

PÖRT-MAN, *n.* [*port* and *man*.] An inhabitant or burgess, as of a cinque port.

PÖRTMAN/TEAU, *n.* [*Fr. porte-manteau*, from *porter*, to carry, and *manteau*, a cloak, *L. mantele*, *It. mantello*. It is often pronounced *portmantle*.]

A bag usually made of leather, for carrying apparel and other furniture on journeys, particularly on horseback.

PÖRT-MÖTE, *n.* [*port* and *Sax. mot*, a meeting.] Anciently, a court held in a port town. *Blackstone*.

PÖRTOISE. [See *Portlast*.]

PÖRTRAIT, *n.* [*Fr. portrait*, from *portraire*, to draw, *Eng. to portray*; *pour*, *Eng. for*, *fore*, and *traire*, *L. trahere*, *Eng. to draw*; *Arm. pourtrezi*. The Italian is *ritratto*, *Sp. Port. retrato*, from *L. re* and *tracto*.]

A picture or representation of a person, and especially of a face, drawn from the life.

In *portraits*, the grace, and we may add, the likeness, consist more in the general air than in the exact similitude of every feature.

Reynolds.

PÖRTRAIT, *v. t.* To portray; to draw. [Not used.] *Spenser*.

PÖRTRAITURE, *n.* [*Fr.*] A portrait; painted resemblance. *Milton*.

PÖRTRA'Y, *v. t.* [*Fr. peindre*. See *Portrait*.]

1. To paint or draw the likeness of any thing in colors; as, to *portray* a king on horseback; to *portray* a city or temple with a pencil or with chalk.

2. To describe in words. It belongs to the historian to *portray* the character of Alexander of Russia. Homer *portrays* the character and achievements of his heroes in glowing colors.

3. To adorn with pictures; as shields *portrayed*. *Milton*.

PÖRTRA'YED, *pp.* Painted or drawn to the life; described.

PÖRTRA'YER, *n.* One who paints, draws to the life or describes.

PÖRTRA'YING, *ppr.* Painting or drawing the likeness of; describing.

PÖRTRÉSS, *n.* [from *porter*.] A female guardian of a gate.

PÖRTERESS, *n.* [from *porter*.] A female guardian of a gate. *Milton*.

PÖRTREVE, *n.* [The modern orthography of *portgreve*, which see.]

The chief magistrato of a port or maritime town.

PÖRT-ROPE, *n.* A rope to draw up a portlid. *Mar. Dict.*

PÖRWIGLE, *n.* A tadpole; a young frog. [Not used.] *Brown*.

PÖRY, *a.* [from *pore*.] Full of pores or small interstices. *Dryden*.

PÖSE, *n. s* as *z*. [See the Verb.] In *heraldry*, a lion, horse or other beast standing still, with all his feet on the ground. *Encyc.*

PÖSE, *n. s* as *z*. [*Sax. gepose*.] A stuffing of the head; catarrh. *Obs.* *Chaucer*.

PÖSE, *v. t. s* as *z*. [*W. posiau*, to pose, to make an increment, to gather knowledge, to investigate, to interrogate; *pos*, a heap, increment, growth, increase; *posel*, curdled milk, *posset*; *Sax. gepose*, heaviness, stuffing of the head. The primary sense is to set or fix, from thrusting or pressing, *L. posui*, *Sp. posar*, *Fr. poser*; hence the sense of collecting into a lump or fixed mass, *Ch. and Syr. כחץ* to press, compress,

collect, coagulate. Class *Bs. No. 24*. See also *Ar. No. 21. 31.* and *No. 32. 33. 35.* and others in that class.]

1. To puzzle, [a word of the same origin;] to set; to put to a stand or stop; to gravel.

Learning was *pos'd*, philosophy was set.

Herbert.

I design not to *pose* them with those common enigmas of magnetism. *Glanville*.

2. To puzzle or put to a stand by asking difficult questions; to set by questions; hence, to interrogate closely, or with a view to scrutiny. *Bacon*.

PÖSED, *pp.* Puzzled; put to a stand; interrogated closely.

PÖSER, *n.* One that puzzles by asking difficult questions; a close examiner.

PÖSING, *ppr.* Puzzling; putting to a stand; questioning closely.

PÖS/ITED, *a.* [*L. positus*, from *pono*, to put; probably however, *pono* is a different root, and *positus* from the root of *pose*.] Put; set; placed. *Hale*.

PÖS/ITION, *n.* [*L. positio*, from *positus*. See *Pose* and *Posited*.]

1. State of being placed; situation; often with reference to other objects, or to different parts of the same object.

We have different prospects of the same thing according to our different *positions* to it. *Locke*.

2. Manner of standing or being placed; attitude; as an inclining *position*.

3. Principle laid down; proposition advanced or affirmed as a fixed principle, or stated as the ground of reasoning, or to be proved.

Let not the proof of any *position* depend on the *positions* that follow, but always on those which precede. *Watts*.

4. The advancement of any principle. *Brown*.

5. State; condition.

Great Britain, at the peace of 1763, stood in a *position* to prescribe her own terms. *Ames*.

6. In *grammar*, the state of a vowel placed between two consonants, as in *pompous*, or before a double consonant, as in *arle*. In prosody, vowels are said to be long or short by *position*.

PÖS/ITIONAL, *a.* Respecting position. [Not used.] *Brown*.

PÖS/ITIVE, *a.* [*It. positivo*; *Fr. positif*; *Low L. positivus*.]

1. Properly, set; laid down; expressed; direct; explicit; opposed to *implied*; as, he told us in *positive* words; we have his *positive* declaration to the fact; the testimony is *positive*.

2. Absolute; express; not admitting any condition or discretion. The commands of the admiral are *positive*.

3. Absolute; real; existing in fact; opposed to *negative*; as *positive* good, which exists by itself, whereas *negative* good is merely the absence of evil; or opposed to *relative* or *arbitrary*, as beauty is not a *positive* thing, but depends on the different tastes of people. *Locke*. *Encyc.*

4. Direct; express; opposed to *circumstantial*; as *positive* proof. *Blackstone*.

5. Confident; fully assured; applied to persons. The witness is very *positive* that he is correct in his testimony.

6. Dogmatic; over-confident in opinion or assertion.

Some *positive* persisting fops we know, That, if once wrong, will needs be always so. *Pope*.

7. Settled by arbitrary appointment; opposed to *natural* or *inbred*.

In laws, that which is *natural*, bindeth universally; that which is *positive*, not so. *Hooker*.

Although no laws but *positive* are mutable, yet all are not mutable which are *positive*. *Hooker*.

8. Having power to act directly; as a *positive* voice in legislation. *Swift*.

Positive degree, in grammar, is the state of an adjective which denotes simple or absolute quality, without comparison or relation to increase or diminution; as *wise*. *noble*.

Positive electricity, according to Dr. Franklin, consists in a superabundance of the fluid in a substance. Others suppose it to consist in a tendency of the fluid outwards. It is not certain in what consists the difference between *positive* and *negative* electricity. *Positive* electricity being produced by rubbing glass, is called the *vitreous*; *negative* electricity, produced by rubbing amber or resiu, is called the *resinous*. *Encyc.*

PÖS/ITIVE, *n.* What is capable of being affirmed; reality. *South*.

2. That which settles by absolute appointment. *Waterland*.

3. In *grammar*, a word that affirms or asserts existence. *Harris*.

PÖS/ITIVELY, *adv.* Absolutely; by itself, independent of any thing else; not comparatively.

Good and evil removed may be esteemed good or evil comparatively, and not *positively* or simply. *Bacon*.

2. Not negatively; really; in its own nature; directly; inherently. A thing is *positively* good, when it produces happiness by its own qualities or operation. It is *negatively* good, when it prevents an evil, or does not produce it.

3. Certainly; indubitably. This is *positively* your handwriting.

4. Directly; explicitly; expressly. The witness testified *positively* to the fact.

5. Peremptorily; in strong terms.

The divine law *positively* requires humility and meekness. *Sprat*.

6. With full confidence or assurance. I cannot speak *positively* in regard to the fact.

Positively electrified, in the science of electricity. A body is said to be *positively* electrified or charged with electric matter, when it contains a superabundance of the fluid, and *negatively* electrified or charged, when some part of the fluid which it naturally contains, has been taken from it. *Franklin*.

According to other theorists, when the electric fluid is directed outwards from a body, the substance is electrified *positively*; but when it is entering or has a tendency to enter another substance, the body is supposed to be *negatively* electrified. The two species of electricity attract each other, and each repels its own kind.

PÖS/ITIVENESS, *n.* Actualness; reality of existence; not mere negation.