

PEASANTRY, *n.* *pez'antry*. Peasants; rustics; the body of country people.

2. Rusticity. [Not used.] *Locke.*
PE/AS-COD, } *Butler.* The legume or pericarp.
PE/A-SHELL, } *Walton. Gay.* *n.* of the pea.

PE/ASTONE, *n.* A subspecies of limestone.

PEASE, *n.* Peas collectively, or used as food. [See *Pea*.] *Arbuthnot.*

PEAT. *n.* [G. *pfütze*, a bog.] A substance resembling turf, used as fuel. It is found in low grounds or moorish lands, and is of several species; one is of a brown or yellowish brown color, and when first cut has a viscid consistence, but hardens when exposed to the air; another consists chiefly of vegetable substances, as branches of trees, roots, grass, &c.

Bacon. Nicholson. Encyc.
PEAT. [Fr. *petit*. See *Pet*.]

PEAT-MOSS, *n.* [*peat* and *moss*.] An earthy material used as fuel.

2. A fen producing peat.

PEB/BLE, } *n.* [Sax. *pabob*, *papol*.]
PEB/BLESTONE, } *stana*.] In popular usage, a roundish stone of any kind from the size of a nut to that of a man's head. In a philosophical sense, minerals distinguished from flints by their variety of colors, consisting of crystalline matter debased by earths of various kinds, with veins, clouds and other variegations, formed by incrustation round a central nucleus, but sometimes the effect of a simple concretion. Pebbles are much used in the pavement of streets. *Encyc.*

A general term for water-worn minerals. *D. Olmsted.*

PEB/BLE-CRYSTAL, *n.* A crystal in form of nodules, found in earthy strata and irregular in shape. *Woodward.*

PEB/BLED, *a.* Abounding with pebbles. *Thomson.*

PEB/BLY, *a.* Full of pebbles; abounding with small roundish stones.

PEC/ARY, } *n.* A quadruped of Mexico,
PEC/CARY, } *n.* in general appearance resembling a hog, but its body is less bulky, its legs shorter, and its bristles thicker and stronger, like the quills of the porcupine. Its color is black and white, and it has on the hind part of the back a protuberance like the navel of other animals, with an orifice from which issues a liquor of a very strong scent. *Diet. Nat. Hist.*

PECCABILITY, *n.* [from *peccable*.] State of being subject to sin; capacity of sinning. *Decay of Piety.*

PEC/CABLE, *a.* [from L. *pecco*, Ir. *peachadh*; W. *pec*, *peccawd*, sin; *pecu*, to sin, Fr. *pecher*, It. *peccare*, Sp. *pecar*.] Liable to sin; subject to transgress the divine law. *Priestley.*

PECCADIL/LO, *n.* [Sp. *dim.* from *pecado*, L. *peccatum*; Fr. *peccadille*. See *Peccable*.]

1. A slight trespass or offense; a petty crime or fault. *Dryden.*

2. A sort of stiff ruff. *B. Taylor.*

PEC/CANCY, *n.* [from *peccant*.] Bad quality; as the *peccancy* of the humors.

2. Offense. *Wiseman. Mountague.*

PEC/CANT, *a.* [L. *peccans*; Fr. *peccant*. See *Peccable*.]

1. Sinning; guilty of sin or transgression; criminal; as *peccant* angels. *Milton.*

2. Morbid; bad; corrupt; not healthy; as *peccant* humors. *Arbuthnot.*

3. Wrong; bad; defective; informal; as a *peccant* citation. [Not used.] *Ayliffe.*

PEC/CANT, *n.* An offender. [Not used.] *Whitlock.*

PEGGA/VI. [L. I have offended.] A colloquial word used to express confession or acknowledgment of an offense. *Aubrey.*

PECH/BLEND, *n.* [G. *pech*, pitch, and *blende*, blend.]

Pitchblend, an ore of uranium; a metallic substance found in masses, or stratified with earths or with other minerals, in Swedish and Saxon mines. It is of a blackish color, inclining to a deep steel gray, and one kind has a mixture of spots of red. *Nicholson.*

PECK, *n.* [Arm. *pech*, a fourth; Fr. *picotin*.]

1. The fourth part of a bushel; a dry measure of eight quarts; as a *peck* of wheat or oats.

2. In low language, a great deal; as, to be in a *peck* of troubles. *Qu. pack.*

PECK, *v. t.* [It. *beccare*; Sp. *picar*; Fr. *becqueter*; D. *piken*; G. *picken*; Dan. *pikker*. This verb is connected with the nouns *beak* and *pike*.]

1. To strike with the beak; to thrust the beak into, as a bird that *pecks* a hole in a tree.

2. To strike with a pointed instrument, or to delve or dig with any thing pointed, as with a pick-axe. *Carew.*

3. To pick up food with the beak. *Dryden.*

4. To strike with small and repeated blows; to strike in a manner to make small impressions. In this sense, the verb is generally intransitive. We say, to *peck* at.

[This verb and *pick* are radically the same.] *South.*

PECK/ED, *pp.* Struck or penetrated with a beak or pointed instrument.

PECK/ER, *n.* One that pecks; a bird that pecks holes in trees; a woodpecker. *Dryden.*

PECK/ING, *ppr.* Striking with the bill; thrusting the beak into; thrusting into with a pointed instrument; taking up food with the beak.

PECKLED, for *speckled*, not used. *Walton.*

PEC/TINAL, *a.* [L. *pecten*, a comb; *pecto*, to comb, Gr. *πτερω*, from *πτεω*.] Pertaining to a comb; resembling a comb.

PEC/TINAL, *n.* A fish whose bones resemble the teeth of a comb. *Brown.*

PEC/TINATE, } *a.* [from L. *pecten*, a
PEC/TINATED, } comb.] Having resemblance to the teeth of a comb. In botany, a pectinate leaf is a sort of pinnate leaf, in which the leaflets are toothed like a comb. *Martyn.*

A mineral is *pectinated*, when it presents short filaments, crystals or branches, nearly parallel and equidistant. *Phillips.*

PECTINATION, *n.* The state of being pectinated.

2. A combing; the combing of the head. *Cyc.*

PEC/TINITE, *n.* [L. *pecten*, a comb.] A fossil pecten or scallop, or scallop petrified. *Kirwan.*

PEC/TORAL, *a.* [L. *pectoralis*, from *pectus*, breast.]

Pertaining to the breast; as the *pectoral* muscles; *pectoral* medicines. *Milton.*

The *pectoral* fins of a fish are situated on the sides of the fish, behind the gills.

PEC/TORAL, *n.* A breastplate. *Encyc. Johnson.*

2. A sacerdotal habit or vestment worn by the Jewish high priest, called in our version of the Bible, a breastplate. *Encyc.*

3. A medicine adapted to cure or relieve complaints of the breast and lungs.

PEC/ULATE, *v. i.* [L. *peculatus*, *peculor*, from *pecudium*, private property, from *pecus*, cattle.]

1. To defraud the public of money or goods entrusted to one's care, by appropriating the property to one's own use; to defraud by embezzlement.

2. Among civilians, to steal. *Encyc.*

PECULA/TION, *n.* The act, practice or crime of defrauding the public by appropriating to one's own use the money or goods entrusted to one's care for management or disbursement; embezzlement of public money or goods.

PEC/ULATOR, *n.* [L.] One that defrauds the public by appropriating to his own use money entrusted to his care.

PECU/LIAR, *a.* [L. *peculiaris*, from *peculium*, one's own property, from *pecus*, cattle.]

1. Appropriate; belonging to a person and to him only. Almost every writer has a *peculiar* style. Most men have manners *peculiar* to themselves.

2. Singular; particular. The man has something *peculiar* in his deportment.

3. Particular; special.

My fate is Juno's most *peculiar* care. *Dryden.*

[Most cannot, in strict propriety, be prefixed to *peculiar*, but it is used to give emphasis to the word.]

4. Belonging to a nation, system or other thing, and not to others.

PECU/LIAR, *n.* Exclusive property; that which belongs to a person in exclusion of others. *Milton.*

2. In the *canon law*, a particular parish or church which has the probate of wills within itself, exempt from the jurisdiction of the ordinary or bishop's court.

Encyc.
Court of *peculiars*, in England, is a branch of the court of arches. It has jurisdiction over all the parishes dispersed through the province of Canterbury, in the midst of other dioceses, which are exempt from the ordinary jurisdiction, and subject to the metropolitan only. *Blackstone.*

PECULIAR/ITY, *n.* Something peculiar to a person or thing; that which belongs to or is found in one person or thing and in no other; as a *peculiarity* of style or manner of thinking; *peculiarity* in dress.

PECU/LIARIZE, *v. t.* To appropriate; to make peculiar. *Smith.*

PECU/LIARLY, *adv.* Particularly; singly. *Woodward.*

2. In a manner not common to others. *Drayton.*