

flane | flappet

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

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

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

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

flâneur /fla:œ: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 /flan(d)ʒ/ *noun & verb*. **L17**.
[Origin uncertain: rel. to **FLANCH** *noun*¹ & *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 /flaŋk/ *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**. ► **b** 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**.
► **b** **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 /flaŋk/ *verb*¹. **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 /flaŋk/ *verb*² *trans.* **M19**.
[imit.: cf. *flick*, *spank*.]
Flick; crack (a whip).

flanker /flaŋkə/ *noun & verb*. **M16**.
[from **FLANK** *verb*¹ + -ER¹.]
► **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 *flankeren* from French *flanquer* **FLANK** *verb*¹.]
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 /flan(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 /flan(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*¹.

flap /flap/ *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 J. STEINBECK Casy spread the tent flaps with his hands and stepped out. **cat-flap**: see **CAT** *noun*¹. **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 /flap/ *verb*. Infl. -pp-. **ME**.
[Prob. imit.: cf. **CLAP** *verb*¹.]
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 /flapdu:d(ə)l/ *noun*. *colloq.* Also ***flam-** /flam-/. **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 /flapdrag(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 /flapdʒak/ *noun*. **E17**.
[from **FLAP** *verb* + **JACK** *noun*¹.]
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 /flapə/ *noun*. **L16**.
[from **FLAP** *verb* + -ER¹.]
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* + -ET¹.]
A little flap.