

PELL'-MELL, *adv.* With confused violence. *Shak. Hudibras.*

PELLU'CID, *a.* [*L. pellucidus*; *per* and *lucidus*; very bright. See *Light*.]

Perfectly clear; transparent; not opaque; as a body as *pellucid* as crystal. *Woodward.*

PELLUCIDITY, } Perfect clearness;
PELLUCIDNESS, } *n.* transparency; as the *pellucidity* of the air; the *pellucidity* of a gem. *Locke. Keil.*

PELT, *n.* [*G. pelz*; *Sp. pelada*; *L. pellis*. See *Fell*.]

1. The skin of a beast with the hair on it; a raw hide. *Brown.*
2. The quarry of a hawk all torn. *Ainsworth.*
3. A blow or stroke from something thrown. [*infra*.]

PELT, *v. t.* [*Fr. peloter*, from *pelote*, a ball; or contracted from *pellet*. In *Sw. bulla* is to beat. The word is from *Fr. pelote*, a little ball, or from *L. pello*, *Gr. βαλλω*.]

1. Properly, to strike with something thrown, driven or falling; as, to *pell* with stones; *pelled* with hail. The chiding billows seem to *pell* the clouds. *Shak.*
2. To drive by throwing something. *Alterbury.*

PELT'ATE, } *a.* [*L. pelta*, a target.] In
PELT'ATED, } *botany*, having the shape of a target or round shield, as a *pellate* stigma; having the petiole inserted in the disk, as a *pellate* leaf. *Martyn.*

PELT'ATELY, *adv.* In the form of a target. *Eaton.*

PELT'ED, *pp.* Struck with something thrown or driven.

PELT'ER, *n.* One that pelts; also, a pinch-penny; a mean, sordid person. *Hulot.*

PELT'ING, *ppr.* Striking with something thrown or driven.

PELT'ING, *n.* An assault with any thing thrown. *Shak.*

PELT'ING, *a.* In *Shakespeare*, mean; paltry. [*Improper*.]

PELT-MONGER, *n.* A dealer in pelts or raw hides.

PELT'RY, *n.* [from *pell*, a skin.] The skins of animals producing fur; skins in general, with the fur on them; furs in general. *Smollett.*

PELVIM'ETER, *n.* [*L. pelvis* and *Gr. μετρον*, measure.]

An instrument to measure the dimensions of the female pelvis. *Core.*

PELVIS, *n.* [*L. pelvis*, a basin.] The cavity of the body formed by the os sacrum, os coccyx, and ossa innominata, forming the lower part of the abdomen.

PEN, *n.* [*L. penna*; *Sax. pin*; *D. pen*; *It. penna*, a feather, a pen, and a top; *W. pen*, top, summit, head; *Ir. beann, beinn*, written also *ben*. The Celtic nations called the peak of a mountain, *ben* or *pen*. Hence the name *Apennine*, applied to the mountains of Italy. It may belong to the same root as *L. pinna*, a fin, that is, a shoot or point.]

1. An instrument used for writing, usually made of the quill of some large fowl, but it may be of any other material.
2. A feather; a wing. [*Not used*.] *Spenser.*

PEN, *v. t.* pret. and *pp. penned*. To write; to compose and commit to paper. *Addison.*

PEN, *n.* [*Sax. pinan*, to press, or *pyndan*, to pound or shut up; both probably from one root.]

A small inclosure for beasts, as for cows or sheep.

PEN, *v. t.* pret. and *pp. penned* or *pent*. To shut in a pen; to confine in a small inclosure; to coop; to confine in a narrow place; usually followed by *up*, which is redundant. *Boyle. Milton.*

PEN'AL, *a.* [*Fr. Sp. id.*; *It. penale*; from *L. pæna*, *Gr. πᾶν*, pain, punishment. See *Pain*.]

1. Enacting punishment; denouncing the punishment of offenses; as a *penal* law or statute; the *penal* code. *Penal* statutes must be construed strictly. *Blackstone.*
2. Inflicting punishment. Adamantine chains and *penal* fire. *Milton.*
3. Incurring punishment; subject to a penalty; as a *penal* act or offense.

PEN'ALTY, *n.* Liableness or condemnation to punishment. [*Not used*.] *Brown.*

PEN'ALTY, *n.* [*It. penaltà*; *Sp. penaldad*. See *Penal*.]

1. The suffering in person or property which is annexed by law or judicial decision to the commission of a crime, offense or trespass, as a punishment. A fine is a pecuniary *penalty*. The usual *penalties* inflicted on the person, are whipping, cropping, branding, imprisonment, hard labor, transportation or death.
2. The suffering to which a person subjects himself by covenant or agreement, in case of non-fulfilment of his stipulations; the forfeiture or sum to be forfeited for non-payment, or for non-compliance with an agreement; as the *penalty* of a bond.

PEN'ANCE, *n.* [*Sp. penante*, from *penar*, *It. penare*, to suffer pain. See *Pain*.]

1. The suffering, labor or pain to which a person voluntarily subjects himself, or which is imposed on him by authority as a punishment for his faults, or as an expression of penitence; such as fasting, flagellation, wearing chains, &c. *Penance* is one of the seven sacraments of the Roman church. *Encyc.*
2. Repentance.

PENCE, *n. pens.* The plural of *penny*, when used of a sum of money or value. When pieces of coin are mentioned, we use *pennies*.

PEN'CIL, *n.* [*Fr. pinceau*; *Sp. pincel*; *L. penicillus*.]

1. A small brush used by painters for laying on colors. The proper pencils are made of fine hair or bristles, as of camels, badgers or squirrels, or of the down of swans, inclosed in a quill. The larger pencils, made of swine's bristles, are called *brushes*. *Encyc.*
2. A pen formed of carburet of iron or plumbago, black lead or red chalk, with a point at one end, used for writing and drawing. *Encyc.*
3. Any instrument of writing without ink. *Johnson.*
4. An aggregate or collection of rays of light.

PEN'CIL, *v. t.* To paint or draw; to write or mark with a pencil. *Shak. Harte.*

PEN'CILED, *pp.* Painted, drawn or marked with a pencil.

2. Radiated; having pencils of rays.

PEN'CILING, *ppr.* Painting, drawing or marking with a pencil.

PEN'CIL-SHAPED, *a.* Having the shape of a pencil.

PEND'ANT, *n.* [*Fr. from L. pendeo*, to hang, or *Sp. pendon*. See *Pennon*.]

1. An ornament or jewel hanging at the ear, usually composed of pearl or some precious stone. *Pope.*
2. Any thing hanging by way of ornament. *Waller.*
3. In *heraldry*, a part hanging from the label, resembling the drops in the Doric frieze. *Enoye.*
4. A streamer; a small flag or long narrow banner displayed from a ship's mast head, usually terminating in two points called the swallow's tail. It denotes that a ship is in actual service. The broad pendant is used to distinguish the chief of a squadron. *Mar. Dict.*
5. A short piece of rope fixed on each side under the shrouds, on the heads of the main and fore-mast, having an iron thimble to receive the hooks of the tackle. *Mar. Dict.*

There are many other pendants consisting of a rope or ropes, to whose lower extremity is attached a block or tackle. The rudder-pendant is a rope made fast to the rudder by a chain, to prevent the loss of the rudder when unshipped. *Mar. Dict.*

6. A pendulum. [*Not used*.] *Digby.*

PEND'ENCE, *n.* [*L. pendens, pendeo*, to hang.] Slope; inclination. *Wotton.*

PEND'ENCY, *n.* [*L. pendens, pendeo*, supra.]

Suspense; the state of being undecided; as, to wait during the *pendency* of a suit or petition.

PEND'ENT, *a.* [*L. pendens*.] Hanging; fastened at one end, the other being loose.

With ribbons *pendent*, flaring about her head. *Shak.*

2. Jutting over; projecting; as a *pendant* rock. *Shak.*
3. Supported above the ground. *Milton.*

PEND'ING, *a.* [*L. pendeo*, to hang; *pendente* *lit.*.]

Depending; remaining undecided; not terminated. This was done, *pending* the suit.

PENDULOSITY, } [*See Pendulous*.]
PEND'ULOUSNESS, } *n.* The state of hanging; suspension. [*The latter is the preferable word*.]

PEND'ULOUS, *a.* [*L. pendulus*, from *pendeo*, to hang.]

Hanging; swinging; fastened at one end, the other being movable. The dewlap of an animal is *pendulous*.

PEND'ULUM, *n.* [*L. pendulus, pendulum*.]

A vibrating body suspended from a fixed point; as the *pendulum* of a clock. The oscillations of a pendulum depend on gravity, and are always performed in nearly equal times, supposing the length of the pendulum and the gravity to remain the same.

PENETRABIL'ITY, *n.* [from *penetrable*.]

Susceptibility of being penetrated, or of being entered or passed through by another body.