

PUNCH, *n.* The buffoon or harlequin of a puppet show. [See *Punchinello*.]

PUNCH, *n.* A well set horse with a short back, thin shoulders, broad neck, and well covered with flesh. *Far. Dict.*

2. A short fat fellow.

PUNCH, *v. t.* [Sp. *punzar*; W. *pyncio*; L. *pungo*. In this word, *n* is probably casual, and the root is *Pg*, of the same family as *peg*, *pack*, or *pike*, with the primary sense of driving or thrusting, a point.]

1. To perforate with an iron instrument, either pointed or not; as, to *punch* a hole in a plate of metal. *Wiseman.*

2. In popular usage, to thrust against with something obtuse; as, to *punch* one with the elbow.

PUNCH/BOWL, *n.* A bowl in which punch is made, or from which it is drunk.

PUNCH/ED, *pp.* Perforated with a punch.

PUNCH/EON, *n.* [Fr. *poignon*, a bodkin, a puncheon.]

1. A small piece of steel, on the end of which is engraved a figure or letter, in creux or relief, with which impressions are stamped on metal or other substance; used in coinage, in forming the matrices of types, and in various arts. *Encyc.*

2. In carpentry, a piece of timber placed upright between two posts, whose bearing is too great; also, a piece of timber set upright under the ridge of a building, wherein the legs of a couple, &c. are joined. *Encyc.*

3. A measure of liquids, or a cask containing usually 120 gallons. Rum or spirits is imported from the West Indies in *punchons*, but these are often called also *hogsheds*.

PUNCH/ER, *n.* One that punches.

2. A punch or perforating instrument.

PUNCHINELLO, *n.* A punch; a buffoon. *Tatler.*

PUNCH/ING, *ppr.* Perforating with a punch; driving against.

PUNCH/Y, *a* Short and thick, or fat.

PUNCH/TATE, *a* [L. *punctus*, *pungo*.]

PUNCH/TATED, *a* Pointed.

2. In botany, perforated; full of small holes; having hollow dots scattered over the surface. *Martyn.*

PUNCH/TIFORM, *a*. [L. *punctum*, point, and *form*.] Having the form of a point. *Ed. Encyc.*

PUNCTIL/IO, *n.* [Sp. *puntilla*; It. *puntiglio*; from L. *punctum*, a point.]

A nice point of exactness in conduct, ceremony or proceeding; particularly or exactness in forms; as the *punctilios* of a public ceremony. *Addison.*

PUNCTIL/IOUS, *a*. Very nice or exact in the forms of behavior, ceremony or mutual intercourse; very exact in the observance of rules prescribed by law or custom; sometimes, exact to excess. *Rogers.*

PUNCTIL/IOUSLY, *adv.* With exactness or great nicety.

PUNCTIL/IOUSNESS, *n.* Exactness in the observance of forms or rules; attentive to nice points of behavior or ceremony.

PUNCT/TO, *n.* [Sp. It. *punto*; L. *punctum*, from *pungo*, to prick.]

1. Nice point of form or ceremony. *Bacon.*

2. The point in fencing. *Shak.*

PUNCTUAL, *a*. [Fr. *punctuel*; It. *puntuale*; Sp. *puntual*; from L. *punctum*, a point.]

1. Consisting in a point; as this *punctual* spot. [Little used.] *Milton.*

2. Exact; observant of nice points; punctilious, particularly in observing time, appointments or promises. It is honorable in a man to be *punctual* to appointments, or to appointed hours; it is just to be *punctual* in paying debts.

3. Exact; as a *punctual* correspondence between a prediction and an event.

4. Done at the exact time; as *punctual* payment.

PUNCTUALIST, *n.* One that is very exact in observing forms and ceremonies. *Milton.*

PUNCTUALITY, *n.* Nicety; scrupulous exactness. He served his prince with *punctuality*. *Howell.*

2. It is now used chiefly in regard to time. He pays his debts with *punctuality*. He is remarkable for the *punctuality* of his attendance.

PUNCTUALLY, *adv.* Nicely; exactly; with scrupulous regard to time, appointments, promises or rules; as, to attend a meeting *punctually*; to pay debts or rent *punctually*; to observe *punctually* one's engagements.

PUNCTUALNESS, *n.* Exactness; punctuality. *Felton.*

PUNCTUATE, *v. t.* [Fr. *punctuer*, from L. *punctum*, a point.]

To mark with points; to designate sentences, clauses or other divisions of a writing by points, which mark the proper pauses. *M. Stuart.*

PUNCTUATED, *pp.* Pointed. *Fourcroy.*

2. Having the divisions marked with points.

PUNCTUATING, *ppr.* Marking with points.

PUNCTUATION, *n.* In grammar, the act or art of pointing a writing or discourse, or the act or art of marking with points the divisions of a discourse into sentences and clauses or members of a sentence. Punctuation is performed by four points, the period (.) ; the colon (:) ; the semicolon (;) ; and the comma (,) . The ancients were unacquainted with *punctuation*; they wrote without any distinction of members, periods or words.

PUNCTULATE, *v. t.* [L. *punctulum*.] To mark with small spots. [Not used.] *Woodward.*

PUNCTURE, *n.* [L. *punctura*; It. *puntura*.]

The act of perforating with a pointed instrument; or a small hole made by it; as the *puncture* of a nail, needle or pin.

A lion may perish by the *puncture* of an asp. *Rambler.*

PUNCTURE, *v. t.* To prick; to pierce with a small pointed instrument; as, to *puncture* the skin.

PUNCTURED, *pp.* Pricked; pierced with a sharp point.

PUNCTURING, *ppr.* Piercing with a sharp point.

PUN/DIT, *n.* [In Persic, پند pand, learning.] In Hindoostan, a learned Bramin;

one versed in the Sanserit language, and in the science, laws and religion of that country.

PUN/DLE, *n.* A short and fat woman. [Not used.] *Ainsworth.*

PUN/GAR, *n.* A fish. *Ainsworth.*

PUN/GENCY, *n.* [L. *pungens*, *pungo*, to prick.]

1. The power of pricking or piercing; as the *pungency* of a substance. *Arbuthnot.*

2. That quality of a substance which produces the sensation of pricking, or affecting the taste like minute sharp points; sharpness; acridness.

3. Power to pierce the mind or excite keen reflections or remorse; as the *pungency* of a discourse.

4. Acrimoniousness; keenness; as the *pungency* of wit or of expressions. *Stillingsfleet.*

PUN/GENT, *a*. [L. *pungens*, *pungo*.] Pricking; stimulating; as *pungent* snuff.

The *pungent* grains of titillating dust. *Pope.*

2. Acrid; affecting the tongue like small sharp points; as the sharp and *pungent* taste of acids. *Newton.*

3. Piercing; sharp; as *pungent* pains; *pungent* grief. *Swift.*

4. Acrimonious; biting. *Fell.*

PUN/IC, *a*. [L. *punicus*, pertaining to Carthage or its inhabitants, from *Peni*, the Carthaginians; qu. from *Pheni*, as Carthage was settled by Phenicians.]

Pertaining to the Carthaginians; faithless; treacherous; deceitful; as *punic* faith.

PUN/IC, *n.* The ancient language of the Carthaginians, of which Plautus has left a specimen. *Asiat. Res.*

PUN/ICE, *n.* A wall-louse; a bug. [Not in use.] *Ainsworth.*

PUN/ICEOUS, *a*. [L. *punicus*. See *Punice*.] Purple. *Dict.*

PUN/INESS, *n.* [from *puny*.] Littleness; pettiness; smallness with feebleness.

PUN/ISH, *v. t.* [Arm. *punicza*; Fr. *punir*, *punissant*; It. *punire*; Sp. *punir*; from L. *punio*, from the root of *pena*, pain. The primary sense is to press or strain.]

1. To pain; to afflict with pain, loss or calamity for a crime or fault; primarily, to afflict with bodily pain, as to *punish* a thief with pillory or stripes; but the word is applied also to affliction by loss of property, by transportation, banishment, seclusion from society, &c. The laws require murderers to be *punished* with death. Other offenders are to be *punished* with fines, imprisonment, hard labor, &c. God *punishes* men for their sins with calamities personal and national.

2. To chastise; as, a father *punishes* his child for disobedience.

3. To reward with pain or suffering inflicted on the offender; applied to the crime; as, to *punish* murder or theft.

PUN/ISHABLE, *a*. Worthy of punishment.

2. Liable to punishment; capable of being punished by law or right; applied to persons or offenses; as, a man is *punishable* for robbery or for trespass; a crime is *punishable* by law.

PUN/ISHABLENESS, *n.* The quality of deserving or being liable to punishment.