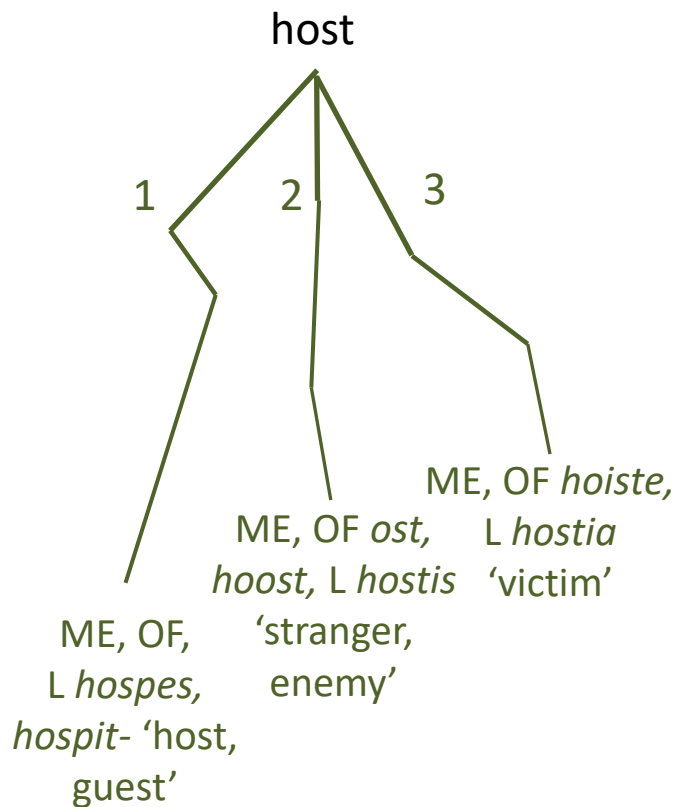


English homonyms

Words that are spelled and pronounced the same but have different meanings and different etymologies

Examples mostly from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_true_homonyms

Etymologies from <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/>



1. person who receives or entertains other people as guests; presenter of TV or radio programme; ... animal or plant on or in which a parasite or commensal* organism lives; recipient of transplant; computer which stores website or data accessible over a network

2. A large number of people or things; the angels collectively (heavenly host); sun, moon and stars (starry host of heaven)

3. consecrated bread in the Eucharist

* f. Latin commensalis, from com- 'sharing' + mensa 'a table'.

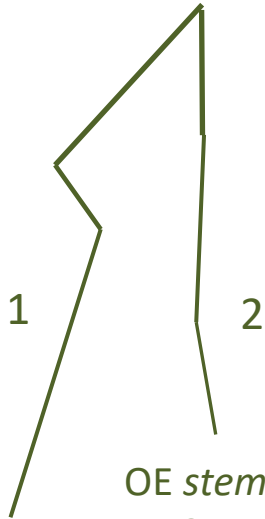
mine host (*joc.*) = landlord or landlady of a pub

a whole host of

1. main body or stalk of a plant or shrub; long, thin supportive or main section; tube of a tobacco pipe

2. stop or restrict the flow of; stop the spread or development of (something undesirable)

stem



1

2

OE *stemn*, *stefn*
Germanic

ME, ON *stemma*,
Germanic

1. main body or stalk of a plant or shrub; long, thin supportive or main section; tube of a tobacco pipe

2. stop or restrict the flow of; stop the spread or development of (something undesirable)

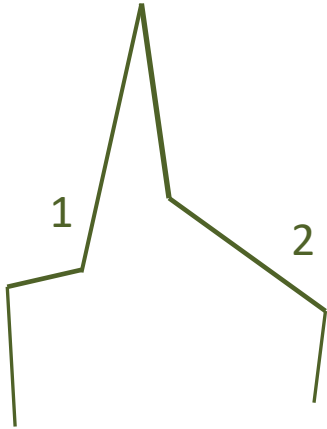
stem from = originate in, be caused by

stem the tide (e.g. of public opinion) = stop the course of a trend or tendency

1. main stem of herbaceous plant; slender attachment or support of leaf, flower or fruit

2. pursue or approach stealthily; harass with unwanted attention

stalk



ME dim. dial.
stale 'long
handle'

OE
bistealcian
'walk
cautiously or
stealthily', f.
Ger (cf. *steal*)

1. main stem of herbaceous plant; slender attachment or support of leaf, flower or fruit

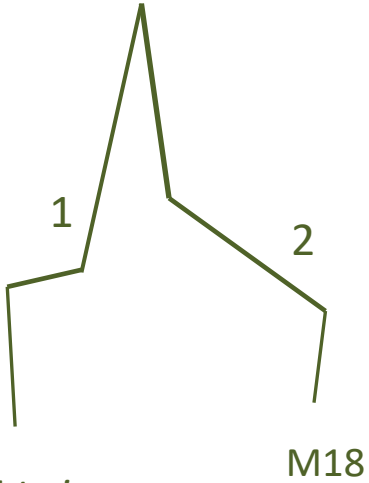
2. pursue or approach stealthily; harass with unwanted attention

to stalk out/off/... = stride somewhere in a proud, stiff, or angry manner

1. slender woody shoot growing from a branch or stem of a tree or shrub

2. (*informal*) understand or realize something

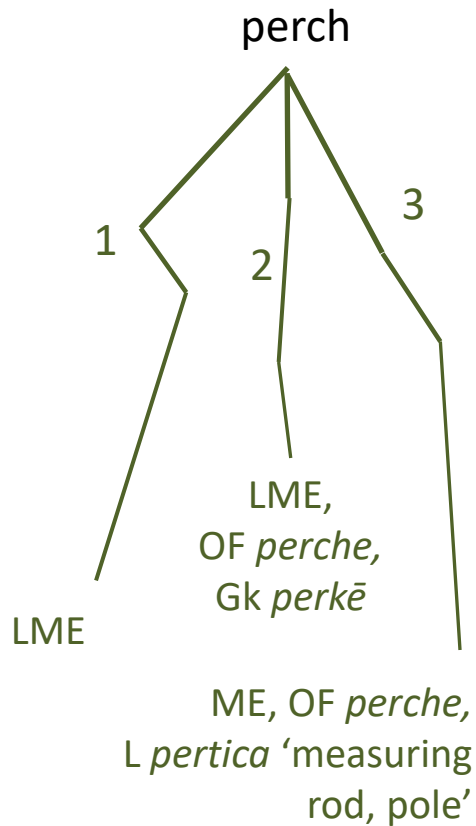
twig



1. slender woody shoot growing from a branch or stem of a tree or shrub

2. (*informal*) understand or realize something

1. on which a bird alights or roosts, typically a branch; a high or precarious place on which a person sits
2. edible freshwater fish with spiny dorsal fin and dark vertical bars on body
3. measure of length on land, equal to quarter of a chain (also called 'rod' or 'pole')



1. on which a bird alights or roosts, typically a branch; a high or precarious place on which a person sits

2. edible freshwater fish with spiny dorsal fin and dark vertical bars on body

3. measure of length on land, equal to quarter of a chain (also called 'rod' or 'pole')

knock someone off their perch = cause someone to lose position of superiority

1. Instrument for writing with ink

2. small enclosure in which farm animals kept; small enclosure in which someone or creature confined

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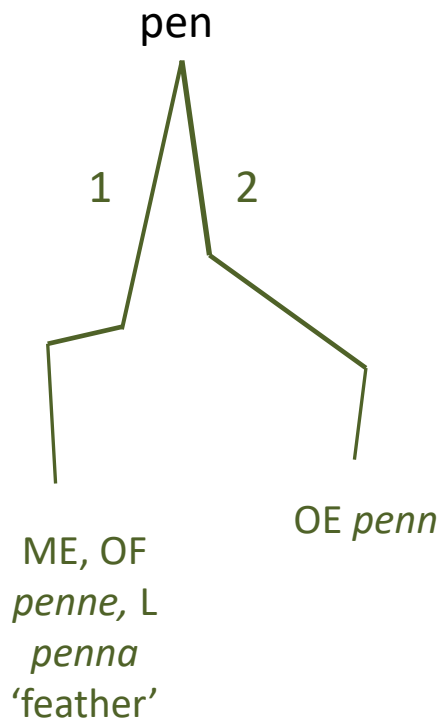
the pen = the occupation of writing

the pen is mightier than the sword

put (or set) pen to paper = begin to write something

pen someone up/in = confine someone in a restricted space

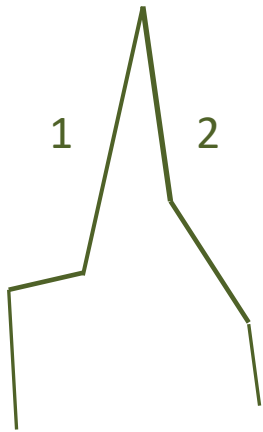
[cf. hem in = surround and restrict the space of movement (of someone/thing)]



1. footwear for rolling or gliding

2. large marine fish with flat diamond-shaped body

skate



1. footwear for rolling or gliding

2. large marine fish with flat diamond-shaped body

get your skates on = hurry up

skate over/round/around = pass over or refer to only fleetingly (a subject or problem)

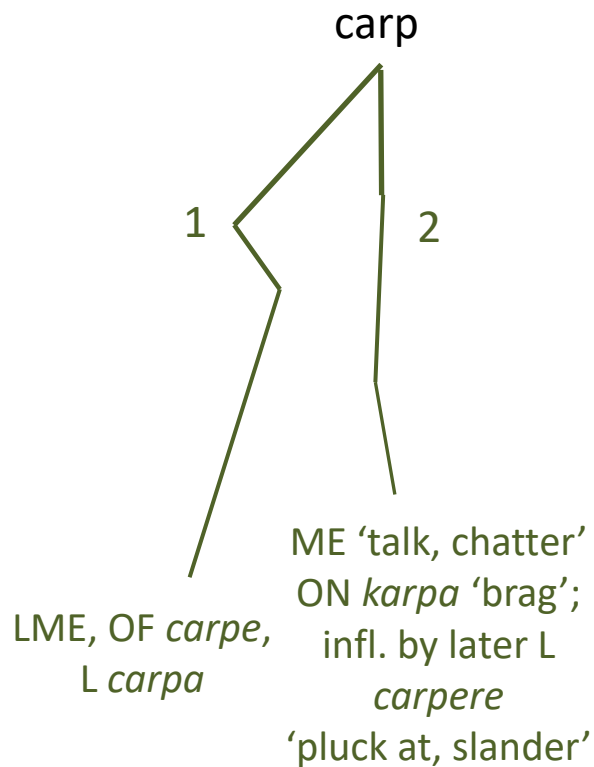
[cf. skirt along/around = go along or around rather than directly through or across it]

M17, Du
schaats,
OF *eschasse*
'stilt'

ON *skata*

1. deep-bodied freshwater fish, typically with barbels* around the mouth
2. complain or find fault continually about trivial matters

* fleshy filament f. Latin dim. of *barbus* 'barbel' f. *barba* 'beard'.



1. deep-bodied freshwater fish, typically with barbels* around the mouth

2. complain or find fault continually about trivial matters

Synonyms of carp include:

complain, cavil, grumble, moan, grouse, grouch, whine, bleat, quibble, niggle, nag

find fault with, criticize, pick on, censure, denounce, condemn, decry, disparage

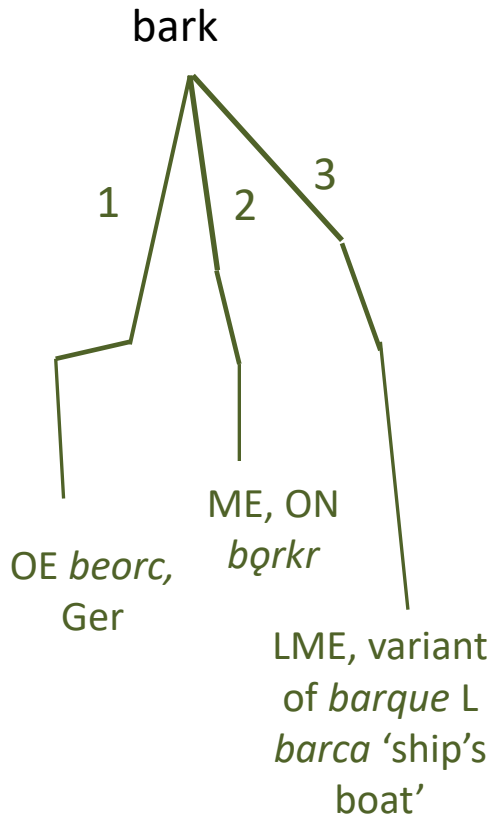
gripe, beef, bellyache, bitch, whinge, nitpick, pick holes, split hairs, sound off, kick up a fuss, knock

* fleshy filament f. Latin dim. of *barbus* 'barbel' f. *barba* 'beard'.

1. sharp explosive cry of a dog, fox, or seal

2. protective outer sheath of the trunk, branches, and twigs of a tree or woody shrub

3. a ship or boat



1. sharp explosive cry of a dog, fox, or seal

2. protective outer sheath of the trunk, branches, and twigs of a tree or woody shrub

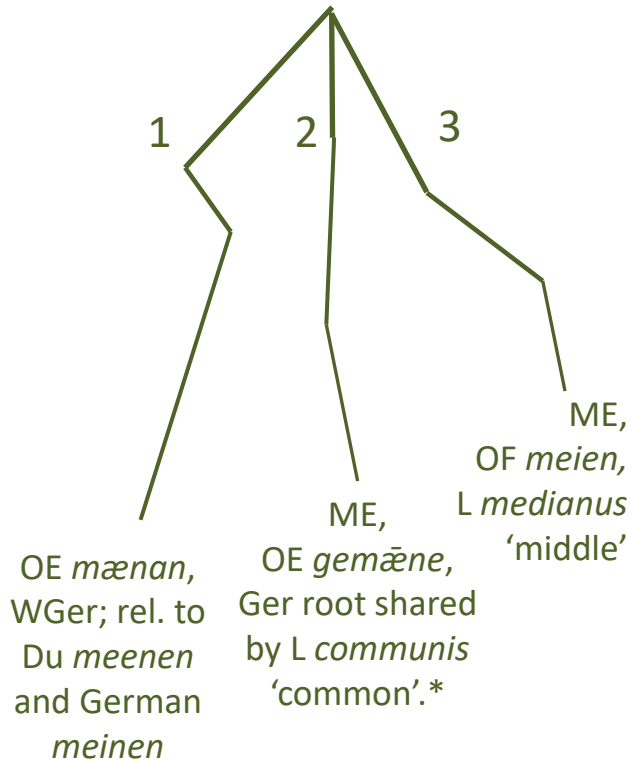
3. a ship or boat

someone's bark is worse than their bite = their fierce and intimidating manner does not reflect their true nature

be barking up the wrong tree = pursuing a mistaken or misguided line of thought or course of action

1. intend to convey or refer to (a particular thing); signify
intend to occur or be the case;
have as a consequence or result
2. unwilling to give or share things, especially money;
not generous; unkind, spiteful, or unfair; poor in quality
and appearance
3. value obtained by dividing the sum of several
quantities by their number; condition, quality, or course
of action equally removed from two opposite extremes

mean



1. intend to convey or refer to (a particular thing); signify
intend to occur or be the case;
have as a consequence or result

2. unwilling to give or share things, especially money;
not generous; unkind, spiteful, or unfair; poor in quality
and appearance

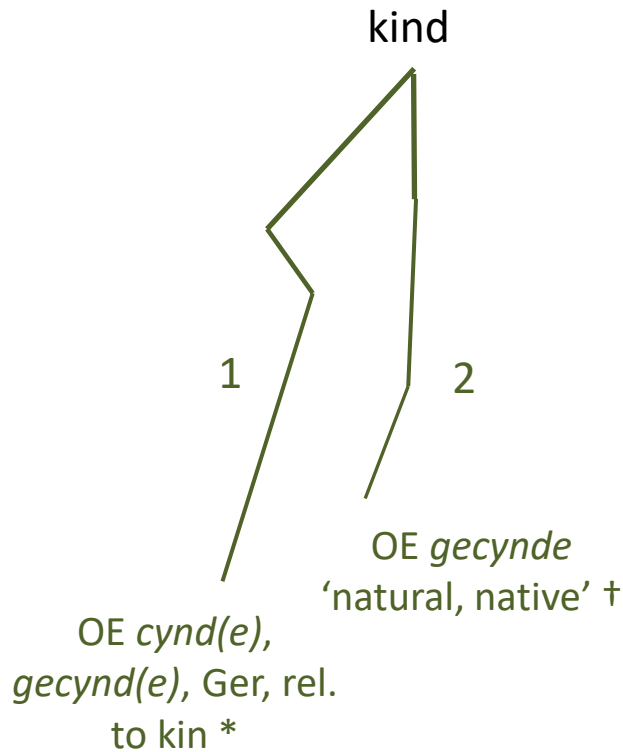
3. value obtained by dividing the sum of several
quantities by their number; condition, quality, or course
of action equally removed from two opposite extremes

mean well = have good intentions, but not always the
ability to carry them out

no mean (achievement etc.) = very good of its kind

* The original sense was 'common to two or more people', later 'inferior in rank', leading to mean (shabby) and a sense 'ignoble, small-minded', from which mean (ungenerous, unkind) arose.

1. group of people or things having similar characteristics; character or nature
2. having or showing a friendly, generous, and considerate nature



1. group of people or things having similar characteristics; character or nature
2. having or showing a friendly, generous, and considerate nature

in kind = in the same way; with something similar
 a kind of = something resembling
 kind of (*inf.*) = rather; to some extent
 one of a kind = unique
 of a kind = the same or very similar

kind to = gentle on

* Original sense was 'nature, the natural order', also 'innate character, form, or condition'; hence 'a class or race distinguished by innate characteristics'.

† In ME the earliest sense is 'well born or well bred', whence 'well disposed by nature, courteous, gentle, benevolent'.