

■ **Flanderkin** *noun* (*arch.*) a native or inhabitant of Flanders **E16**. **Flandrian** *adjective* (*a*) (now rare) of or pertaining to Flanders or its inhabitants; (*b*) *ceolac* of, pertaining to, or designating the period following the end of the last glaciation in NW Europe: **M17**. **Flandrish** *adjective* (*arch.*) Flemish **ME**.

**flane** /flɛm/ *noun*. Long only *Scot. arch.*  
[Old English *flān* masc. and fem. = Old Norse *fleinn* masc., cogn. with Old English *flā* **FLO**.]  
An arrow.

**flane** /flɑ:n/ *verb intrans.* **L19**.  
[Back-form. from **FLANEUR**.]  
Laze, saunter.

**flânerie** /flɑnri/ *noun*. **L19**.  
[French, from *flâner* lounge, saunter idly.]  
Idling.

**flâneur** /flɑnɔ:r/ *noun*. Pl. pronounced same. **M19**.  
[French, from *flâner* (see prec.) + *-eur* -OR.]  
An idler.

■ R. HOLMES Paris . . . celebrated the idea of the *flâneur*, the man who drifts round the streets, gazing at everything.

**flange** /flɑŋ(d)ʒ/ *noun & verb*. **L17**.  
[Origin uncertain: rel. to **FLANCH** *noun*<sup>1</sup> & *verb*.]  
► **A noun**. **1** A part that widens out (now only in a vein of ore). **L17**.  
**2** A projecting flat rim, collar, or rib, serving esp. for strengthening, attachment, or (on a wheel) maintaining position on a rail. Also, a rim or fan standing out from the main part of a natural object. **M18**.

■ **2** M. KINGSLEY The brown water . . . striking a ridge of higher rock . . . flew up in a lovely flange. J. MASTERS The wheels' flanges ground against the inside of the rail. **blank flange**: see **BLANK** *adjective*.

► **B verb**. [Cf. Old French *flangir* bend.]  
**1 verb trans**. Provide with a flange. Chiefly as **flanged ppl** *adjective*. **L18**.  
**2 verb intrans**. Widen out or out. **E19**.  
**3 verb intrans**. Alter a sound recording by removing sound of a particular but varying frequency (orig. by pressing alternately on the flanges of the tape reels playing two copies of the recording simultaneously, now by means of a flanger). *Usu.* as **flanging verbal noun**. **L20**.  
■ **flangeless** *adjective* **E20**. **flanger** *noun* (*a*) US a vertical scraper for clearing snow from railway tracks to allow room for the wheel-flanges; (*b*) a device that alters a sound signal by introducing a cyclically varying phase shift into one of two identical copies of the signal and recombining them: **L19**.

**flank** /flɑŋk/ *noun*. **LOE**.  
[Old & mod. French *flanc*, from Frankish base meaning 'a side'.]  
**1** The fleshy or muscular part of the side of a person or animal, strictly that between the ribs and the hip. Formerly also, the belly; the womb. **LOE**. ► **A** cut of meat, or a piece of hide, from the flank of an animal. **M18**.  
**2** The side part of anything, esp. a building, mountain, etc. **E17**.  
**3** The extreme right or left side of (esp.) an army or other body of people in military formation; a wing. **M17**.  
► **fortification**. A part of a work so disposed as to defend another by flanking fire. **L17**.  
**4** The side of the tooth of a gear-wheel, or of a screw-thread, which makes effective contact with another surface. **M19**.

■ **1** T. A. COWARD The Redwing . . . can be distinguished by its long pale eye-stripe and reddish flanks. G. ORWELL From the hip to the knee her flank was against his. **2** A. MILLER They drive . . . up a steep gorge whose flanks almost blot out the sky. **3** C. S. FORESTER A company commander then had to get his men forward again, watching his flanks. *fig.*: R. MAY To fight on both flanks—to oppose totalitarianism . . . and to recover our . . . belief in the worth and dignity of the person. **in flank** at the side.

Comb.: **flank forward** **RUGBY UNION** a wing forward.

**flank** /flɑŋk/ *verb*<sup>1</sup>. **M16**.  
[from the noun. Cf. French *flanquer*.]  
► **1 verb intrans**. Deliver a raking fire. Only in **M16**.  
**2 verb trans**. Guard, strengthen, or defend, on the flank; attack or threaten the flank of; (of artillery) fire sideways on, rake. **L16**.  
**3 verb trans**. Be situated at the side of; esp. be situated on either side of. **M17**.  
**4 verb trans**. Dodge, evade. *arch.* **US slang**. **M19**.

■ **2** SIR W. SCOTT An advanced angle . . . with shot-holes for flanking the door-way. **3** E. GLASGOW A red brick house flanked by a stony hill. F. HERBERT She saw Paul approaching flanked by two small boys.

**flank** /flɑŋk/ *verb*<sup>2</sup> *trans*. **M19**.  
[limit. cf. *flick*, *spank*.]  
Flick; crack (a whip).

**flanker** /'flɑŋkə/ *noun & verb*. **M16**.  
[from **FLANK** *verb*<sup>1</sup> + *-ER*<sup>1</sup>.]  
► **A noun**. **1** A fortification for protecting or threatening a flank. **M16**.

**2** One of a detachment of soldiers sent to guard the flanks of a military formation. **L16**. ► **b** A trick or swindle. Chiefly in **pull a flanker**, **work a flanker**, etc. *slang* (orig. **MILITARY**). **E20**. ► **c** In **RUGBY UNION** etc., a flank forward, a wing forward. In **AMER. FOOTBALL**, a player who lines up in a position to the outside of an end. **M20**.  
**3** A thing which flanks anything. **E17**.

► **B verb**. [Cf. Dutch *flanckeren* from French *flanquer* **FLANK** *verb*<sup>1</sup>.]  
**1 verb trans**. Protect on the flanks; protect or threaten from a flanker. *arch.* **L16**.  
**2 verb intrans**. Make an attack on the flank. Now rare or obsolete. **E17**.

**flannel** /'flɑn(ə)l/ *noun & adjective*. Also (*obsolete exc. dial.*) *-en* /-ən/. **ME**.  
[Prob. from Welsh *gwlanen* woollen article, from *gwlan* wool.]  
► **A noun**. **1** Any of various loose-textured soft woollen or man-made fabrics of plain or twilled weave and slightly napped on one side. **ME**. ► **†b** A Welshman. *rare* (Shakes.). Only in **L16**.  
**2** In *pl.* Underwear or other garments, esp. trousers, made of flannel. **E17**.  
**3** A small piece of (usu. cotton towelling) fabric for washing the face, hands, etc. **E19**.  
**4** Nonsense; flattery; bragging. *slang*. **E20**.

■ **2** H. FAST He was . . . dressed in gray flannels and a blue blazer.

Comb.: **flannelboard** = **FLANNELGRAPH**; **flannel-cake** a kind of thin wheat griddle-cake; **flannel flower** an Australian umbelliferous plant, *Actinotus helianthi*, the involucre of which resembles a snipped piece of white flannel; **flannel-mouth** *US slang* a flatterer, a braggart.

► **B attrib. or as adjective**. Made of flannel. **L16**.  
■ J. D. SALINGER There was this very Joe Yale-looking guy, in a grey flannel suit.  
■ **flannelette** *noun* a napped cotton fabric imitating the texture of flannel **L19**. **flannelgraph** *noun* a sheet of flannel to which paper or cloth cut-outs will adhere, used esp. as a teaching aid **M20**. **flannelled** *adjective* wrapped in flannel; wearing flannel trousers: **L18**. **flannelly** *adjective* resembling flannel **M19**.

**flannel** /'flɑn(ə)l/ *verb*. Infl. *-ll-*, *\*-l-*. **M19**.  
[from the noun.]  
**1 verb trans**. Rub with a flannel; *rare* wrap in flannel. **M19**.  
**2 verb trans. & intrans**. Use flattery (on); bluff, mislead. *slang*. **M20**.

■ **1** I. MCEWAN Steered him to the washbasin, was filling it with warm water and flanneling his face. **2** J. BRAINE I managed to flannel him into the belief that I approved of his particular brand of efficiency.

**flannen** *noun & adjective* see **FLANNEL** *noun & adjective*.

**flanque** *noun* var. of **FLAUNCH** *noun*<sup>1</sup>.

**flap** /flɑp/ *noun*. **ME**.  
[from the verb.]  
► **I** The action of **FLAP** *verb*.  
**1** A light blow or slap (with something broad and flexible). **ME**.  
**2** (The noise produced by) the motion of something broad and loose, esp. the up-and-down movement of a wing. **L18**. ► **b** **PHONETICS**. A consonantal sound produced by a single fast flapping motion of the tongue or other organ. **M19**. ► **c** A state of anxiety, agitation, or excitement; a fuss; **MILITARY** an alert. *colloq.* **E20**.

■ **1** SWIFT Give him a soft Flap on his Eyes. **2** C. KINGSLEY I can hear the flap and snort of the dogs' nostrils. J. TYNDALL A gnat can execute many thousand flaps of its little wings in a second. **c** *Punch* There is a flap because the price of bread is going up. **be in a flap** be anxious, agitated, or excited. **get in a flap**, **get into a flap** become anxious, agitated, or excited.

► **II** Something that flaps.  
► **3** Something broad and flat to strike with; esp. a fly swatter. **LME**–**E18**.  
**4** Something broad and flat hinged or attached on one side only, as a trapdoor, a table-leaf, the cover of a pocket, the seal of an envelope, etc. **E16**. ► **b** A hanging or pendent portion of a garment, hat, etc. **M16**. ► **c** A valve which opens and shuts on one hinged side. Also **flap-valve**. **E19**. ► **d** The gill-cover of a fish. **E19**. ► **e** The pendent portion(s) of a saddle. **M19**. ► **f** A hinged or sliding section of a wing or tailplane used to control lift etc.; an aileron. **E20**.  
**5** In *pl.* (A disease marked by) swollen glands in the mouth of a horse. **L16**.  
**6** Something broad and loose, irrespective of connection with anything else. **E17**. ► **b** A large, broad mushroom; an open mushroom-top. Cf. **FLAB** *noun* 1. **M18**. ► **c** A loose covering for the lower part of the abdomen. **US**. **E19**.  
**7** A girl or woman of light or loose character. *slang* (now *dial.*). **M17**.  
**8** **SURGERY**. A portion of skin or flesh separated from the underlying tissue, but remaining attached at the base

while being transplanted to another site. Also, a piece of skin used as a graft. **E19**.

■ **4**]. STEINBECK Easy spread the tent flaps with his hands and stepped out. **cat-flap**: see **CAT** *noun*<sup>1</sup>. **b** C. T. DENT Tying the flaps of his hat over his ears. **6** THACKERAY The flap of a shoulder of mutton. **7** J. MABBE Fall to your flap, my Masters, kisse and clip.

Comb.: **flapmouthed** *adjective* (*slang, derog.*) having a mouth with broad hanging lips; **flap-sight** a hinged sight on a rifle; **flap-table** a table with one or more hinged leaves; **flap-valve**: see sense 4c above.  
■ **flapped** *adjective* formed like a flap, pendulous; having a flap or flaps: **M17**. **flapless** *adjective* **E20**.

**flap** /flɑp/ *verb*. Infl. *-pp-*. **ME**.  
[Prob. imit.: cf. **CLAP** *verb*<sup>1</sup>.]  
**1 verb trans. & intrans**. Strike with a sudden blow. Long obsolete exc. *dial.* **ME**.

**2 a verb trans**. Cause to swing or sway about, flutter, or flop, esp. with accompanying noise. **ME**. ► **b** *verb intrans*. Of something attached at one point or side or loosely fastened: swing or sway about, flutter, flop (freq. making a noise); *fig.* (of ears) open wide, strain to hear something. **E16**. ► **c** Toss (esp. a pancake) smartly. **M19**.  
**3 verb trans**. Strike with something flexible and broad; (of a bird) strike with the flat of the wing; drive away or off in such a way. **LME**. ► **b** *verb intrans*. Make a flap or stroke. **L16**.  
**4 a verb trans**. Move up and down, beat (the wings). **LME**. ► **b** *verb intrans*. (Of wings, flippers, arms, etc.) beat, move up and down; beat the wings etc. **L17**.  
**5 verb intrans. Of a bird, ship, etc.: travel with wings, sails, etc., flapping. **L18**.  
**6 verb intrans. Be upset, become agitated; fuss; panic. *colloq.* **E20**.****

■ **1** J. SKELTON I shall flappe hym as a fole to fall at my fete. **2a** SOUTHEY I hear the wind, that flaps The curtain of the tent. J. STEINBECK Lennie flapped his big hands helplessly. **b** DICKENS The . . . curtains flapped . . . idly in the wind. P. PEARCE He unbuttoned his pyjama jacket and let it flap open. M. ERSKINE You get on and explain them . . . Harris . . . has his ears positively flapping. **3** J. H. WIFFEN Night's shrieking bird Flaps the friezed window with her wing. G. W. LE FEVRE Two men would run before me to flap away the flies. **4a** J. G. WOOD The Swift does not flap its wings so often as the Swallow. **b** R. L'ESTRANGE 'Tis common for a duck to run flapping and fluttering away. **5** C. KINGSLEY A slate-blue heron . . . flapped fifty yards up the creek.

**flapdoodle** /'flɑpdu:d(ə)l/ *noun*. *colloq.* Also *\*flam-* /'flɑm-/. **M19**.  
[Arbitrary.]  
Nonsense, rubbish.

■ F. MARRYAT The gentleman has eaten no small quantity of flapdoodle . . . it's the stuff they feed fools on.

**flap-dragon** /'flɑpdrɑ:ɡ(ə)n/ *noun & verb*. Long rare or obsolete. **L16**.  
[from **FLAP** *verb* + **DRAGON**.]  
► **A noun**. (A raisin etc. as caught and eaten in) the game of snapdragon. **L16**.  
► **B verb trans**. Swallow as one would a snapdragon. *rare* (Shakes.). Only in **E17**.

**flapjack** /'flɑpdʒɑk/ *noun*. **E17**.  
[from **FLAP** *verb* + **JACK** *noun*<sup>1</sup>.]  
**1** A flat cake or pancake; an apple turnover. **E17**.  
**2** A sweet biscuit made with rolled oats. **M20**.  
**3** A powder compact. **M20**.

**flapper** /'flɑps/ *noun*. **L16**.  
[from **FLAP** *verb* + *-ER*<sup>1</sup>.]  
**1** Something flat to strike with, esp. to make a noise; a fly-swatter. **L16**.  
**2** A person who flaps or strikes another, esp. to get his or her attention. Hence, a reminder. Now rare or obsolete. **E18**.  
**3** A newly fledged wild duck or partridge. Chiefly *dial.* **M18**.  
**4** Something hanging by one side or working on a hinge; esp. the striking part of a flail, a swingle. **L18**. ► **b** A fin or flipper; a crustacean's tail; (*slang*) the hand. Now rare. **M19**. ► **c** An irregular race meeting (cf. **FLAPPING** 2). *slang*. **E20**.  
**5** [Perh. from **FLAP** *noun* 7, or a *fig.* use of sense 3.] ► **†a** A young prostitute; an immoral young girl. *slang*. **L19**–**E20**.  
► **b** Orig., a young girl nearing maturity. Later, a young woman (esp. an unconventional or flighty one). *colloq.* **L19**.  
► **c** *spec.* A (fashionable) young woman of the nineteen-twenties and -thirties. *colloq.* **E20**.

Comb.: **flapper vote** (*derog.*, now *hist*) the parliamentary vote granted to women of 21 and over in 1928.  
■ **flapperdom**, **flapperhood** *nouns* the condition of being a flapper (sense 5b, c) **E20**. **flapperish** *adjective* characteristic of or like a flapper **E20**.

► **flappet** *noun*. **L16**–**E18**.  
[from **FLAP** *noun* + *-ET*<sup>1</sup>.]  
A little flap.