

PRIESTLIKE, *a.* Resembling a priest, or that which belongs to priests. *Shak.*

PRIESTLINESS, *n.* The appearance and manner of a priest.

PRIESTLY, *a.* Pertaining to a priest or to priests; sacerdotal; as the *priestly* office.

2. Becoming a priest; as *priestly* sobriety and purity of life.

PRIESTRIDDEN, *a.* [*priest* and *ridden*. See *Ride*.] Managed or governed by priests. *Swift.*

PRIEVE, for *prove*. *Spenser.*

PRIG, *n.* [*G. frech*, bold, saucy, impudent.] 1. A pert, conceited, saucy, pragmatical fellow. *Addison. Swift.*

2. A thief.

PRIG, *v. i.* To haggle about the price of a commodity. *Obs. Ramsay's Poems.*

PRIG, *v. t.* To filch or steal.

PRILL, *n.* A birt or turbot. *Ainsworth.*

PRIM, *a.* [*Russ. primo* or *priamo*, in a right line, directly; *priamei*, straight, direct, true, just. See *Prime*.]

Properly, straight; erect; hence, formal; precise; affectedly nice. *Swift.*

PRIM, *v. t.* To deck with great nicety; to form with affected preciseness.

PRIMACY, *n.* [*It. primazia*; *Fr. primatie*; *Sp. primacia*; from *L. primatus*, from *primus*, first. See *Prime*.]

1. The chief ecclesiastical station or dignity; the office or dignity of an archbishop. *Clarndon.*

2. Excellency; supremacy. *Barrow.*

PRIMAGE, *n.* In commerce, a small duty payable to the master and mariners of a ship. *Encyc.*

PRIMAL, *a.* [See *Prime*.] First. [*Not in use.*] *Shak.*

PRIMARILY, *adv.* [from *primury*.] In the first place; originally; in the first intention. The word emperor *primarily* signifies a general or military commander in chief. In diseases, the physician is to attend to the part *primarily* affected.

PRIMARINESS, *n.* The state of being first in time, in act or intention. *Norris.*

PRIMARY, *a.* [*L. primarius*. See *Prime*.]

1. First in order of time; original; as the church of Christ in its *primary* institution. *Pearson.*

These I call original or *primary* qualities of body. *Locke.*

2. First in dignity or importance; chief; principal. Our ancestors considered the education of youth of *primary* importance.

3. Elemental; intended to teach youth the first rudiments; as *primary* schools.

4. Radical; original; as the *primary* sense of a word.

Primary planets, are those which revolve about the sun, in distinction from the *secondary planets*, which revolve about the primary.

Primary qualities of bodies, are such as are original and inseparable from them.

PRIMATE, *n.* [*It. primato*; *Fr. primate*; *Low L. primas*. See *Prime*.]

The chief ecclesiastic in the church; an archbishop. *Encyc. Swift.*

PRIMATESHIP, *n.* The office or dignity of an archbishop.

PRIMATE, *a.* Pertaining to a primate. *D'Anville, Trans.*

PRIMATE, *a.* Pertaining to a primate. *Barrow.*

PRIME, *a.* [*L. primus*; *Sax. Goth. frum*, beginning, origin; *Goth. frumist*, first; *Dan. frem*, forward, straight on; *fremmer*, to forward or promote; *Sw. fram, främja*; *W. priv*, first; *priviau*, to grow up, to increase, to prosper; *Ir. priomh*, first, and *reamain*, beginning. See *Class Rm. No. 3. 7. 9.*]

1. First in order of time; original; as *prime* fathers; *prime* creation. *Shak.*

In this sense, the use of the word is nearly superseded by *primitive*, except in the phrase, *prime cost*.

2. First in rank, degree or dignity; as *prime* minister.

3. First in excellence; as *prime* wheat; cloth of a *prime* quality. Humility and resignation are *prime* virtues. *Dryden.*

4. Early; blooming.

His starry helm unbuckl'd, showed him *prime* In manhood, where youth ended. *Milton*

5. First in value or importance. *Prime number*, in arithmetic, a number which is divisible only by unity, as 5. 7. 11. *Encyc.*

Prime figure, in geometry, a figure which cannot be divided into any other figure more simple than itself, as a triangle, a pyramid, &c.

PRIME, *n.* The first opening of day; the dawn; the morning.

Early and late it rung, at evening and at *prime*. *Spenser.*

The sweet hour of *prime*. *Milton.*

2. The beginning; the early days. In the very *prime* of the world. *Hooker.*

3. The spring of the year. Hope waits upon the flowery *prime*. *Walter.*

4. The spring of life; youth; hence, full health, strength or beauty. That crop the golden *prime* of this sweet *prime*. *Shak.*

The *prime* of youth. *Dryden.*

5. The best part. Give him always of the *prime*. *Swift.*

6. The utmost perfection. The plants—would have been all in *prime*. *Woodward.*

7. In the *Romish church*, the first canonical hour, succeeding to lands. *Encyc.*

8. In *fencing*, the first of the chief guards. *Encyc.*

9. In *chemistry*, *primes* are numbers employed, in conformity with the doctrine of definite proportions, to express the ratios in which bodies enter into combination. *Primes* duly arranged in a table, constitute a scale of chemical equivalents. They also express the ratios of the weights of atoms, according to the atomic theory.

Prime of the moon, the new moon, when it first appears after the change. *Encyc.*

Prime vertical, the vertical circle which passes through the poles of the meridian, or the east and west points of the horizon.

Dials projected on the plane of this circle, are called *prime vertical* or north and south dials. *Encyc.*

PRIME, *v. t.* To put powder in the pan of a musket or other fire-arm; or to lay a train of powder for communicating fire to a charge. *Encyc.*

2. To lay on the first color in painting. *Encyc.*

PRIME, *v. i.* To serve for the charge of a gun. *Beaumont.*

PRIMED, *pp.* Having powder in the pan; having the first color in painting.

PRIMELY, *adv.* At first; originally; primarily. *South.*

2. Most excellently.

PRIMENESS, *n.* The state of being first.

2. Supreme excellence. [*Little used in either sense.*]

PRIMER, *n.* First; original. [*Not in use.*] *Drayton.*

PRIMER, *n.* A small prayer book for church service, or an office of the virgin Mary.

2. A small elementary book for teaching children to read.

PRIMER-FINE, *n.* In *England*, a fine due to the king on the writ or commencement of a suit by fine. *Blackstone.*

PRIMEIRO, *n.* A game at cards. [*Sp.*]

PRIMER-SEIZIN, *n.* [*prime* and *seizin*.] In *feudal law*, the right of the king, when a tenant *in capite* died seized of a knight's fee, to receive of the heir, if of full age, one year's profits of the land if in possession, and half a year's profits if the land was in reversion expectant on an estate for life; abolished by 12 Car. 2. *Encyc.*

PRIMEVAL, *a.* [*L. primus*, first, and *ævum*, age; *primævus*.]

Original; primitive; as the *primeval* innocence of man; *primeval* day. *Blackmore.*

PRIMEVOUS, *a.* Primeval.

PRIMIGENIAL, *a.* [*L. primigenius*; *primus*, first, and *genus*, kind, or *gignor*, to beget.] First born; original; primary. *Bp. Hall.*

PRIMIGENOUS, *a.* [*supra*.] First formed or generated; original; as *semi-primigenous* strata. *Kirwan.*

PRIMING, *ppr.* Putting powder in the pan of a fire-arm.

2. Laying on the first color.

PRIMING, *n.* The powder in the pan of a gun, or laid along the channel of a cannon for conveying fire to the charge.

2. Among *painters*, the first color laid on canvas or on a building, &c.

PRIMING-WIRE, *n.* A pointed wire, used to penetrate the vent of a piece, for examining the powder of the charge or for piercing the cartridge. *Encyc.*

PRIMPILAR, *a.* [*L. primipilus*, the centurion of the first cohort of a Roman legion.] Pertaining to the captain of the vanguard. *Barrow.*

PRIMIPILAR, *a.* Being of the first production. *Ainsworth.*

PRIMITIVE, *a.* [*It. primitivo*; *Fr. primitif*; *L. primitivus*; from *primus*, first.]

1. Pertaining to the beginning or origin; original; first; as the *primitive* state of Adam; *primitive* innocence; *primitive* ages; the *primitive* church; the *primitive* christian church or institutions; the *primitive* fathers. *White. Tillotson.*

2. Formal; affectedly solemn; imitating the supposed gravity of old times. *Johnson.*

3. Original; primary; radical; not derived; as a *primitive* verb in grammar.

Primitive rocks, in geology, rocks supposed to be first formed, being irregularly crystallized, and aggregated without a cement.