

Ch. 5 to supplicate. See Class Bd. No. 57. 63. 64.]

1. In a *general sense*, a request, supplication or prayer; but chiefly and appropriately, a solemn or formal supplication; a prayer addressed by a person to the Supreme Being, for something needed or desired, or a branch or particular article of prayer.

*Law.*

2. A formal request or supplication, verbal or written; particularly, a written supplication from an inferior to a superior, either to a single person clothed with power, or to a legislative or other body, soliciting some favor, grant, right or mercy.

3. The paper containing a supplication or solicitation. Much of the time of our legislative bodies is consumed in attending to private *petitions*. The speaker's table is often loaded with *petitions*. *Petitions* to the king of Great Britain must contain nothing reflecting on the administration.

*Encyc.*

PETITION, *v. t.* To make a request to; to ask from; to solicit; particularly, to make supplication to a superior for some favor or right; as, to *petition* the legislature; to *petition* a court of chancery.

The mother *petitioned* her goddess to bestow on them the greatest gift that could be given.

*Addison.*

PETITIONARILY, *adv.* By way of begging the question.

*Brown.*

PETITIONARY, *a.* Supplicatory; coming with a petition.

Pardon thy *petitionary* countrymen.

*Shak.*

2. Containing a petition or request; as a *petitionary* prayer; a *petitionary* epistle.

*Hooker. Swift.*

PETITIONER, *n.* One that presents a petition, either verbal or written.

PETITIONING, *ppr.* Asking as a favor, grant, right or mercy; supplicating.

PETITIONING, *n.* The act of asking or soliciting; solicitation; supplication. Tumultuous *petitioning* is made penal by statute.

PETITORY, *a.* Petitioning; soliciting. [Not used.]

*Brewer.*

PETONG', *n.* The Chinese name of a species of copper of a white color. It is sometimes confounded with tutenag.

*Pinkerton.*

PETREAN, *a.* [L. *petra*, a rock.] Pertaining to rock or stone.

*Faber.*

PETRESCENCE, *n.* The process of changing into stone.

*Kirwan.*

PETRESCENT, *a.* [Gr. *πετρος*, a stone, L. *petra*.]

Converting into stone; changing into stony hardness.

*Boyle.*

PETRIFICATION, *n.* [See *Petrify*.] The process of changing into stone; the conversion of wood or any animal or vegetable substance into stone or a body of stony hardness.

When the water in which wood is lodged is slightly impregnated with petrescent particles, the *petrification* very slowly takes place.

*Kirwan.*

2. That which is converted from animal or vegetable substance into stone.

—The calcareous *petrification* called osteo-colla.

*Kirwan.*

An organized body rendered hard by depositions of stony matter in its cavities.

*Ure.*

3. In popular usage, a body incrustated with stony matter; an incrustation.

*Ed. Encyc.*

PETRIFAC'TIVE, *a.* Pertaining to petrification.

2. Having power to convert vegetable or animal substances into stone.

*Brown.*

PETRIFIC, *a.* Having power to convert into stone.

*Milton.*

The cold, dry, *petrific* mace of a false and unfeeling philosophy.

*Burke.*

PETRIFICATE, *v. t.* To petrify. [Not used.]

*Hall.*

PETRIFICATION, *n.* The process of petrifying.

2. That which is petrified; a petrification. [The latter word is generally used.]

3. Obduracy; callousness.

*Hallywell.*

PETRIFIED, *pp.* Changed into stone.

2. Fixed in amazement.

PETRIFY, *v. t.* [L. *petra*, Gr. *πετρος*, a stone or rock, and *facio*, to make.]

1. To convert to stone or stony substance; as an animal or vegetable substance.

North of Quito, there is a river that *petrifies* any sort of wood or leaves.

*Kirwan.*

2. To make callous or obdurate; as, to *petrify* the heart.

And *petrify* a genius to a dunce.

*Pope.*

3. To fix; as, to *petrify* one with astonishment.

PETRIFY, *v. i.* To become stone, or of a stony hardness, as animal or vegetable substances by means of calcareous or other depositions in their cavities.

PETRIFYING, *ppr.* Converting into stone; as *petrifying* operation.

*Kirwan.*

PETROL, *n.* [Fr. *petrole*, from Gr. *πετρος*, a stone, and *λαιον*, oil; quasi *petrolion*.]

Rock oil, a liquid inflammable substance or bitumen exuding from the earth and collected on the surface of the water in wells, in various parts of the world, or oozing from cavities in rocks. This is essentially composed of carbon and hydrogen.

*Fourcroy. Kirwan. Cyc.*

PETRONEL, *n.* A horseman's pistol.

PETROSILEX, *n.* [L. *petra*, Gr. *πετρος*, a stone, and *silex*, flint.]

Rock stone; rock flint, or compact feldspar.

PETROSILICIOUS, *a.* Consisting of petrosilex; as *petrosilicious* breccias.

*Kirwan.*

PETROUS, *a.* [L. *petra*, a stone.] Like stone; hard; stony.

*Hooper.*

PETTICOAT, *n.* [Fr. *petit*, petty, and *coat*.]

A garment worn by females and covering the lower limbs.

PETTIFOG, *v. i.* [Fr. *petit*, small, and *voguer*, to row. But in Norman, *voguer* is rendered to call again, to return, as if from L. *roco*, like *advocate*.]

To do small business; as a lawyer. [Vulgar.]

PETTIFOGGER, *n.* An inferior attorney or lawyer who is employed in small or mean business.

PETTIFOGGERY, *n.* The practice of a pettifogger; tricks; quibbles.

*Milton.*

PETTINESS, *n.* [from *petty*.] Smallness; littleness.

*Shak.*

PETTISH, *a.* [from *pet*.] Fretful; peevish; subject to freaks of ill temper.

*Creech.*

PETTISHLY, *adv.* In a pet; with a freak of ill temper.

PET'TISHNESS, *n.* Fretfulness; petulance; peevishness.

*Collier.*

PET'TITOES, *n.* [petty and toes.] The toes or feet of a pig; sometimes used for the human feet in contempt.

*Shak.*

PET'TO, *n.* [It. from L. *pectus*, the breast.] The breast; hence, in *petto*, in secrecy; in reserve.

*Chesterfield.*

PET'TY, *a.* [Fr. *petit*.] Small; little; trifling; inconsiderable; as a *petty* trespass; a *petty* crime.

*Milton.*

2. Inferior; as a *petty* prince.

*Denham.*

We usually write *petty* constable, *petty* jury, *petty* larceny, *petty* treason. [See *Petit*.]

PET'TYCHAPS, *n.* A small bird of the genus *Motacilla*, called also *beambird*; found in the north of Europe.

*Pennant.*

The beambird is the spotted fly-catcher, of the genus *Muscicapa*.

*Ed. Encyc.*

PET'TYCOY, *n.* An herb.

*Ainsworth.*

PET'ULANCE, *n.* [L. *petulantia*; Fr. *petulance*.]

Freakish passion; peevishness; pettishness; sauciness. *Peevishness* is not precisely synonymous with *petulance*; the former implying more permanence of a sour, fretful temper; the latter more temporary or capricious irritation.

That which looked like pride in some, and *petulance* in others.

*Clarendon.*

The pride and *petulance* of youth.

*Watts.*

PET'ULANT, *a.* [L. *petulans*.] Saucy; pert or forward with fretfulness or sourness of temper; as a *petulant* youth.

2. Manifesting petulance; proceeding from pettishness; as a *petulant* demand; a *petulant* answer.

3. Wanton; freakish in passion.

PET'ULANTLY, *adv.* With petulance; with saucy pertness.

PETUNSE, *n.* Porcelain clay

PETUNTSE, *n.* [n. *petuns*.] so called, used by the Chinese

PETUNTZE, *n.* in the manufacture of porcelain or chinaware. It is a variety of feldspar.

*Encyc. Cleveland.*

PEW, *n.* [D. *puy*; L. *podium*.] An inclosed seat in a church. Pews were formerly made square; in modern churches in America they are generally long and narrow, and sometimes called *slips*.

PEW, *v. t.* To furnish with pews. [Little used.]

*Ash.*

PE'WET, *n.* An aquatic fowl, the sea crow or mire crow, of the genus *Larus*.

*Encyc.*

2. The lapwing.

*Ainsworth.*

PEW'-FELLOW, *n.* A companion.

*Bp. Hall.*

PEW'TER, *n.* [It. *pettro*; Sp. *petre*, from which *pewter* is formed by a change of *t* into *w*, as the French change *belle* into *beau*. We receive the word from the Norm. *peautre*.]

1. A composition or factitious metal, consisting of tin and lead, or tin, lead and brass, in the proportions of a hundred pounds of tin to fifteen of lead, and six of brass. This was formerly in extensive use in domestic utensils or vessels; but being a soft composition and easily melted, is now less used.

2. Vessels or utensils made of pewter; as plates, dishes, porringers and the like.

*Addison.*