

# Glossary

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## H

**habit**, dress, appearance

**habitude**, temperament

**hackney**, prostitute

**haggard**, wild hawk

**haggle**, to hack, gash

**hag-seed**, child of a witch

**hai**, home-thrust in fencing

**hair**, kind, character

**halcyon**, kingfisher

**half**, partner

**half-blooded**, of noble blood by one parent only

**half-cheek**, profile

**half-cheeked**, with a piece missing or broken on one side

**half-face**, thin face

**half-faced**, showing half the face

**half-sword**, half a sword's length

**halidom**, holy relic

**Hallowmas**, All Saints' Day, 1 November

**handfast**, firm hold, marriage contract

**handy-dandy**, choose which you please (in a children's game)

**haply**, perhaps, by chance

**happiness**, handsomeness, appropriateness, opportunity

**hardiment**, bold exploit

**hardness**, difficult, hardship

**harlot**, man or woman of promiscuous life

**harlotry**, harlot, silly wench

**hatch**, engrave, inlay, lower half of a divided door

**hatchment**, memorial tablet with coat of arms

**hautboy**, wood-wind instrument, ancestor of the oboe

**havoc**, devastation; havoc, give the signal to an army to plunder

**hazard**, game at dice, chance, venture

**head**, headland, topic, army

**head borough**, parish officer

**heap**, crowd  
**heavy**, important, dull, sluggish, sleepy, grievous  
**hectic**, wasting fever  
**Hector**, Trojan hero  
**Hecuba**, Queen of Troy, wife of Priam and mother of Hector  
**hedge-pig**, hedgehog  
**Helen**, most beautiful woman of her world, wife of the Greek Menelaus, carried off to Troy by Paris  
**Helicon**, mountain of Greece sacred to the Muses  
**hemp-seed**, gallows-bird, one born (or deserving) to be hanged  
**Hercules**, as a baby strangled two serpents; performed twelve great labours, including the obtaining of the golden apples of the Hesperides and the overcoming of Cerberus, the three-headed dog of the underworld  
**Hero**, see leander  
**Hesperus**, the evening star  
**hest**, command  
**heyday**, excitement  
**high-lone**, quite alone, without support  
**high-proof**, in the highest degree  
**high-stomached**, haughty  
**hight**, called  
**hilding**, contemptible, good-for-nothing, baggage  
**him**, male (dog)  
**hint**, occasion, reason, opportunity  
**hipped**, lame in the hip  
**hit**, succeed, agree  
**hive**, hive-shaped hat  
**hoar**, grow mouldy  
**hobby-horse**, figure of a horse used in morris dances, etc., buffoon, prostitute  
**holding**, consistency, burden of a song  
**help**, helped  
**honest**, worthy, virtuous, chaste  
**honesty**, honour, decency, chastity  
**honour**, chastity  
**hoodman-blind**, blind man's buff  
**horn**, the mark of a cuckold  
**horn-book**, child's first reader  
**horn-mad**, ready to gore the enemy, enraged at being cuckolded  
**hose**, stockings, breeches

**host**, lodge

**hot-house**, brothel

**housekeeper**, householder, watch-dog, stay-at-home

**hox**, hamstring

**hoy**, a small vessel

**hugger-mugger**, secrecy

**hull**, float, drift with sails furled

**humorous**, moist, capricious, moody

**humour**, moisture; bodily fluid supposedly composed of blood, phlegm, choler, and melancholy, the proportions determining personal temperament; temperament, mood, whim, caprice, inclination

**Hungarian**, hungry, needy

**hunt's-up**, morning-song to arouse huntsmen

**hurricano**, waterspout

**hurry**, commotion, disorder

**husband**, one who keeps house; to farm, till

**husbandry**, management, thrift

**Hybla**, mountain in Sicily famous for fragrant flowers and honey

**Hydra**, many-headed snake whose heads grew again as they were cut off

**Hymen**, god of marriage

**Hyperion**, sun god