

PRONOUNCED, *pp.* Spoken; uttered; declared solemnly.

PRONOUNCER, *n.* One who utters or declares.

PRONOUNCING, *ppr.* Speaking; uttering; declaring.

2. *a.* Teaching pronunciation.

PRONUNCIATION, *n.* [Fr. *prononciation*, from *L. pronuntiatio*.]

1. The act of uttering with articulation; utterance; as the *pronunciation* of syllables or words; distinct or indistinct *pronunciation*.

2. The mode of uttering words or sentences; particularly, the art or manner of uttering a discourse publicly with propriety and gracefulness; now called *delivery*.

J. Q. Adams.

PRONUNCIATIVE, *a.* Uttering confidently; dogmatical.

Bacon.

PROOF, *n.* [Sax. *proftan*, to prove; Sw. *prof*, proof; Dan. *prøve*; D. *proef*; G. *probe*; W. *prawe*; Fr. *preuve*; It. *prova*; Sp. *prueba*; Russ. *proba*. See *Prove*.]

1. Trial; essay; experiment; any effort, process or operation that ascertains truth or fact. Thus the quality of spirit is ascertained by *proof*; the strength of gunpowder, of fire arms and of cannon is determined by *proof*; the correctness of operations in arithmetic is ascertained by *proof*.

2. In *law* and *logic*, that degree of evidence which convinces the mind of the certainty of truth or fact, and produces belief. *Proof* is derived from personal knowledge, or from the testimony of others, or from conclusive reasoning. *Proof* differs from *demonstration*, which is applicable only to those truths of which the contrary is inconceivable.

This has neither evidence of truth, nor *proof* sufficient to give it warrant.

Hooker.

3. Firmness or hardness that resists impression, or yields not to force; impenetrability of physical bodies; as a wall that is of *proof* against shot.

See arms of *proof*.

Dryden.

4. Firmness of mind; stability not to be shaken; as a mind or virtue that is *proof* against the arts of seduction and the assaults of temptation.

5. The *proof of spirits* consists in little bubbles which appear on the top of the liquor after agitation, called the *bead*, and by the French, *chapelet*. Hence,

6. The degree of strength in spirit: as high *proof*; first *proof*; second, third or fourth *proof*.

7. In *printing* and *engraving*, a rough impression of a sheet, taken for correction: plur. *proofs*, not *proves*.

8. Armor sufficiently firm to resist impression. [Not used.]

Shak.

Proof is used elliptically for *of proof*.

I have found thee

Proof against all temptation.

Milton.

It is sometimes followed by *to*, more generally by *against*.

PROOFLESS, *a.* Wanting sufficient evidence to induce belief; not proved.

Boyle.

PROP, *v. t.* [D. Dan. *prop*, a stopple, Sw. *propp*; G. *pfropf*, id.; D. *proppen*; G. *pfropfen*, to stuff or thrust; Dan. *prop-*

per. These are probably the same word differently applied.]

1. To support or prevent from falling by placing something under or against; as, to *prop* a fence or an old building.

2. To support by standing under or against. Till the bright mountains *prop* th' incumbent sky.

Pope.

3. To support; to sustain: in a general sense; as, to *prop* a declining state.

I *prop* myself upon the few supports that are left me.

Pope.

PROP, *n.* That which sustains an incumbent weight; that on which any thing rests for support; a support; a stay; as a *prop* for vines; a *prop* for an old building. An affectionate child is the *prop* of declining age.

PROPAGABLE, *a.* [See *Propagate*.] That may be continued or multiplied by natural generation or production; applied to animals and vegetables.

2. That may be spread or extended by any means, as tenets, doctrines or principles.

PROPAGANDISM, *n.* [See *Propagate*.] The art or practice of propagating tenets or principles.

Dwight.

PROPAGANDIST, *n.* A person who devotes himself to the spread of any system of principles.

Bonaparte selected a body to compose his Sanhedrim of political propagandists.

Walsh.

PROPAGATE, *v. t.* [L. *propago*; It. *propagare*; G. *pfropf*, a stopple; *pfropfen*, to thrust, also to graft. See *Prop*. The Latin noun *propago*, is the English *prop*, and the termination *ago*, as in *cartilago*, &c. The sense of the noun is that which is set or thrust in.]

1. To continue or multiply the kind by generation or successive production; applied to animals and plants: as, to *propagate* a breed of horses or sheep; to *propagate* any species of fruit tree.

2. To spread; to extend; to impel or continue forward in space; as, to *propagate* sound or light.

3. To spread from person to person; to extend; to give birth to, or originate and spread; as, to *propagate* a story or report.

4. To carry from place to place; to extend by planting and establishing in places before destitute; as, to *propagate* the christian religion.

5. To extend; to increase.

Griefs of my own lie heavy in my breast,

Which thou wilt *propagate*.

Shak.

6. To generate; to produce.

Superstitious notions, *propagated* in fancy, are hardly ever totally eradicated.

Richardson.

PROPAGATE, *v. i.* To have young or issue; to be produced or multiplied by generation, or by new shoots or plants. Wild horses *propagate* in the forests of S. America.

PROPAGATED, *pp.* Continued or multiplied by generation or production of the same kind; spread; extended.

PROPAGATING, *ppr.* Continuing or multiplying the kind by generation or production; spreading and establishing.

PROPAGATION, *n.* [Fr. from *L. propagatio*.]

1. The act of propagating; the continuance or multiplication of the kind by genera-

tion or successive production; as the *propagation* of animals or plants.

There is not in nature any spontaneous generation, but all come by *propagation*.

Ray.

2. The spreading or extension of any thing; as the *propagation* of sound or of reports.

3. The spreading of any thing by planting and establishing in places before destitute; as the *propagation* of the gospel among pagans.

4. A forwarding or promotion.

PROPAGATOR, *n.* One that continues or multiplies his own species by generation.

2. One that continues or multiplies any species of animals or plants.

3. One that spreads or causes to circulate, as a report.

4. One that plants and establishes in a country destitute; as a *propagator* of the gospel.

5. One that plants, originates or extends; one that promotes.

PROPEL, *v. t.* [L. *propello*; *pro*, forward, and *pello*, to drive.]

To drive forward: to urge or press onward by force. The wind or steam *propels* ships; balls are *propelled* by the force of gunpowder; mill wheels are *propelled* by water or steam; the blood is *propelled* through the arteries and veins by the action of the heart. [This word is commonly applied to material bodies.]

PROPELLED, *pp.* Driven forward.

PROPELLING, *ppr.* Driving forward.

PROPENSIVE, *v. i.* [L. *propendeo*; *pro*, forward, and *pendeo*, to hang.]

To lean towards; to incline; to be disposed in favor of any thing. [Little used.]

Shak.

PROPENSITY, *n.* [L. *propendens*.] A leaning towards; inclination; tendency of desire to any thing.

2. Preconsideration; attentive deliberation. [Little used.]

Hale.

PROPENDING, *ppr.* Inclining towards.

PROPENSE, *a.* *propens'*. [L. *propensus*.] Leaning towards, in a moral sense; inclined; disposed, either to good or evil; as women *propense* to holiness.

Hooker.

PROPENSION, { *n.* [Fr. *propension*; L. *propensio*.]

1. Bent of mind, natural or acquired; inclination; in a moral sense; disposition to any thing good or evil, particularly to evil; as a *propensity* to sin; the corrupt *propensity* of the will.

Rogers.

It requires critical nicety to find out the genius or *propensions* of a child.

L'Estrange.

2. Natural tendency; as the *propension* of bodies to a particular place.

Digby.

[In a moral sense, *propensity* is now chiefly used.]

PROPER, *a.* [Fr. *propre*; It. *proprio* or *proprio*; Sp. *propio*; L. *proprius*, supposed to be allied to *prope*, near; W. *priced*, proper, appropriate.]

1. Peculiar; naturally or essentially belonging to a person or thing; not common. That is not *proper*, which is common to many. Every animal has his *proper* instincts and inclinations, appetites and habits. Every muscle and vessel of the body has its *proper* office. Every art has its *proper* rules. Creation is the *proper* work of an Almighty Being.