

maze, *v.*

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Brit. /meɪz/, *U.S.* /meɪz/ Forms: ME **mayze**, ME-15 (18- *Eng. regional (west.)*) **mase**, ME- **maze**, 15 **mayse**, 16 **meaze**; Sc. pre-17 **maise**, pre-17 **mayse**, pre-17 **mease**, 18- **maze**. [Probably aphetic < **AMAZE** *v.*: see discussion s.v. **MAZE** *n.*¹ Compare slightly earlier **MAZED** *adj.* and **MAZEDLY** *adv.*]

†1. intr. To be delirious or bewildered; to be distraught; to be unsettled or incoherent in one's mind. *Obs.*
In quot. 1602 *app.*: to gaze in amazement *at*.

1375 *William of Palerne* 438 A fers feintise folwes me & takes me so tenefully..þat i mase al marred. **1395** **CHAUCER** *Merchant's Tale* 2387 Ye maze, maze, goode sire..This thank haue I for I haue maad yow se. **1450** **C. D'ORLEANS** *Poems* (1941) 148 Crewelle deth hath fro me raught..my lady..What shuld y do but mase in hevynes. **1568** **R. ASCHAM** *Scholemaster* (1570) ii. f. 67, All men may stand still to mase and muse vpon it. **1602** **W. BASSE** *Three Pastoral Elegies* ii, in *Poet. Wks.* (1893) 56 Mine earnest eies..wonder at another grace That in hir necke and bosome was to view..And while to maze at that I had desier, Contentles sight woo'd still be gasing hier.

2. trans. To stupefy or daze; to befuddle; †to render crazed, distraught, or alarmed (*obs.*). *Usu. in pass.* Now chiefly *arch.* and *regional (Brit. and Newfoundland)*.

1390 **CHAUCER** *Man of Law's Tale* 526 She was so mazed in the see That she forgat hir mynde. **1400** *Psalter* (Vesp.) lxxvii. 71 in *C. Horstmann Yorkshire Writers* (1896) II. 212 And wakened es lauerd als slepand, Als mased [L. *crapulatus*] of wine mightand. **1425** (1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Galba) 27891 Be a man neuer so wise..And he be tane in dronkinhede, All his wittes..Er turned into ful simple state..Whare he by reson sold be rad, So es his minde mased and mad. **1450** in *R. Morris Legends Holy Rood* (1871) 216 Oure lady..lay still doted and dased, As a womman mappd and mased. **1450** (1375) **CHAUCER** *Anelida & Arcite* 322 My wit is al awaye..For now I pleyne, and now I pleye, I am so mased that I deye. **1530** **J. PALSGRAVE** *Lesclarcissement* 633/2 You mased the boye so sore with beatyng that he coude nat speake a worde. **1540** (?1400) *Gest Historiale Destr. Troy* 13280 Folis..þat heron the melody [of the Sirens], so mekill are masit in hert, Lettyn sailis doun slyde. **1563** **B. GOOGE** *Eglogs* sig. Fvii^v, Gorgon..Who with her Beautie mazed men, And nowe doth raygne in Hell. **1591** *Troublesome Raigne Iohn* II. sig. B2, I am mad indeed, My hart is mazed, my senses all foredone. **1612** **B. JONSON** *Alchemist* v. v. sig. M3, Finding This tumult 'bout my dore (to tell you true) It somewhat mazed me. **1658** **T. MANTON** *Pract. Comm. Jude* 16 in *Wks.* (1871) V. 318 This is the devil's device, first to maze people, as birds are with a light and a bell in the night, and then to drive them into the net. **1716** **B. CHURCH** *Philip's War* I. 5 The Pilot yet sat his Horse, tho' so maz'd with the Shot, as not to have sense to guide him. **1725** **R. BRADLEY** *Chomel's Dict. æcon.* at *Milk*, Neither should the Milk-maid..affright the Cow or maze her. **1820** **SCOTT** *Abbot* II. iv. 117 'The lad is mazed!' said the falconer to himself. **1855** **A. MANNING** *Old Chelsea Bun-house* xiv. 232 My head was mazed with my journey. **1863** **E. C. GASKELL** *Sylvia's Lovers* III. 100, If I could but think; but it's my head as is aching so; doctor, I wish yo'd go, for I need being alone, I'm so mazed. **1870** **W. MORRIS** *Earthy Paradise* III. iv. 295 Then said the King, 'The man is mazed with fear'. **1930** **R. CAMPBELL** *Adamastor* 24 Geographers, who say the world's a sphere, Are either ignorant, or mazed with beer. **1956** **B. CHUTE** *Greenwillow* xvii. 197, I was upside down in a spinney bush, and the light mazed me. **1971** in *Dict. Newfoundland Eng.* (1982) 326/1 She often told us to stop rompsin' and roarin'. She would tell us, 'You got me head mazed.'

3. trans. To bewilder, perplex, confuse; to cause (a person) to wander in mind. *Usu. in pass.* (also *refl.*). Now *rare*. *Perh. Obs.*

1482 **CAXTON** *Trevisa's Higden* i. xxx. f. 40^v, Who that gooth in to that hows [sc. a labyrinth] & wolde come out agayn..shal be so mased that out can he not goo. **1532** (1475) *Assembly of Ladies* 38 in *W. W. Skeat Chaucerian & Other Pieces* (1897) 381 Other ther were, so mased in her mind, Al wayes [of a maze] were good for hem, bothe eest and west. **1627** **W. SCLATER** *Briefe Expos. 2 Thess.* 73 We maze our selues sometimes in following Schoolemen. **1765** **JOHNSON** *Pref. to Shakespear's Plays* p. xii, He who has mazed his imagination, in following the phantoms which other writers raise up before him, may here be cured of his delirious exstasies. **1844** **A. W. KINGLAKE** *Eothen* xvi. 218 A Protestant..finds himself a good deal 'mazed' when he first looks for the sacred sites. **1868** **J. E. T. ROGERS** *Man. Polit. Econ.* *Pref.* p. v, The historian who is ignorant of the interpretations of political economy is constantly mazed in a medley of unconnected and unintelligible facts.

4. intr. To move in a winding course; to wander as if in a maze. Also (*occas.*) *trans.* with *it*. Now *rare*.

1605 **J. SYLVESTER** *tr. G. de S. Du Bartas Deuine Weekes & Wks.* I. iii. 78 Like as moulted Lead being powred forth Vpon a leuell plot of sand or earth, In many fashions mazeth too and fro. **1750** **J. LANGHORNE** *Poems* 44 Thus silver Wharf..Still, melancholy-mazing, seems to mourn. **1766** **H. BROOKE** *Fool of Quality* II. xi. 179 Walter led his..patron through this field and that field;..till, having mazed it and circled it for..three hours, he finally conducted the serjeant to the very gate at which he had first entered. **1865** **T. CARLYLE** *Hist. Friedrich II of Prussia* V. XIX. i. 411 They struck their tents everywhere;..and only went mazing hither and thither. **1874** *Overland Monthly* May 398 The approach of the long Summer which terminated the glacial epoch, found it [sc. the great south Lyell glacier] still mazing and swedging compliantly among the strong unflinching bosses.

5. trans. To give a labyrinthine structure to; to form into a maze or maze-like structure. Now *usu. in pass.*

1606 **J. SYLVESTER** *tr. G. de S. Du Bartas Deuine Weekes & Wks.* (new ed.) II. iv. 29 Meander-like..Thou runn'st to meet thy Self's pure streams behind thee, Mazing the Meads where thou dost turn & winde-thee. **1654** **R. WHITLOCK** *Завороженъ* To Author A iv, Some maze their Thoughts in Labyrinths, and thus Invoke no Reader, but an Oedipus. **1874** *Appletons' Jrnal.* 4 July 22 They will cultivate the land by manual labor, instead of 'huzzing and mazing the blessed fields with the devil's own team'. **1990** **R. RHODES** *Hole in*

World II. v. 141 A big trolley barn mazed with overhead lines and tracks. 1994 Malahat Rev. Spring 10 Each region is mazed with hedges.
