

[This word formerly comprehended the art of foretelling the future fortunes of persons by indications of the countenance.]

PHYSIOGRAPHY, *n.* [Gr. *φύσις*, nature, and *γραφία*, to describe.]

A description of nature, or the science of natural objects.

PHYSIOLOGER, *n.* A physiologist. [The latter is generally used.]

PHYSIOLOGIC, *a.* [See *Physiology*.]

PHYSIOLOGICAL, *a.* Pertaining to physiology; relating to the science of the properties and functions of living beings.

PHYSIOLOGICALLY, *adv.* According to the principles of physiology.

Lawrence's Lect.

PHYSIOLOGIST, *n.* One who is versed in the science of living beings, or in the properties and functions of animals and plants.

2. One that treats of physiology.

PHYSIOLOGY, *n.* [Gr. *φυσιολογία*; *φύσις*, nature, and *λεγω*, to discourse.]

1. According to the Greek, this word signifies a discourse or treatise of nature, but the moderns use the word in a more limited sense, for the science of the properties and functions of animals and plants, comprehending what is common to all animals and plants, and what is peculiar to individuals and species.

2. The science of the mind, of its various phenomena, affections and powers.

Brown.

PHYSSY, for *fusce*. [Not used.] *Locke.*

PHYTIVOROUS, *a.* [Gr. *φυτόν*, a plant, and *Λ. voro*, to eat.]

Feeding on plants or herbage; as *phytivorous* animals. *Ray.*

PHYTOGRAPHICAL, *a.* Pertaining to the description of plants.

PHYTOGRAPHY, *n.* [Gr. *φυτόν*, a plant, and *γραφία*, description.] A description of plants.

PHYTOOLITE, *n.* [Gr. *φυτόν*, a plant, and *λίθος*, a stone.] A plant petrified, or fossil vegetable.

PHYTOLOGIST, *n.* [See *Phytology*.] One versed in plants, or skilled in phytology; a botanist. *Evelyn.*

PHYTOLOGY, *n.* [Gr. *φυτόν*, a plant, and *λογία*, discourse.]

A discourse or treatise of plants, or the doctrine of plants; description of the kinds and properties of plants.

Pia mater, [*L.*] in *anatomy*, a thin membrane immediately investing the brain.

Coxe.

PIABA, *n.* A small fresh water fish of Brazil, about the size of the minnow, much esteemed for food. *Encyc.*

PIACLE, *n.* [*L. piaculum*.] An enormous crime. [Not used.] *Howell.*

PIACULAR, *a.* [*L. piacularis*, from *pio*, to expiate.]

1. Expiatory; having power to atone.

2. Requiring expiation. *Brown.*

3. Criminal; atrociously bad. *Glanville.*

[These words are little used.]

PIANET, *n.* [*L. pica* or *picus*.] A bird, the lesser woodpecker. *Bailey.*

2. The magpie.

PIANIST, *n.* A performer on the forte-piano, or one well skilled in it. *Busby.*

PIANO-FORTE, *n.* [*It. piano*, from *L. planus*, plain, smooth, and *It. forte*, *L. fortis*, strong.]

A keyed musical instrument of German origin and of the harpsichord kind, but smaller; so called from its softer notes or expressions. Its tones are produced by hammers instead of quills, like the virginal and spinet. *Encyc. Cyc.*

PIAS'TER, *n.* [*It. piastra*, a thin plate of metal, or a dollar. See *Plate*.]

An Italian coin of about 80 cents value, or 3s. 7d. sterling. But the value is different in different states or countries. It is called also, a *piece of eight*.

PIAZ'ZA, *n.* [*It. for piazza*; *Sp. plaza*; *Port. praça*, for *plaza*; *Fr. place*; *Eng. id.*; *D. plaats*; *G. platz*; *Dan. plads*; *Sw. plats*.]

In *building*, a portico or covered walk supported by arches or columns. *Encyc.*

PIB'-CORN, *n.* [*W. pipe-horn*.] Among the Welsh, a wind instrument or pipe with a horn at each end.

PI'BROCH, *n.* [*Gael. piobaireachd*, pipe-music; Celtic *piob*, *piob*, a pipe.]

A wild irregular species of music, peculiar to the Highlands of Scotland. It is performed on a bagpipe, and adapted to excite or assuage passion, and particularly to rouse a martial spirit among troops going to battle. *Encyc. Jamieson.*

PI'CA, *n.* In *ornithology*, the *pie* or magpie, a species of *Cervus*.

2. In *medicine*, a vitiated appetite which makes the patient crave what is unfit for food, as chalk, ashes, coal, &c.

3. A printing type of a large size; probably named from *litera picala*, a great black letter at the beginning of some new order in the liturgy; hence,

4. *Pica*, *pye* or *pie*, formerly an ordinary, a table or directory for devotional services; also, an alphabetical catalogue of names and things in rolls and records. *Encyc.*

Pica marina, the sea-pye, ostralegus, or oyster-catcher; an aquatic fowl of the genus *Hematopus*. This fowl feeds on oysters, limpets and marine insects.

PICARON, *n.* [*Fr. picoreur*, from *picorer*, to plunder; *Scot. pikary*, rapine; from the root of *pick*, *perk*, *Sp. picar*.]

A plunderer; a pirate. This word is not applied to a highway robber, but to pirates and plunderers of wrecks.

In all wars, Corsica and Majorca have been nests of *picaroons*. *Temple.*

PIC'CADIL, *n.* [probably from the **PICCADILLY**, *n.* root of *pick*, *peak*.]

PICK'ARDIL, *n.* A high collar or a kind of ruff. *Wilson.*

PICK'AGE, *n.* [*Norm. pecker*, to break open; from the root of *pick*, *peck*.]

Money paid at fairs for breaking ground for booths. *Ainsworth.*

PICK, *v. l.* [*Sax. pycan*; *D. pikken*; *G. picken*; *Dan. pikker*; *Sw. picka*; *W. pigaw*, to *pick* or *peck*; *Sp. picar*; *Fr. piquer*; *Gr. πιχω* or *πιχω*; *L. pecto*. The verb may be radical, [see *Class Bg. No. 61. 62. 65.*] or derived from the use of the *beak* or any pointed instrument. It belongs to a numerous family of words, at least if connected with *beak*, *pique*, &c.]

1. To pull off or pluck with the fingers something that grows or adheres to another thing; to separate by the hand, as

fruit from trees; as, to *pick* apples or oranges; to *pick* strawberries.

2. To pull off or separate with the teeth, beak or claws; as, to *pick* flesh from a bone; hence,

3. To clean by the teeth, fingers or claws, or by a small instrument, by separating something that adheres; as, to *pick* a bone; to *pick* the ears.

4. To take up; to cause or seek industriously; as, to *pick* a quarrel.

5. To separate or pull asunder; to pull into small parcels by the fingers; to separate locks for loosening and cleaning; as, to *pick* wool.

6. To pierce; to strike with a pointed instrument; as, to *pick* an apple with a pin. *Bacon.*

7. To strike with the bill or beak; to puncture. In this sense, we generally use *peck*.

8. To steal by taking out with the fingers or hands; as, to *pick* the pocket. *South.*

9. To open by a pointed instrument; as, to *pick* a lock.

10. To select; to cull; to separate particular things from others; as, to *pick* the best men from a company. In this sense, the word is often followed by *out*.

To *pick off*, to separate by the fingers or by a small pointed instrument.

To *pick out*, to select; to separate individuals from numbers.

To *pick up*, to take up with the fingers or beak; also, to take particular things here and there; to gather; to glean.

To *pick a hole in one's coat*, to find fault.

PICK, *v. i.* To eat slowly or by morsels; to nibble. *Dryden.*

2. To do any thing nicely or by attending to small things. *Dryden.*

PICK, *n.* [*Fr. pique*; *D. pik*.] A sharp pointed tool for digging or removing in small quantities.

What the miners call chert and whern—is so hard that the *picks* will not touch it. *Woodward.*

2. Choice; right of selection. You may have your *pick*.

3. Among *printers*, foul matter which collects on printing types from the balls, bad ink, or from the paper impressed.

PICKAPACK, *adv.* In manner of a pack. [*Vulgar.*] *L'Estrange.*

PICK'AX, *n.* [*pick* and *ax*.] An ax with a sharp point at one end and a broad blade at the other. *Milton.*

PICK'BACK, *a.* On the back. *Hudibras.*

PICK'ED, *pp.* Plucked off by the fingers, teeth or claws; cleaned by picking; opened by an instrument; selected.

PICK'ED, *a.* Pointed; sharp.

PICK'ED, *a.* Pointed; sharp. Let the stake be made *picked* at the top. *Mortimer.*

PICK'EDNESS, *n.* State of being pointed at the end; sharpness.

2. Foppery; spruceness. *Johnson.*

PICK'EE, *v. t.* [*Fr. picorer*; from *pick*.]

1. To pillage; to pirate. *Hudibras.*

2. To skirmish, as soldiers on the outposts of an army, or in pillaging parties.

PICK'ER, *n.* One that picks or culls.

2. A pickax or instrument for picking or separating. *Mortimer.*