

# Masonic Words & Phrases — Their Meanings

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1. Accepted Masons—In the early days before Speculative Masonry, members who did not necessarily make their livelihood in the building trades, were accepted in the guilds of Masons.
2. Accolade—Touching shoulders and head with a sword.
3. Advance—The onward movement of a candidate who goes from one degree to the next according to his proficiency in the preceding degree.
4. A.F. & A.M.—Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. There is no particular difference from F. & A.M.—Free and Accepted Masons. Some Grand Lodges use the first designation, others the second. This difference is traceable to the schism when there were two Grand Lodges in England — the "Ancient" and the "Moderns."
5. Affiliate—From the Latin "filius" meaning "son." One who has been adopted.
6. Allegory—Analogy or comparison; a story told to illustrate a principle.
7. Allocution—An address of the presiding officer.
8. All-seeing Eye—An emblem reminding us that we are constantly in God's presence.
9. The Almond Tree Shall Flourish—Signifies old age when the hair turns white.
10. Almoner—The dispenser of alms or charity.
11. Alpha & Omega—First and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The beginning and end of things.
12. Amaranth—A plant; the Greek name means "never withering" hence, immortality.
13. Amen—From the Hebrew meaning "verily, truly, certainly." One person confirms the words of another, Masonically, answered by — so mote it be.
14. Anchor and Ark—That sense of security and stability when our lives are grounded in truth and faith.
15. Ancient Craft Masonry—the three symbolic degrees of E. A., F. C. and M. M.
16. Ancient Landmarks—Fundamental Laws, principles and teachings.
17. Ancient Mysteries—Secret societies among Egyptians, Greeks and Persians.
18. Androgynous—Derived from two Greek words meaning "a man and a woman." Applied to those degrees conferred to both men and women.
19. Anno Lucis (A.L.)—Latin word meaning "In the year of Light," the date used by Ancient Craft Masonry. (Add 4,000 to current date)
20. Antediluvian Freemasonry—One of the traditions that Masonry existed before the "flood."

(To be continued)