

by its infusibility. It is found in grains, granular masses, and rounded crystals.

Dict. Nat. Hist.

PERIECIAN, *n.* [Gr. *περιεικίζω*.] An inhabitant of the opposite side of the globe, in the same parallel of latitude.

PERIGEE, *n.* [Gr. *περι*, about, and *γη*, the earth.]

That point in the orbit of the sun or moon in which it is at the least distance from the earth; opposed to *apogee*. *Encyc.*

PERIGORD-STONE, *n.* An ore of manganese of a dark gray color, like basalt or trap; so called from Perigord, in France. *Encyc.*

PERIGRAPH, *n.* [Gr. *περι*, about, and *γραφη*, a writing.]

1. A careless or inaccurate delineation of any thing.

2. The white lines or impressions that appear on the musculus rectus of the abdomen. *Encyc.*

PERIGYNOUS, *a.* [Gr. *περι*, about, and *γυνή*, female.]

In botany, inserted around the pistil, as the corol or stamens; having the corol or stamens inserted around the pistil, as a flower or plant. *Jussieu. Smith.*

PERIHELION, *n.* [Gr. *περι*, about, and *ήλιος*, the sun.]

That part of the orbit of a planet or comet, in which it is at its least distance from the sun; opposed to *aphelion*. *Encyc.*

PERIHEXAHEDRAL, *a.* [Gr. *περι*, and *hexahedron*.]

Designating a crystal whose primitive form is a four sided prism, and in the secondary form is converted into a prism of six sides. *Cleaveland.*

PERIL, *n.* [Fr.; It. *periglio*; Sp. *peligro*; Port. *perigo*; from L. *periculum*, from Gr. *περιω*, to try, to attempt, that is, to strain; *πειρα*, an attempt, danger, hazard; allied to *περω*, to pass, to thrust in or transfix. *πειρα* is also the point or edge of a sword, coinciding with W. *ber* and *pér*, a spit, a spear or pike. Hence L. *experior*, Eng. *experience*. The Greek *πειρα* is expressed in Dutch by *vaaren*, to go, to sail, to fare; *gevaar*, danger, peril; G. *gefahr*, from *führen*. These words are all of one family. See *Pirate*. The primary sense of *peril* is an advance, a pushing or going forward; the radical sense of boldness. The Welsh has *perig*, perilous, from *pér*, and *peri*, to bid or command, the root of L. *impero*, from the same root.]

1. Danger; risk; hazard; jeopardy; particular exposure of person or property to injury, loss or destruction from any cause whatever.

In *perils* of waters; in *perils* of robbers. 2 Cor. xi.

2. Danger denounced; particular exposure. You do it at your *peril*, or at the *peril* of your father's displeasure.

PERIL, *v. i.* To be in danger. [Not used.] *Milton.*

PERILOUS, *a.* [Fr. *perilieux*.] Dangerous; hazardous; full of risk; as a *perilous* undertaking; a *perilous* situation.

2. Vulgarly used for *very*, like *mighty*; as *perilous* shrewd. *Obs. Hudibras.*

3. Smart; witty; as a *perilous* [parlous] boy. [Vulgar and obsolete.]

PERILOUSLY, *adv.* Dangerously; with hazard.

PERILOUSNESS, *n.* Dangerousness; danger; hazard.

PERIMETER, *n.* [Gr. *περι*, about, and *μετρον*, measure.]

In geometry, the bounds and limits of a body or figure. The *perimeters* of surfaces or figures are lines; those of bodies are surfaces. In circular figures, instead of *perimeter*, we use *circumference* or *periphery*. *Encyc.*

PERIOCTAHEDRAL, *a.* [Gr. *περι* and *octahedron*.]

Designating a crystal whose primitive form is a four sided prism, and in its secondary form is converted into a prism of eight sides.

PERIOD, *n.* [L. *periodus*; Fr. *periode*; It. Sp. Port. *periodo*; Gr. *περιόδος*; *περι*, about, and *οδος*, way.]

1. Properly, a circuit; hence, the time which is taken up by a planet in making its revolution round the sun, or the duration of its course till it returns to the point of its orbit where it began. Thus the period of the earth or its annual revolution is 365 days, 6 hours, 9 minutes, and 30 seconds. *Encyc.*

2. In *chronology*, a stated number of years; a revolution or series of years by which time is measured; as the *Calippic period*; the *Dionysian period*; the *Julian period*.

3. Any series of years or of days in which a revolution is completed, and the same course is to be begun.

4. Any specified portion of time, designated by years, months, days or hours complete; as a *period* of a thousand years; the *period* of a year; the *period* of a day.

5. End; conclusion. Death puts a *period* to a state of probation.

6. An indefinite portion of any continued state, existence or series of events; as the first *period* of life; the last *period* of a king's reign; the early *periods* of history.

7. State at which any thing terminates; limit.

8. Length or usual length of duration.

Some experiments would be made how by art to make plants more lasting than their ordinary *period*. *Bacon.*

9. A complete sentence from one full stop to another.

Periods are beautiful when they are not too long. *B. Jonson.*

10. The point that marks the end of a complete sentence; a full stop, thus, (.)

11. In *numbers*, a distinction made by a point or comma after every sixth place or figure. *Encyc.*

12. In *medicine*, the time of intension and remission of a disease, or of the paroxysm and remission. *Encyc.*

Julian period, in *chronology*, a period of 7980 years; a number produced by multiplying 28, the years of the solar cycle, into 19, the years of the lunar cycle, and their product by 15, the years of the Roman indiction.

PERIOD, *v. t.* To put an end to. [Not used.] *Shak.*

PERIODIC, *a.* [It. *periodico*; Fr. *periodique*.]

PERIODICAL, *a.*

1. Performed in a circuit, or in a regular revolution in a certain time, or in a series

of successive circuits; as the *periodical* motion of the planets round the sun; the *periodical* motion of the moon round the earth. *Watts.*

2. Happening by revolution, at a stated time; as, the conjunction of the sun and moon is *periodical*.

3. Happening or returning regularly in a certain period of time. The Olympiads among the Greeks were *periodical*, as was the jubilee of the Jews.

4. Performing some action at a stated time; as the *periodical* fountains in Switzerland, which issue only at a particular hour of the day. *Addison.*

5. Pertaining to a period; constituting a complete sentence. *Adam's Lect.*

6. Pertaining to a revolution or regular circuit. *Brown.*

PERIODICALLY, *adv.* At stated periods; as a festival celebrated *periodically*.

PERIOSTEUM, *n.* [Gr. *περι*, about, and *οστέον*, bone.]

A nervous vascular membrane endued with quick sensibility, immediately investing the bones of animals. *Encyc. Core.*

The periosteum has very little sensibility in a sound state, but in some cases of disease it appears to be very sensible. *Wistar.*

PERIPATETIC, *a.* [Gr. *περιπατητικός*, from *περιπατω*, to walk about; *περι* and *πατω*.]

Pertaining to Aristotle's system of philosophy, or to the sect of his followers.

PERIPATETIC, *n.* A follower of Aristotle, so called because the founders of his philosophy taught, or his followers disputed questions, *walking* in the Lyceum at Athens. *Encyc.*

2. It is ludicrously applied to one who is obliged to walk, or cannot afford to ride. *Tatler.*

PERIPATETICISM, *n.* The notions or philosophical system of Aristotle and his followers. *Barrow.*

PERIPHERAL, *a.* Peripheric. *Fleming.*

PERIPHERIC, *a.* Pertaining to a periphery; constituting a periphery.

PERIPHERY, *n.* [Gr. *περι*, around, and *φωρ*, to bear.]

The circumference of a circle, ellipsis, or other regular curvilinear figure. *Encyc.*

PERIPHRASE, *n. s. as z.* [Gr. *περιφρασις*; *περι*, about, and *φραζω*, to speak.]

Circumlocution; a circuit of words; the use of more words than are necessary to express the idea; a figure of rhetoric employed to avoid a common and trite manner of expression. *Encyc.*

PERIPHRASE, *v. t.* To express by circumlocution.

PERIPHRASE, *v. i.* To use circumlocution.

PERIPHRASES. [See *Periphrasis*.]

PERIPHRASTIC, *a.* Circumlocutory;

PERIPHRASTICAL, *a.* expressing or expressed in more words than are necessary; expressing the sense of one word in many.

PERIPHRASTICALLY, *adv.* With circumlocution. *Boswell.*

PERIPLUS, *n.* [Gr. *περιπλους*; *περι*, about, and *πλω*, to sail.]