Dis. Women* vii. (ed. 4) 40 The uterus .. may be extremely thinned and easily lacerable.

Lacerant (læserānt), a. *nonce-wd.* [ad. L. *lacerant-em*, pres. pple. of *lacerare* to LACERATE.] Of a sound: Tearing, harrowing.

1888 HOWELLS *Annie Kilburn* xxv. The bell.. called the members .. with the same palpant, lacerant note that summoned them to worship on Sundays.

Lacerate (læserēt), *ppl. a.* [ad. L. *lacerāt-us*, pa. pple. of *lacerare* to LACERATE.]

1. Mangled, torn, lacerated. Also *fig.* Distracted.

1542 HEN. VIII *Declar.* 205 Our realme hathe ben for a season lacerate and torne by diuersitie of times. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 281 That this town [Alexandria] should now be brought to so lacerate a condition, that was for many ages one of the most ample. 1805 SOUTHEY *Madoc* ii. viii. His hands transfix'd, And lacerate with the body's pendent weight. 1878 SYMONDS *Sonn. Campanella* xxviii. Now stays with limbs dysposed and lacerate.

2. Bot. and Zool. Having the edge or point irregularly cut or cleft as if torn; jagged.

1776 J. LEE *Introd. Bot. Expl. Terms* 384 *Lacerum*, lacerate, where the Margin is variously divided, as if torn. 1794 MARTYN tr. *Rousseau's Bot.* xxvi. 380 Many varieties .. with lacerate leaves and simple ones. 1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 324 *Folia* thin, .. sometimes lacerate.

b. In combining form *lacerato-*; as *lacerato-dentate*, -subdivided.

1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 225 *Latellæ* thin, lacerato-dentate. *Ibid.* 706 Small; .. sometimes lacerato-subdivided.

Hence *Lacerately adv.*, in a lacerated manner, with laceration. In recent Dicts.

Lacerate (læserēt), v. [f. L. *lacerāt*, *ppl.* stem of *lacerare*, f. *lacer* mangled, torn.]

1. *trans.* To rend, tear, mangle; to tear to pieces, tear up. Also, † to separate by violence.

1592 WILMOT, ed. *Taucet & Gism.* v. i. G. 3, The dead corps which rauenous beasts forbore to lacerate. 1633 BROME *Antipodes* iv. ix. In signe whereof we lacerate these papers. 1713 DERHAM *Phys. Theol.* II. v. 48 If the Heat breaks through the Water with such fury, as to lacerate, and lift up great quantities or bubbles of Water, it causeth what we call Boiling. 1791 COWPER *Itiad* v. 354 He crush'd the socket, lacerated wide Both tendons. 1798 MARSHALL *Garden.* xviii. (ed. 2) 283 So .. the fibres will not be lacerated. 1808 J. BARLOW *Columb.* vii. 232 Shells and langrage lacerate the ground. 1868 FARRAR *Silence & V.* VI. (1875) 107 If they could show you how their feet have been lacerated by the thorns. 1880 *Times* 18 Sept. 9, 4 Jagged rocks .. will rend and lacerate the helpless being.

2. With immaterial objects and *fig.*; esp., to afflict, distress, harrow (the heart).

c 1645 HOWELL *Let.* (1650) III. 6 The Wars that have lacerated poor Europe. 1773 JOHNSON *Let.* to Mrs. Thrale 17 Mar., Necessity of attention to the present preserves us .. from being lacerated .. by sorrow for the past. 1780 — *Let.* to Lawrence 20 Jan. in *Boswell*, The continuity of being is lacerated. 1863 MISS BRADTON *Eleanor's Vict.* I. ii. 33 How cruelly the old heart was lacerated by that bitter letter. 1871 R. W. DALL *Ten Commandm.* ii. 54 The writers of the New Testament make no attempt to lacerate the heart by insisting on the details of our Lord's sufferings.

Hence *Lacerating vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1816 BYRON *Parisina* xx, Scars of the lacerating mind which the Soul's war doth leave behind. 1872 GEO. ELIOT *Middlem.* lxxxi, Will Ladislaw's lacerating words. 1877 BLACK *Green Past.* vii. (1878) 54 The lacerating of a mother's heart. 1893 *Athenæum* 19 Aug. 263/3 The lacerating pangs of neuralgia.

Lacerated (læserētd), *ppl. a.* [f. LACERATE v. + -ED.] In senses of the *vbl. lit.* and *fig.*

1606 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* xiv. lxxxvii. 358 The lacerated Empire of the Romans, though with griefe, Disclaim'd the Brutaines. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 304 Observe in great lacerated wounds, as followeth, &c. 1768 STERNE *Sent. Jour.* (1778) II. 183 (*Bourbonnais*) He finds the lacerated lamb of another's flock. 1809 *Med. Jurid.* XXI. 209 The following Case of lacerated Urethra. 1818 CORBETT *Pol. Reg.* XXXIII. 238-9 To seize hold of .. parcels .. of the lacerated country. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. i. 536 Under the soothing influence of female friendship, his lacerated mind healed fast. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 364 Large lacerated wound 3 inches long.

b. Bot. = LACERATE a. 2.

1753 CHAMBERS *Cycl. Supp.* s. v. *Leaf, Lacerated leaf*. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 101 Stigmas .. either 2 and lacerated, or discoid and 4-lobed.

Laceration (læserēfən), [ad. L. *laceratiō-em*, n. of action f. *lacerare* to LACERATE. Cf. F. *laceration*.] The action or process of lacerating; an instance of this.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 5/2 Throughe laceratione of some vayne or artery. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 344 The orifice .. doth .. enlarge it selfe without feare of laceration or tearing. a 1631 DONNE in *Select.* (1840) 38 Forbearing all lacerations, and woundings of one another.

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* II. v. 88 The nitrous .. exhalations .. force out their way, not only with the breaking of the cloud, but the laceration of the ayre about it. 1731 ARBUTHNOT *Aliments* (1735) 167 The Effects are, Extension of the great Vessels, Compression of the lesser, and Lacerations upon small Causes. 1783 P. POTT *Chirurg. Wks.* II. 26 The difference between dilatation and laceration of the peritoneum. 1846 LANDOR *Imag. Convers.* Wks. II. 236/1 The scars and lacerations on your arms. 1862 H. SPENCER *First Princ.* I. v. § 32 (1875) 115 No mental revolution can be accomplished without more or less of laceration.

Lacerative (læserātiv), a. *rare*. [f. L. type **lacerativus*, f. *lacerare* to LACERATE.] Tending to produce laceration.

1666 HARVEY *Morb. Angl.* xiii. 32 The continual afflux of lacerative humours. 1879-80 J. M. DUNCAN *Lect. Dis. Women* xviii. (ed. 4) 140 This arises from lacerative injury.

† Lacer! 1. *Obs. rare*. Also 6 lase! 2. [ad. L. *lacerta* or *lacertus*, in the same sense.] A lizard.

1382 WYCLIF *Levit.* xl. 30 A lacert, that is a serpent that is clepid a liserd. 1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* IV. 44 A muscle .. of the likenes of the little beast called a Lacerate. 1585 H. LLOYD *Treas. Health* B ij, Sprynke it ouer with the Ashes of a grene Lacerte burnt. 1610 J. DENTON *Acc.*