

LL. *Merovingi* descendant of *Meroveus*, Latinized name of a supposed early king of the Franks. Cf. *ING.*] Designating, or pertaining to, the first Frankish dynasty in Gaul or France, founded by Clovis I. about 500. It was succeeded in 752 by the Carolingian dynasty. — *Merovingian* script. See *German script*, under *GERMAN*, *n.*, 2.

Mer'o-vin'gi-an, *n.* One of the kings (or members) of the Merovingian dynasty; also, Merovingian script.

mer'ri-ly (mēr'ī-lī), *adv.* [From *MERRY*.] In a merry manner; esp., with mirth; gayly; joyously; jovially.

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

mer'ri-ment (-mēt), *n.* 1. A thing that causes mirth; a jest; specif., a short dramatic piece of such a kind; — also applied as a title to comic pamphlets or the like. *Obs.*

2. Act of merrymaking; gayety; mirth; hilarity; fun; frolic. "Follies and light merriment." *Spenser.*

3. Amusement; diversion. *Obs.* *Shak.*

mer'ry (mēr'ī), *a.*; **MER'RI-ER** (-ī-ēr); **MER'RI-EST**. [*ME. merie, mirie, murie, merry, pleasant, AS. myrge, myrige, pleasant; prob. akin to OHG. murg, short (in comp.), Goth. gamawurgjan to shorten; cf. L. murcus a coward, who cuts off his thumb to escape military service; the Anglo-Saxon and English meanings coming from the idea of making the time seem short. Cf. MIRTH.*] 1. Productive of pleasure, delight, or happiness; pleasant; agreeable; delightful; hence, of sounds, etc., sweet; sweet-sounding; of a wind, favorable; of taste or smell, savory; etc. *Archaic.*

The merry harp Ps. lxxxi. 2 (*Bk. of Com. Prayer*)

Merry wind and weather. *Spenser.*

2. Causing laughter or mirth; amusing; comical; funny; as, a merry jest. *Obs. or Archaic*, or merged in def. 3.

I had my good wit out of the "Hundred Merry Tales." *Shak.*

3. Laughingly gay; overflowing with good humor and good spirits; joyous; jovial; mirthful; hilarious; inclined to mirth, laughter, or play; sportive.

They drank, and were merry with him. *Gen* xliii. 34

I am never merry when I hear sweet music. *Shak.*

4. Hence, cheerful; happy. *Obs.*

Is any merry? let him sing psalms. *Jas.* v. 13.

5. Diverted; hence, facetious; jocular. *Obs. or Archaic.*

His lordship is but merry with me. *Shak.*

6. Given to, or marked by, gayety or festivity; as, I wish you a merry Christmas.

Syn. — Cheerful, blithe, lively, sprightly, vivacious, gleeful, joyous, mirthful, jocund, sportive. See *JOCULAR*.

Christ'mas (krīs'mās, n. [Christ + mass.] 1. An annual church festival, kept on December 25 in memory of the birth of Christ. It is celebrated generally by a particular church service, and by special gifts, greetings, and hospitality, and in most Christian communities is a legal holiday. Vaguely, the season about Christmas Day; Christmastide. 2. Something connected with the celebration of Christmas, as a gift.

3. Evergreens, as the European holly, used for decorations at Christmas. *Colloq., Eng.*

Christmas bells. The orange-colored flowers of the Gordon lily (*Blandfordia nobilis*). *Australia.*

Christmas berry. The fruit of the toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*); also, the shrub itself. See *TOYON*.

Christmas box. a A closed box with a slit for the reception of coins, in which money is deposited for a person or persons (as servants, formerly apprentices, begging friars, etc.) who are supposed to open it on Christmas. b A box into which gamblers put a part of their winnings, to be given away at Christmas. *Obs.* c A present or small gratuity given at Christmas, esp. to public servants, as letter carriers, policemen, etc. d A box of Christmas presents.

Christmas bush. a An Australian Cunoniaceae tree (*Ceratopetalum gunniferum*), often used in Christmas decorations; — called also *officer plant*, from its bright red appearance, and *Christmas tree*. b In Bermuda, a naturalized caesalpiniaceous shrub (*Cassia bicapsularis*) used for hedges.

Christmas creeper. Any creeping or trailing evergreen used in Christmas decorations.

Christmas daisy. An American aster (*Aster grandiflorus*) cultivated in England, where it blooms in autumn. *Eng.*

Christmas Day. December 25; Christmas.

Christmas Eve. The evening before Christmas Day.

Christmas fern. A North American evergreen polypodiaceous fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), the fronds of which are much used for decoration in winter.

Christmas rose. A European ranunculaceous plant (*Hel-leborus niger*), often cultivated for its handsome flowers, resembling single roses, produced in winter.

Christ'mas-tide (krīs'mās-tīd'), *n.* [Christ + tide time.] The season of Christmas.

Christmas tree. 1. A small evergreen tree, set up indoors, decorated with ornaments, bearing presents for distribution, and illuminated on Christmas Eve or Christmas night. 2. a In Australia, the Christmas bush. b In New Zealand, the pohutukawa.

Chris'to- (krīs'tā-) Combining form from Gr. Χριστός or