

urge or come to.] Primarily, fitness; suitability; convenience. Hence,

1. Sufficiency; such a quantity as is sufficient; property or means of subsistence sufficient to furnish the necessities and conveniences of life, without superfluity. Reason's whole pleasure, all the joys of sense. Lie in three words, health, peace, and competence. Pope.

2. Sufficiency, applied to other things than property; but this application is less common.

3. Legal capacity or qualifications; fitness; as the competence of a witness, which consists in his having the qualifications required by law, as age, soundness of mind, impartiality, &c.

4. Right or authority; legal power or capacity to take cognizance of a cause; as the competence of a judge or court to examine and decide. Kent.

5. Fitness; adequacy; suitability; legal sufficiency; as the competence of evidence. Sewall.

COMPETENT, *a.* Suitable; fit; convenient; hence, sufficient, that is, fit for the purpose; adequate; followed by *to*; as, *competent supplies of food and clothing*; a *competent force*; an *army competent to the preservation of the kingdom or state*; a *competent knowledge of the world*. This word usually implies a moderate supply, a sufficiency without superfluity.

2. Qualified; fit; having legal capacity or power; as a *competent judge or court*; a *competent witness*. In a judge or court, it implies right or authority to hear and determine; in a witness, it implies a legal right or capacity to testify.

3. Incident; belonging; having adequate power or right.

That is the privilege of the infinite author of things, who never slumbers nor sleeps, but is not *competent* to any finite being. Locke.

It is not *competent* to the defendant to allege fraud in the plaintiff.

COMPETENTLY, *adv.* Sufficiently; adequately; suitably; reasonably; as, the fact has been *competently* proved; a church is *competently* endowed.

COMPETIBLE, *a.* [Not now used. See *Compatible*.]

COMPETING, *ppr.* Striving in rivalry.

COMPETITION, *n.* [Low L. *competitio*. See *Compete* and *Competence*.]

1. The act of seeking, or endeavoring to gain, what another is endeavoring to gain, at the same time; rivalry; mutual strife for the same object; also, strife for superiority; as the *competition of two candidates for an office*, or of two poets for superior reputation.

2. A state of rivalry; a state of having equal claims.

A portrait, with which one of Titian's could not come in competition. Dryden.

3. Double claim; claim of more than one to the same thing; formerly with *to*, now with *for*.

Competition to the crown there is none nor can be. Bacon.

There is no competition but for the second place. Dryden.

COMPETITOR, *n.* One who seeks and endeavors to obtain what another seeks; or one who claims what another claims; a rival.

They cannot brook competitors in love.

Shak.

Shak.

COMPETITORY, *a.* Rivaling; acting in competition. Dangers of the country.

COMPETITRESS, *n.* A female competitor.

COMPETITRIX, *n.* A female competitor.

COMPILATION, *n.* [See *Compile*.]

1. A collection of certain parts of a book or books, into a separate book or pamphlet.

2. A collection or assemblage of other substances; or the act of collecting and forming an aggregate. Woodend.

COMPILATOR, *n.* A collector. [Not used.]

Chaucer.

COMPILE, *v. t.* [L. *compilo*, to pilfer or plunder; *con* and *pilo*, to pillage, to peel, and to drive close; *compilatio*, a pillaging; *It. compilare*; *Fr. compiler*; *Sp. Port. compilar*. The L. *pilo* is the English, to peel, to strip; but *pilo*, to make thick, or drive together, is the Gr. *πύλω*, *lanas ego, coreto*, coasting. *Compile* is probably from *peeling*, picking out, selecting and putting together.]

1. To collect parts or passages of books or writings into a book or pamphlet; to select and put together parts of an author, or to collect parts of different authors; or to collect and arrange separate papers, laws, or customs, in a book, code or system.

2. To write; to compose.

In poetry, they compile the praises of virtuous men and actions. Temple.

3. To contain; to comprise. [Not used.]

Spenser.

4. To make up; to compose. [Not used.]

Shak.

5. To put together; to build. [Not used.]

Spenser.

COMPILED, *pp.* Collected from authors; selected and put together.

COMPLEMENT, *n.* The act of piling together or heaping; coacervation. [Little used.]

Woodward.

COMPILER, *n.* A collector of parts of authors, or of separate papers or accounts; one who forms a book or composition from various authors or separate papers. Bacon. Swift.

COMPIILING, *ppr.* Collecting and arranging parts of books, or separate papers, in a body or composition.

COMPLACENCE, *n.* [L. *complacens*, *complacencia*, *n.* place; *con* and *placere*, to please; *Fr. complaire*, *complaisant*; *It. complacere*, *complaisant*; *Sp. complacer*.]

1. Pleasure; satisfaction; gratification. It is more than approbation, and less than delight or joy.

Others proclaim the infirmities of a great man with satisfaction and complacency, if they discover none of the like in themselves. Addison.

2. The cause of pleasure or joy. Milton.

3. Complaisance; civility; softness of manners; deportment and address that afford pleasure.

Complacency, and truth, and manly sweetness. Dwell ever on his tongue, and smooth his thoughts. Addison.

In the latter sense, *complaisance*, from the French, is now used. [See *Complaisance*.]

COMPLACENT, *a.* Civil; complaisant.

They look up with a sort of complacent awe to kings. Buche.

COMPLACENTIAL, *a.* Marked by complacency; accommodating.

Ch. Relig. Appeal.

COMPLACENTLY, *adv.* Softly; in a complacent manner.

COMPLAIN, *v. i.* [Fr. *complandre*; *con* and *com* and *plandre*, *plaint*, to lament, to bewail; *Sp. plañir*; *It. compiangere*, or *compiangere*; from the L. *plango*, to strike, to lament. If *n* is not radical, the original word was *plago*, coinciding with *plaga*, Gr. *πλάγῃ*. But this is doubtful. The primary sense is to drive, whence to strike and to lament, that is, to strike the hands or breasts, as in extreme grief, or to drive forth the voice, as in *appello*.]

1. To utter expressions of grief; to lament.

I will complain in the bitterness of my spirit. Job vii.

He complained and my spirit was overwhelmed. Ps. lxxvii.

2. To utter expressions of censure or resentment; to murmur; to find fault.

And when the people complained, it displeased the Lord. Num. xi.

3. To utter expressions of uneasiness, or pain. He complains of thirst. He complains of a head-ache.

4. To charge; to accuse of an offense; to present an accusation against a person to a proper officer.

To A. B. one of the justices of the peace for the county of S, complains C. D.

This verb is regularly followed by *of*, before the cause of grief or censure; as, to *complain of* thirst, of ignorance, of vice, of an offender.

5. To represent injuries, particularly in a writ of Audita Querela.

COMPLAIN, *v. t.* To lament; to bewail.

They might the grievance inwardly complain. This use of *complain* is uncommon, and hardly legitimate. The phrase is properly elliptical.

COMPLAINABLE, *a.* That may be complained of. [Not in use.] Filtham.

COMPLAINANT, *n.* [Fr. *complaignant*.] A prosecutor; one who prosecutes by complaint, or commences a legal process against an offender for the recovery of a right or penalty.

He shall forfeit one moiety to the use of the town; and the other moiety to the use of the complainant.

Stat. of Massachusetts.

The plaintiff in a writ of Audita Querela.

Ibm.

COMPLAINER, *n.* One who complains, or expresses grief; one who laments; one who finds fault; a murmurer.

These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts. Jude 16.

COMPLAINFUL, *a.* Full of complaint. [Not used.]

COMPLAINING, *ppr.* Expressing grief, sorrow, or censure; finding fault; murmuring; lamenting; accusing of an offense.

COMPLAINING, *n.* The expression of regret, sorrow, or injury.

COMPLAINTE, *n.* [Fr. *complainte*; *It. complainta*.] Expression of grief, regret, pain, censure, or resentment; lamentation; murmuring; a finding fault.

Even to day is my complaint bitter. Job xlii.