

PREFACE TO THE LETTER V.

IN this portion of the Dictionary there are 4219 Main words, 393 Special Combinations explained under these, 1492 Obvious Combinations, and 1671 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms; in all 7775 entries. Of the Main words 1074 are marked † as obsolete, and 257 are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following results:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded	684	2790	3744	3168	7775
Words illustrated by quotations	557	1145	1353	448	5954
Number of quotations	1738	1881	4139	598	40,418

In the corresponding portion of Richardson the quotations number 1935.

For the reasons given in the introductory article on the letter, the words beginning with V are almost entirely of foreign origin, and the great majority either directly or indirectly have their source in Latin. Most of the important Latin stems with initial *v* are represented in English, and many of them very extensively, so that they frequently occupy large and continuous portions of the following pages. Many of the words from these stems are also found, with little change of form, in all the modern Romanic languages; the vocabulary throughout this letter thus corresponds very closely with that of dictionaries in these tongues. As usual, many of the stems and their derivatives have passed into English through French, which has at different periods contributed a large number of common words, as *vain*, *vale*, *valiant*, *valley*, *value*, *vanish*, *vanquish*, *vantage*, *varnish*, etc. Notable among these is the adj. and adv. VERY, which forms one of the longest articles in this portion of the dictionary. An interesting group is also presented by the words formed with the prefix VANT-. The prefix *vis-*, *vi-*, originally introduced from French, subsequently assumed the Latin form VICE-, but has survived unaltered in *Viscount* and its derivatives. The other Romanic languages are represented by adoptions from Spanish and Portuguese, as *vanilla*, *vaquero*, *vara*, *vega*¹, *vellon*, *veranda*, *verruca*, *vintem*, and from Italian, as *vendetta*, *vermicelli*, *viola*², *violin*, *violon*, *violoncello*, *virtu*, *virtuoso*, *vista*, *viva*, *volcano*. The Romanic element is also prominent among the proper names and adjectives formed from these, the number of which in some parts of this section is above the average.

The remaining sources are of limited extent and for the most part of less importance. A few entries are southern English variants of forms in *f-*, as *vade v.*¹, *van sb.*¹, *vane*, *vat*, *vease*, *vell v.*, *vent sb.*¹, and *vixen*. An exceptional instance of this substitution is found in *vener* for the earlier *fneer*. This is one of a small number of words which have been adopted from the other Germanic languages; among these is *veer*, to let out (from Dutch *viereu*), which has hitherto been confused in dictionaries with the unrelated *veer*, to turn round (from French *virer*). Others are the Dutch *veldt*, *vlei*, *vrouw*, and the Scandinavian *Valhalla*, *Valkyrie*, *viking*, *voe*, and *vole*. The remoter European, with some Oriental, African, and American languages, have contributed such miscellaneous words as *vaivode* (*voivode*), *vakeel*, *vampire*, *Veda*, *verst*, *vicuña*, *viscacha*, *vizier*, *vodka*, *voodoo*.

Words of similar form, but of different origin and meaning, are rarer than in some other portions of the alphabet; there are, however, seven substantives with the spelling *vice*. The variety of spelling possible in the older stages of English is well illustrated in the forms of *verjuice*, *victual*, *vinegar*, and *vouchsafe*; the lack of obvious meaning in the latter was no doubt the main cause of the extraordinary variety of forms and spellings in which it appears down to the 16th century.

The historical interest of many of the words beginning with V is considerable. A number of these have ecclesiastical or religious associations, as *valor* (1 d), *Vatican*, *Vaticanism*, etc., *Vaudois*, *Venite*, *verger*, *vernicle*, *veronica*², *versicle*, *vesper*, *vestiary*, *vestry*, *viaticum*, *vicar*, *vicarage*, *victim* (introduced by the Rhemish translators of the Bible), *vigil*, *virgin*, *virtue*, *vision*, etc. Others are of importance for social, political, or legal history, as *vaccination*, *vagabond*, *vagrant*, *valentine*, *valet*, *varlet*, *vassal*, *vavassour*, *velocipede*, *ventilation*, *ventriloquism*, *venue*, *verderer*, *verdict*, *verge sb.*¹, *vice-chancellor*, *vicegerent*, *victualler*, *viewer*, *villa*, *village*, *villein*, *virgate*, *voidee*, *voider*, *volunteer*, *voluper*, *vote* (before 1600 almost exclusively in Scottish use), *vouch*, *vouchee*, *voucher*, *voyage*, and *vulgar*. Many other words are of interest for various reasons, as *vernier*, *verse*, *vignette* (with the earlier form *vinet*), *viol*, *violin*, *vogue*, *volley*, *volume*, *vortex*, etc.

The material first collected for V was arranged and sub-edited by the Rev. T. H. Sheppard in 1883. Much new material was incorporated, and the sub-editing revised, for V—VAGABOND by the Rev. C. B. Mount in 1908; VAGABOND—VANQUISH by Mr. C. B. Winchester in 1908; and VANQUISH—VYWER by the Rev. W. B. R. Wilson in 1910—13.

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ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

Variolist. *rare*-1. [f. VARIOL-A + -IST.]
One who prefers small-pox to vaccination.

1799 *Gentl. Mag.* Aug. 665 A consciousness of propriety, which it seems that the Variolists have not had sufficient shame to acknowledge.

Vaseline. Add to etym. note:—The term, which was registered as a trade mark 28 June 1877 by the Chesebrough Manufacturing Co., was first applied to petroleum jelly (see def. and quotes.), later to preparations containing that article, and ultimately used upon all goods manufactured by the Company.

Vellumize, v. [f. VELLUM + -IZE.] *trans.* To convert into vellum.

1907 C. DAVENPORT *The Book* 173 The white 'vellumised' piskin has always been the most favourite material for the covering of German books.

† **Venedic, a.** *Obs.* [f. med.L. *Venedi* (pl.): see WEND sb.] Wendish, Vendish.

1768 T. NUGENT *Trav. Germany* II. 178 Mirow is.. supposed to have derived its name from the Slavonic, or Venedic word *mir*, signifying peace. 1790 DORNFORD *Pütter's Hist. Developm. Ger. Emp.* I. 2 Except in Bohemia

and Lusatia, the Venedic language has been under the necessity of yielding to the German.

Ventel, v. Delete, and see UNTELD *v.*

Verger², 1. Earlier instance:—

c 1402 in *Peterborough Registry* (MS.), fol. 457, Officium hostiarum, alias dictum verger, in eodem [collegio de Wyndesore] vacans.

Vitamine, -min (vəitəmsin, -in). [f. L. *vīt-a* life + AMINE; named by Casimir Funk (1913), from the erroneous idea that an amino-acid is present in these substances.] One of a group of essential food-elements found in various natural food-stuffs, as vegetables, cereals, milk, etc.

1916 R. R. WILLIAMS in *Trn. Biol. Chem.* XXV. 437 [Article on] The Chemical Nature of the 'Vitamines'. 1928 C. W. SALEEBY *Science National Kitchens* 1 The accessory factors 'or vitamins only recently discovered. 1922 *Daily Mail* 5 Nov. 4 The vital principle of food known to doctors as vitamins.

fig. 1921 *Spectator* 16 Apr. 492/2 A book...so full of the vitamins of literature. *Ibid.* 7 May 588/2 The vitamins of the spirit and...of true religion.

Vocabular, sb. Later example:—

1659 W. JACOB in Somner *Dictionarium*, To list your names in this Vocabular.