

1. The gratification of the senses or of the mind; agreeable sensations or emotions; the excitement, relish or happiness produced by enjoyment or the expectation of of good; opposed to *pain*. We receive *pleasure* from the indulgence of appetite; from the view of a beautiful landscape; from the harmony of sounds; from agreeable society; from the expectation of seeing an absent friend; from the prospect of gain or success of any kind. *Pleasure*, bodily and mental, carnal and spiritual, constitutes the whole of positive happiness, as *pain* constitutes the whole of misery.

*Pleasure* is properly positive excitement of the passions or the mind; but we give the name also to the absence of excitement, when that excitement is painful; as when we cease to labor, or repose after fatigue, or when the mind is tranquilized after anxiety or agitation.

*Pleasure* is susceptible of increase to any degree; but the word when unqualified, expresses less excitement or happiness than *delight* or *joy*.

2. Sensual or sexual gratification.

3. Approbation.

The Lord taketh *pleasure* in his people. Ps. cxlvii. and cxlix.

1. What the will dictates or prefers; will; choice; purpose; intention; command; as, use your *pleasure*. *Shak.*

Cyrus, he is my shepherd and shall perform all my *pleasure*. Is. xlv.

My counsel shall stand and I will do all my *pleasure*. Is. xlv.

5. A favor; that which pleases.

Festus, willing to do the Jews a *pleasure*, answered Paul. Acts xxv.

6. Arbitrary will or choice. He can vary his scheme at *pleasure*.

PLEAS'URE, *v. t.* *plezh'ur*. To give or afford pleasure to; to please; to gratify. [*A word authorized by some good writers, but superfluous and not much used.*]

*Bacon. Shak.*

PLEAS'URE-BOAT, *n.* A boat appropriated to sailing for amusement.

PLEAS'URE-CARRIAGE, *n.* A carriage for pleasure.

PLEAS'UREFUL, *a.* Pleasant; agreeable. [*Little used.*] *Abbot.*

PLEAS'URE-GROUND, *n.* Ground laid out in an ornamental manner and appropriated to pleasure or amusement. *Graves.*

PLEAS'URIST, *n.* A person devoted to worldly pleasure. [*Little used.*] *Brown.*

PLEBE'IAN, *a.* [*It. plebeio*; *Sp. plebeyo*; *L. plebeius*, from *plebs*, the common people.]

1. Pertaining to the common people; vulgar; as *plebeian* minds; *plebeian* sports.

2. Consisting of common people; as a *plebeian* throng.

PLEBE'IAN, *n.* One of the common people or lower ranks of men. [*Usually applied to the common people of ancient Rome.*] *Swift.*

PLEBE'IANCE, *n.* The common people. [*Not in use.*]

PLI'DGE, *n.* [*Fr. pleige*; *It. pieggeria*; *Norm. plegg*. This is evidently the Celtic form of the Teutonic *plight*. *Sax. pliht, plihtun*. See *Plight*. It coincides with *L. plico*, *Gr. πλίσσω*, *W. plygu*, to fold, properly to *lay to*, to put or throw to or on. A *pledge* is that which is laid or deposited.]

1. Something put in pawn; that which is deposited with another as security for the repayment of money borrowed, or for the performance of some agreement or obligation; a pawn. A borrows ten pounds of B, and deposits his watch as a *pledge* that the money shall be repaid; and by repayment of the money, A redeems the *pledge*.

2. Any thing given or considered as a security for the performance of an act. Thus a man gives his word or makes a promise to another, which is received as a *pledge* for fulfillment. The mutual affection of husband and wife is a *pledge* for the faithful performance of the marriage covenant. Mutual interest is the best *pledge* for the performance of treaties.

3. A surety; a hostage. *Radclyf. Dryden.*

4. In *law*, a gage or security real or personal, given for the repayment of money. It is of two kinds; *vadium ritum*, a living pledge, as when a man borrows money and grants an estate to be held by the pledgee, till the rents and profits shall refund the money, in which case the land or pledge is said to be *living*; or it is *vadium mortuum*, a dead pledge, called a *mortgage*. [*See Mortgage.*] *Blackstone.*

5. In *law*, bail; surety given for the prosecution of a suit, or for the appearance of a defendant, or for restoring goods taken in distress and replevied. The distress itself is also called a *pledge*, and the glove formerly thrown down by a champion in trial by battle, was a *pledge* by which the champion stipulated to encounter his antagonist in that trial. *Blackstone.*

6. A warrant to secure a person from injury in drinking.

To put in *pledge*, to pawn.

To hold in *pledge*, to keep as security.

PLEDGE, *v. t.* [*Fr. pleiger*. See *Plight*.]

1. To deposit in pawn; to deposit or leave in possession of a person something which is to secure the repayment of money borrowed, or the performance of some act. [*This word is applied chiefly to the depositing of goods or personal property.*]

When real estate is given as security we usually apply the word *mortgage*.]

2. To give as a warrant or security; as, to *pledge* one's word or honor; to *pledge* one's veracity.

3. To secure by a pledge.

I accept her.

And here to *pledge* my vow I give my hand. [*Unusual.*] *Shak.*

4. To invite to drink by accepting the cup or health after another. *Johnson*. Or to warrant or be surety for a person that he shall receive no harm while drinking, or from the draught; a practice which originated among our ancestors in their rude state, and which was intended to secure the person from being stabbed while drinking, or from being poisoned by the liquor. In the first case, a by-stander *pledges* the person drinking; in the latter, the person drinking *pledges* his guest by drinking first, and then handing the cup to his guest. The latter practice is frequent among the common people in America to this day; the owner of the liquor taking the cup says to his friend, *I pledge you*, and drinks, then hands the cup to his

guest; a remarkable instance of the power of habit, as the reason of the custom has long since ceased.

PLEDG'ED, *pp.* Deposited as security; given in warrant.

PLEDGEE', *n.* The person to whom any thing is pledged.

PLEDG'ER, *n.* One that pledges or pawns any thing; one that warrants or secures. [*Pledgor*, in *Blackstone*, is not to be countenanced.]

2. One that accepts the invitation to drink after another, or that secures another by drinking.

PLEDG'ERY, *n.* A pledging; suretiship. [*Not in use.*] *Encyc.*

PLEDG'ET, *n.* [*from folding or laying.*] In *surgery*, a compress or small flat tent of lint, laid over a wound to imbibed the matter discharged and keep it clean. *Encyc.*

PLEDG'ING, *ppr.* Depositing in pawn or as security; giving warrant for security or safety.

PLEIADS, *n.* *ple'yads*. [*L. Pleiades*; *Gr. πλειάδες*, supposed to be formed from *πλεω*, to sail, as the rising of the seven stars indicated the time of safe navigation.]

In *astronomy*, a cluster of seven stars in the neck of the constellation *Taurus*. The Latins called them *Vergilia*, from *ver*, spring, because of their rising about the vernal equinox. *Encyc. Ainsworth.*

PLE'NAL, *a.* [*See Plenary.*] Full. [*Not used.*] *Beaumont.*

PLE'NARILY, *adv.* [*from plenary.*] Fully; completely. *Ayliffe.*

PLE'NARINESS, *n.* Fullness; completeness.

PLE'NARTY, *n.* The state of a benefice when occupied. *Blackstone.*

PLE'NARY, *a.* [*L. plenus*; *Fr. plein*; *It. plenario*, *pieno*; *Sp. pleno*, *lleno*; *W. llawn*; *Ir. lain, lan*; *Arm. leun*. The Russ. has *polnei* and *polon*, full, and with a prefix, *napolnnyu*, to fill. Qu. the radical letters, and the identity of the Russ. with the others.]

Full; entire; complete; as a *plenary* license; *plenary* consent; *plenary* indulgence. The *plenary* indulgence of the pope is an entire remission of penalties due to all sins. *Encyc.*

PLE'NARY, *n.* Decisive procedure. [*Not used.*] *Ayliffe.*

PLENILUNARY, *a.* Relating to the full moon. *Brown.*

PLENILUNE, *n.* [*L. plenilunium*; *plenus*, full, and *luna*, moon.] The full moon. [*Not used.*] *B. Jonson.*

PLENIP'OTENCE, *n.* [*L. plenus*, full, and *potentia*, power.] Fullness or completeness of power. *Milton.*

PLENIP'OTENT, *a.* [*L. plenipotens*, supra.] Possessing full power. *Milton.*

PLENIPOTEN'TIARY, *n.* [*Fr. plenipotentiaire*. See *Plenipotence*.]

A person invested with full power to transact any business; usually, an ambassador or envoy to a foreign court, furnished with full power to negotiate a treaty or to transact other business.

PLENIPOTEN'TIARY, *a.* Containing full power; as *plenipotentiary* license or authority.

PLENISIL, for *replenish*, not used.