

PRIVILEGE, *n.* [Fr. from *L. privilegium*; *privus*, separate, private, and *lex*, law: originally a private law, some public act that regarded an individual.]

1. A particular and peculiar benefit or advantage enjoyed by a person, company or society, beyond the common advantages of other citizens. A privilege may be a particular right granted by law or held by custom, or it may be an exemption from some burden to which others are subject. The nobles of Great Britain have the *privilege* of being triable by their peers only. Members of parliament and of our legislatures have the *privilege* of exemption from arrests in certain cases. The powers of a banking company are *privileges* granted by the legislature.

He pleads the legal *privilege* of a Roman.

Kettlewell.

The *privilege* of birthright was a double portion.

Locke.

2. Any peculiar benefit or advantage, right or immunity, not common to others of the human race. Thus we speak of national *privileges*, and civil and political *privileges*, which we enjoy above other nations. We have ecclesiastical and religious *privileges* secured to us by our constitutions of government. *Personal privileges* are attached to the person; as those of ambassadors, peers, members of legislatures, &c. *Real privileges* are attached to place; as the *privileges* of the king's palace in England.
3. Advantage; favor; benefit.

A nation despicable by its weakness, forfeits even the *privilege* of being neutral.

Federalist, Hamilton.

Writ of privilege, is a writ to deliver a privileged person from custody when arrested in a civil suit.

Blackstone.

PRIVILEGE, *v. t.* To grant some particular right or exemption to; to invest with a peculiar right or immunity; as, to *privilege* representatives from arrest; to *privilege* the officers and students of a college from military duty.

2. To exempt from censure or danger.

This place doth *privilege* me.

Daniel.

PRIVILEGED, *pp.* Invested with a privilege; enjoying a peculiar right or immunity. The clergy in Great Britain were formerly a *privileged* body of men. No person is *privileged* from arrest for indictable crimes.

PRIVILEGING, *ppr.* Investing with a peculiar right or immunity.

PRIVILY, *adv.* [from *privy*.] Privately; secretly.

—False teachers among you, who shall *privily* bring in damnable heresies. 2 Pet. ii.

PRIVITY, *n.* [Fr. *privauté*. See *Private* and *Privy*.] Privacy; secrecy; confidence.

I will to you, in *privy*, discover the drift of my purpose. [Little used.]

Spenser.

2. Private knowledge; joint knowledge with another of a private concern, which is often supposed to imply consent or concurrence.

All the doors were laid open for his departure, not without the *privy* of the prince of Orange.

Swift.

But it is usual to say, "a thing is done with his *privy* and consent;" in which phrase, *privy* signifies merely private knowledge.

3. *Privities*, in the plural, secret parts; the parts which modesty requires to be concealed.

PRIVY, *a.* [Fr. *privé*; *L. privus*. See *Private*.]

1. Private; pertaining to some person exclusively; assigned to private uses; not public; as the *privy* purse; the *privy* coffer of a king.

Blackstone.

2. Secret; clandestine; not open or public; as a *privy* attempt to kill one.

3. Private; appropriated to retirement; not shown; not open for the admission of company; as a *privy* chamber. Ezek. xxi.

4. Privately knowing; admitted to the participation of knowledge with another of a secret transaction.

He would rather lose half of his kingdom than be *privy* to such a secret.

Swift.

Myself am one made *privy* to the plot.

Shak.

His wife also being *privy* to it. Acts v.

5. Admitted to secrets of state. The *privy council* of a king consists of a number of distinguished persons selected by him to advise him in the administration of the government.

Blackstone.

A *privy verdict*, is one given to the judge out of court, which is of no force unless afterward affirmed by a public verdict in court.

Blackstone.

PRIVY, *n.* In law, a partaker; a person having an interest in any action or thing; as a *privy* in blood. Privies are of four kinds; privies in blood, as the heir to his father; privies in representation, as executors and administrators to the deceased; privies in estate, as he in reversion and he in remainder; donor and donee; lessor and lessee; privy in tenure, as the lord in escheat.

Encyc.

2. A necessary house.

Privy chamber, in Great Britain, the private apartment in a royal residence or mansion. Gentlemen of the *privy chamber* are servants of the king, who are to wait and attend on him and the queen at court, in their diversions, &c. They are forty eight in number, under the lord chamberlain.

Encyc.

PRIVY-COUNSELOR, *n.* A member of the privy council.

Privy-counselors are made by the king's nomination without patent or grant.

Blackstone.

PRIVY-SEAL, } *n.* In England, the
PRIVY-SIGNET, } seal which the king uses previously in grants, &c. which are to pass the great seal, or which he uses in matters of subordinate consequence, which do not require the great seal.

2. *Privy-seal*, is used elliptically for the principal secretary of state, or person entrusted with the privy-seal.

The king's sign manual is the warrant to the *privy-seal*, who makes out a writ or warrant thereon to the chancery. The sign manual is the warrant to the *privy-seal*, and the *privy-seal* is the warrant to the great seal.

Blackstone.

PRIZE, *n.* [Fr. *prise*, from *pris*, taken; Sp. Port. *presa*; G. *preis*; D. *prys*; Dan. *pris*; Sw. *pris*. See *Praise* and *Price*.] Literally, that which is taken; hence,

1. That which is taken from an enemy in

war; any species of goods or property seized by force as spoil or plunder; or that which is taken in combat, particularly a ship. A privateer takes an enemy's ship as a *prize*. They make *prize* of all the property of the enemy.

2. That which is taken from another; that which is deemed a valuable acquisition.

Then prostrate falls, and begs with ardent eyes,

Soon to obtain and long possess the *prize*.

Pope.

3. That which is obtained or offered as the reward of contest.

—I will never wrestle for *prize*.

Shak.

I fought and conquer'd, yet have lost the *prize*.

Dryden.

4. The reward gained by any performance.

Dryden.

5. In colloquial language, any valuable thing gained.

6. The money drawn by a lottery ticket: opposed to *blank*.

PRIZE, *v. t.* [Fr. *priser*, from *prix*, price, *L. pretium*; It. *apprezzare*; Fr. *apprécier*. English analogy requires that the compound should be conformed to the orthography of this word, and written *apprize*.]

1. To set or estimate the value of; to rate; as, to *prize* the goods specified in an invoice.

Life I *prize* not a straw.

Shak.

2. To value highly; to estimate to be of great worth; to esteem.

I *prize* your person, but your crown disdain.

Dryden.

PRIZED, *pp.* Rated; valued; esteemed.

PRIZE-FIGHTER, *n.* One that fights publicly for a reward.

Pope.

PRIZER, *n.* One that estimates or sets the value of a thing.

Shak.

PRIZING, *ppr.* Rating; valuing; esteeming.

PRO, a Latin and Greek preposition, signifying *for*, *before*, *forth*, is probably contracted from *prod*, coinciding with It. *proda*, a prow, *prode*, brave; having the primary sense of moving forward. See *Prodigal*. In the phrase, *pro* and *con*, that is, *pro* and *contra*, it answers to the English *for*; *for* and *against*.

Prior.

In composition, *pro* denotes *fore*, *forth*, *forward*.

PROA, *n.* Flying proa, a vessel used in the south seas, with the head and stern exactly alike, but with the sides differently formed. That which is intended for the lee side is flat, the other rounding. To prevent upsetting, the vessel is furnished with a frame extended from the windward side, called an out rigger.

Encyc.

PROBABILITY, *n.* [Fr. *probabilité*; *L. probabilitas*. See *Probable*.]

1. Likelihood; appearance of truth; that state of a case or question of fact which results from superior evidence or preponderation of argument on one side, inclining the mind to receive it as the truth, but leaving some room for doubt. It therefore falls short of moral certainty, but produces what is called *opinion*.

Probability is the appearance of the agreement or disagreement of two ideas, by the intervention of proofs whose connection is not constant, but appears for the most part to be so.

Locke.