maze, v.

Brit. /me�/; U.S. /meɪ/; Forms: ME mayze, ME-15 (Eng. regional (west.)) mase, ME- mase, 15 mayse, 16 masez; Sc. pre-17 maise, pre-17 mayse, pre-17 mase, 18- mase.

[Probably aphetic < AMAZE v. see discussion s.v. MAZE n. Compare slightly earlier MAZED adj. and MAZEDLY adv.]

11. 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.

1a175 William of Palerne 438 A fers feintise folwes me & takes me so teneffuly...iat i mase al marred. 

c1390 CHAUCER Man of Law's Tale 526 She was so mazed in the see That she forgot hir mynde.

c1450 POULTER (Vesp.) xcvii. 71 in C. Horstmann Yorkshire Writers (1896) II. 212 And wakened es lauerd als a lepand, Als mased [L. crapulatus] of wine mightand.

a1375 CHAUCER Merchant's Tale 2387 Ye maze, goode sire...This thank haue I for I haue maad yow se.

c1430 C. D'ORELLES Poems (1941) 148 Crewelie deth hath fro me raught...my lady...What shuld y do but mase in hevynes.

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).

c1390 CHAUCER Man of Law's Tale 526 She was so mazed in the see That she forgot hir mynde.

1820 SCOTT Abbób II. iv. 117 'The lad is mazed!' said the falconer to himself.

1716 B. JONES Alchemist v. v. sig. M3, Finding This tumult 'bout my dore (to tell you true) It somewhat mazd

1540 GEST HISTORIALE Destr. Troy 35280 Fols.'I hart heron the melody [of the Sirens], so mekill are masit in hert, Lettyn sailis doun slyde.

1532 C. HORSTMANN Cursor Mundi i. 411 'The lad is mazed!' said the falconer to himself.

1450 CHAUCER Anelida & Arcite 322 My wit is al awaye...For now I pleyne, and now I pleye, I am so mazed that I deye.

1375 CHAUCER Deuine Weekes & Wks. iv. 29 'The lad is mazed!' said the falconer to himself.

1766 ASKELL Pract. Comm. Jude xvi. 218 This is the devil's device, first to maze people, as birds are with a

4. trans. To bewilder, perplex, confuse; to cause (a person) to wander in mind. Usu. in pass. Now arch.

1482 Annan's Trevis's Hygen t. xxx. f. 40', Who that gooth in to that hows [sc. a labyrinth] & wolde come out agayn...shol be so mazed that out can he not goo. 

1532 (a1475) Assembly of Ladies 38 in W. W. Skeat Chaucerian & Other Pieces (1897) 381 Other ther were, so mazed in her mind, Al wayes [of a mase] were good for hem, both east and west.

1627 W. SCALTER Briefe Expos. 2 Thess. 73 We maze our selues sometimes in following Schoolemen. 1765 JOHNSON Pref. to Shakespeare'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 extasies.

1874 A. W. KINGLAKE Erotes vii. 218 A Protestant...finds himself a good deal 'mazed' when he first looks for the sacred sites.

1868 J. L. ROGERS Mon. Polit. Econ. Pref. p. v. The historian who is ignorant of the interpretations of economic policy is constantly mazed in a medley of unconnected and unintelligible facts.

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

1605 J. STEVELTER tr. G. de S. Du Bartas Deuise Weekes & Wks. i. iii. 78 Like as moulten Lead being powerd forth Vpon a leuell plot of sand or earth. In many fashions mazeth too and fro. 

1755 J. LINDHORNE Poems 44 Thus silver Wharf...Still, melancholy-mazing, seems to mourn. 

1766 J. BROOKE Fool of Quality II. i. 179 Walter led his...patron through this field and that field...ill, having mazed it and circled it for...three hours, he finally conducted the seargent to the very gate at which he had first entered.

1865 T. CARLYLE Hist. Friedrich II of Prussia V. xix. 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, find it [sc. the great south Lyell glacier] still mazing and swedging compliantly among the strong unfinishing bosses.

1606 J. STEVELTER tr. G. de S. Du Bartas Deuise Weekes & Wks. (new ed.) ii. iv. 29 Meander-like...Thou runnt to meet thy Self's pure streams behind thee, Mazing the Meadows where thou dost turn & winde-thee.

1854 R. WHITLOCK To Author A iv. Some maze their Thoughts in Labyrinths, and thus Invoke no Reader, but an Oedipus.
A big trolley barn mazed with overhead lines and tracks. Each region is mazed with hedges.