

PENTAMETER, *a.* Having five metrical feet. *Warlton.*

PENTANDER, *n.* [Gr. *πεντε*, five, and *ανδρ*, a male.]

In *botany*, a plant having five stamens.

PENTANDRIAN, *a.* Having five stamens.

PENTAGULAR, *a.* [Gr. *πεντε*, five, and *angular*.] Having five corners or angles. *Grev.*

PENTAPETALOUS, *a.* [Gr. *πεντε*, five, and *πεταλον*, a petal.]

Having five petals or flower leaves. *Encyc.*

PENTAPHYLLOUS, *a.* [Gr. *πεντε*, five, and *φυλλον*, a leaf.] Having five leaves.

PENTARCHY, *n.* [Gr. *πεντε*, five, and *αρχη*, rule.]

A government in the hands of five persons. *Brewer.*

PENTASPAST, *n.* [Gr. *πεντε*, five, and *σπασω*, to draw.]

An engine with five pulleys. *Diel.*

PENTASPERMOUS, *a.* [Gr. *πεντε*, five, and *σπέρμα*, seed.] Containing five seeds. *Encyc.*

PENTASTICH, *n.* [Gr. *πεντε*, five, and *στιχος*, verse.]

A composition consisting of five verses. *Diel.*

PENTASTYLE, *n.* [Gr. *πεντε*, five, and *στυλος*, a column.]

In *architecture*, a work containing five rows of columns.

PENTATEUCH, *n.* [Gr. *πεντε*, five, and *τευχος*, a book or composition.]

The first five books of the Old Testament.

PENTATECONTER, *n.* [from the Greek.] A Grecian vessel of fifty oars, smaller than a trireme. *Milford.*

PENTATECOST, *n.* [Gr. *πεντεκοστη*, *πεντεκοστος*, fiftieth.]

1. A solemn festival of the Jews, so called because celebrated on the fiftieth day after the sixteenth of Nisan, which was the second day of the passover. It was called the *feast of weeks*, because it was celebrated seven weeks after the passover. It was instituted to oblige the people to repair to the temple of the Lord, there to acknowledge his absolute dominion over the country, and offer him the first fruits of their harvest; also that they might call to mind and give thanks to God for the law which he had given them at Sinai on the fiftieth day from their departure from Egypt. *Calmet. Encyc.*

2. Whitsuntide, a solemn feast of the church, held in commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. Acts ii.

PENTECOSTAL, *a.* Pertaining to Whitsuntide. *Sanderson.*

PENTECOSTALS, *n.* Oblations formerly made by parishioners to the parish priest at the feast of Pentecost, and sometimes by inferior churches to the mother church. *Covel.*

PENTHOUSE, *n.* [Fr. *pente*, a slope, and *house*. In Welsh, *penly*.]

A shed standing aslope from the main wall or building.

PENTICE, *n.* [It. *pendice*, a declivity, from *L. pendio*, to bend.]

A sloping roof. [Little used.] *Wotton.*

PENTILE, *n.* [Fr. *pente*, a bending, and *tile*.]

A tile for covering the sloping part of a roof. [Qu. *pantile*.] *Johnson.*

PENTREMITTE, *n.* A genus of zoophytes or fossil shells.

PENULT, *n.* [L. *penultimus*; *pene*, almost, and *ultimus*, last.]

The last syllable of a word except one.

PENULTIMATE, *a.* [supra.] The last but one; a word used of the last syllable of a word except one. It may be sometimes used as a noun.

PENUMBRA, *n.* [L. *pene*, almost, and *umbra*, shade.]

In *astronomy*, a partial shade or obscurity on the margin of the perfect shade in an eclipse, or between the perfect shade, where the light is entirely intercepted, and the full light. *Cyc.*

PENURIOS, *a.* [It. *penurioso*, from *L. penuria*, scarcity, want; Gr. *πενης*, poor; *σπανος*, rare.]

1. Excessively saving or sparing in the use of money; parsimonious to a fault; sordid; as a *penurious* man. It expresses somewhat less than *niggardly*.

2. Scanty; affording little; as a *penurious* spring. *Addison.*

PENURIOSLY, *adv.* In a saving or parsimonious manner; with scanty supply.

PENURIOSNESS, *n.* Parsimony; a sordid disposition to save money. *Addison.*

2. Scantiness; not plenty.

PENURY, *n.* [L. *penuria*, from Gr. *πενης*, needy.]

Want of property; indigence; extreme poverty.

All innocent they were exposed to hardship and *penury*. *Sprat.*

PEON, *n.* In Hindoostan, a foot soldier, or a footman armed with sword and target; said to be corrupted from *piadah*. [Qu. *L. pes, pedis*.] Hence,

2. In *France*, a common man in chess; usually written and called *pawn*.

PEONY, *n.* [L. *pæonia*; Gr. *παιωνια*, from *παιων*, Apollo.]

A plant and flower of the genus *Pæonia*. It is written also *piony*.

PEOPLE, *n.* [Fr. *peuple*; L. *populus*; W. *parb, pob*, each, every one; *poblae*, common people; G. *pobel*; It. *pupol, pobal*; Sp. *pueblo*; Russ. *bobiel*, a peasant. This word coincides in elements with *babe* and *pupil*, and perhaps originally signified the children of a family, like *gens*.]

1. The body of persons who compose a community, town, city or nation. We say, the *people* of a town; the *people* of London or Paris; the English *people*. In this sense, the word is not used in the plural, but it comprehends all classes of inhabitants, considered as a collective body, or any portion of the inhabitants of a city or country.

2. The vulgar; the mass of illiterate persons.

The knowing artist may judge better than the *people*. *Waller.*

3. The commonalty, as distinct from men of rank.

Myself shall mount the rostrum in his favor, And strive to gain his pardon from the *people*. *Addison.*

4. Persons of a particular class; a part of a nation or community; as country *people*.

5. Persons in general; any persons indefinitely; like *on* in French, and *man* in Sax- on.

*People* were tempted to lend by great premiums and large interest. *Swift.*

6. A collection or community of animals.

The ants are a *people* not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer. Prov. xxx.

7. When *people* signifies a separate nation or tribe, it has the plural number.

Thou must prophesy again before many *peoples*. Rev. x.

8. In *Scripture*, fathers or kindred. Gen. xxv.

9. The Gentiles.

—To him shall the gathering of the *people* be. Gen. xlix.

PEOPLE, *v. t.* [Fr. *peupler*.] To stock with inhabitants. Emigrants from Europe have *peopled* the United States.

PEOPLED, *pp.* Stocked or furnished with inhabitants.

PEOPLING, *ppr.* Stocking with inhabitants.

PEOPLISH, *a.* Vulgar. *Chaucer.*

PEPASTIC, *n.* [Gr. *πιπαστω*, to concoct or mature.]

A medicine that serves to help digestion; applied particularly to such medicines as tend to promote the digestion of wounds. *Coxe.*

PEPPER, *n.* [L. *piper*; Sax. *peppor*; D. *peper*; Sw. *peppar*; G. *pfeffer*; Dan. *peber*; Fr. *poivre*; It. *pepe*; Gr. *πιπερε*; Hin- doo, *pipel*; Sanscrit, *pipali*; Pers. *pilpil*.]

A plant and its seed or grain, of the genus *Piper*. The stem of the plant is a vine requiring a prop, which is usually a tree.

The leaves are oval and the flower white.

We have three kinds of pepper, the black, the white, and the long. The black pepper is the produce of Java, Sumatra, Cey- lon, and other Asiatic countries; the white pepper is the black pepper decorticated;

the long pepper is the fruit of a different species, also from the E. Indies. It consists of numerous grains attached to a common footstalk. Pepper has a strong aromatic smell and a pungent taste.

*Asiat. Res. Encyc.*

PEPPER, *v. t.* To sprinkle with pepper.

2. To beat; to pelt with shot; to mangle with blows. *Shak.*

PEPPER-BOX, *n.* A small box with a perforated lid, used for sprinkling pulverized pepper on food.

PEPPER-CAKE, *n.* A kind of spiced cake or gingerbread.

PEPPER-CORN, *n.* The berry or seed of the pepper-plant.

2. Something of inconsiderable value; as lands held at the rent of a *pepper-corn*.

PEPPERED, *pp.* Sprinkled with pepper; pelted; spotted.

PEPPER-GINGERBREAD, *n.* A kind of cake made in England.

PEPPERGRASS, *n.* A plant of the genus *Philularia*; also, a plant of the genus *Lepid- um*.

PEPPERING, *ppr.* Sprinkling with pep- per; pelting.

2. *a.* Hot; pungent; angry. *Swift.*

PEPERMINT, *n.* A plant of the genus *Mentha*. It is aromatic and pungent. Also, a liquor distilled from the plant.