

maze, *v.*

DRAFT REVISION Sept. 2010

*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.*<sup>1</sup> 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 (a1325) **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 (c1375) **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 coulde nat speake a worde. ‡1540 (?a1400) *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<sup>v</sup>, 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<sup>v</sup>, 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 (a1475) *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** *Ζωοτρομας* To Author A iv, Some maze their Thoughts in Labyrinths, and thus Invoke no Reader, but an Oedipus. 1874 *Appletons' Jnl.* 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.*

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