

In *heraldry*, that part of armor which covers the shoulders.

Sandys.

POW'TER, } *n.* A variety of the common
POU'TER, } domestic pigeon, with an
inflated breast.

Ed. Encyc.

POX, *n.* [a corruption of *pocks*, Sax. *poc* or *poce*, D. *pok*, that is, a *push*, eruption or pustule. It is properly a plural word, but by usage is singular.]

Strictly, pustules or eruptions of any kind, but chiefly or wholly restricted to three or four diseases, the small pox, chicken pox, the vaccine and the venereal diseases. *Pox*, when used without an epithet, signifies the latter, *lues venerea*.

POY, *n.* [Sp. *apoyo*, a prop or stay, Fr. *appui*. The verb signifies to bear or lean upon, from the root of *poize*.] A rope dancer's pole.

POZE, for *pose*, to puzzle. [See *Pose*.]

PRAC'TIC, for *practical*, is not in use. It was formerly used for *practical*, and Spenser uses it in the sense of *artful*.

PRACTICABILITY, } *n.* [from *prac-*
PRACTICABLENESS, } *ticable*.] The
quality or state of being practicable;
feasibility.

PRAC'TICABLE, *a.* [Fr. *praticable*; It. *praticabile*; Sp. *practicable*. See *Practice*.]

1. That may be done, effected or performed by human means, or by powers that can be applied. It is sometimes synonymous with *possible*, but the words differ in this: *possible* is applied to that which might be performed, if the necessary powers or means could be obtained; *practicable* is limited in its application to things which are to be performed by the means given, or which may be applied. It was *possible* for Archimedes to lift the world, but it was not *practicable*.

2. That may be practiced; as a *practicable* virtue.

Dryden.

3. That admits of use, or that may be passed or traveled; as a *practicable* road. In *military affairs*, a *practicable* breach is one that can be entered by troops.

Mitford.

PRAC'TICABLY, *adv.* In such a manner as may be performed. "A rule *practicably* applied before his eyes," is not correct language. It is probably a mistake for *practically*.

Rogers.

PRAC'TICAL, *a.* [L. *practicus*; It. *pratico*; Fr. *pratique*; Sp. *practico*. See *Practice*.] Pertaining to practice or action.

2. Capable of practice or active use; opposed to *speculative*; as a *practical* understanding.

South.

3. That may be used in practice; that may be applied to use; as *practical* knowledge.

Tillotson.

4. That reduces his knowledge or theories to actual use; as a *practical* man.

5. Derived from practice or experience; as *practical* skill or knowledge.

PRAC'TICALLY, *adv.* In relation to practice.

2. By means of practice or use; by experiment; as *practically* wise or skillful.

3. In practice or use; as a medicine *practically* safe; theoretically wrong, but *practically* right.

PRAC'TICALNESS, *n.* The quality of being practical.

PRACTICE, *n.* [Sp. *practica*; It. *pratica*; Fr. *pratique*; Gr. *πραξις*, from the root of *πρασσω*, *πραττω*, to act, to do, to make.

The root of this verb is *πρᾶγ* or *πρᾶξ*, as appears by the derivatives *πράγμα*, *πραξις*, and from the same root, in other languages, are formed G. *brauchen*, to use; *brauch*, use, practice; D. *gebruiken*, to use, employ, enjoy; *bruiker*, a tenant, one that occupies a farm; Sax. *brucan*, to use, to enjoy, to eat, whence Eng. to *brook*, and *broker*; Dan. *bruger*, to use or employ; *brug*, use, practice; Sw. *bruka*; L. *fruo*, for *frugor* or *frucor*, whence *fructus*, contracted into *fruit*; It. *fraccare*, use, practice, frequency, L. *frequens*. The W. *praiith*, practice, *preithiuc*, to practice, may be the same word, with the loss of the palatal letter *c* or *g*.]

1. Frequent or customary actions; a succession of acts of a similar kind or in a like employment; as the *practice* of rising early or of dining late; the *practice* of reading a portion of Scripture morning and evening; the *practice* of making regular entries of accounts; the *practice* of virtue or vice. *Habit* is the effect of *practice*.

2. Use; customary use.

Obsolete words may be revived when they are more sounding or significant than those in *practice*.

Dryden.

3. Dexterity acquired by use. [Unusual.]

Shak.

4. Actual performance; distinguished from *theory*.

There are two functions of the soul, contemplation and *practice*, according to the general division of objects, some of which only entertain our speculations, others employ our actions.

South.

5. Application of remedies; medical treatment of diseases. Two physicians may differ widely in their *practice*.

6. Exercise of any profession; as the *practice* of law or of medicine; the *practice* of arms.

7. Frequent use; exercise for instruction or discipline. The troops are daily called out for *practice*.

8. Skillful or artful management; dexterity in contrivance or the use of means; art; stratagem; artifice; usually in a bad sense.

He sought to have that by *practice* which he could not by prayer.

Sidney.

[This use of the word is genuine; Sp. *practico*, skillful, It. *pratico*; like *expert*, from L. *experior*. It is not a mistake as Johnson supposes. See the Verb.]

9. A rule in arithmetic, by which the operations of the general rules are abridged in use.

PRAC'TICE, *v. t.* [From the noun. The orthography of the verb ought to be the same as of the noun; as in *notice* and *to notice*.]

1. To do or perform frequently, customarily or habitually; to perform by a succession of acts; as, to *practice* gaming; to *practice* fraud or deception; to *practice* the virtues of charity and beneficence; to *practice* hypocrisy. Is. xxxii.

Many praise virtue who do not *practice* it.

Anon.

2. To use or exercise any profession or art; as, to *practice* law or medicine; to *practice* gunnery or surveying.

3. To use or exercise for instruction, discipline or dexterity. [In this sense, the verb is usually intransitive.]

4. To commit; to perpetrate; as the horrors *practiced* at Wyoming.

Marshall.

5. To use; as a *practiced* road. [Unusual.]

Mitford.

PRAC'TICE, *v. i.* To perform certain acts frequently or customarily, either for instruction, profit or amusement; as, to *practice* with the broad sword; to *practice* with the rifle.

2. To form a habit of acting in any manner. They shall *practice* how to live secure.

Milton.

3. To transact or negotiate secretly.

I have *practiced* with him,
And found means to let the victor know
That Syphax and Sempronius are his friends.

Addison.

4. To try artifices.

Others, by guilty artifice and arts
Of promis'd kindness, *practiced* on our hearts.

Granville.

5. To use evil arts or stratagems.

If you there

Did *practice* on my state—

Shak.

6. To use medical methods or experiments. I am little inclined to *practice* on others, and as little that others should *practice* on me.

Temple.

7. To exercise any employment or profession. A physician has *practiced* many years with success.

PRAC'TICED, *pp.* Done by a repetition of acts; customarily performed or used.

PRAC'TICER, *n.* One that practices; one that customarily performs certain acts.

2. One who exercises a profession. In this sense, *practitioner* is generally used.

PRAC'TICING, *ppr.* Performing or using customarily; exercising, as an art or profession.

PRAC'TISANT, *n.* An agent. [Not used.]

Shak.

PRAC'TITIONER, *n.* One who is engaged in the actual use or exercise of any art or profession, particularly in law or medicine.

2. One who does any thing customarily or habitually.

Whitgift.

3. One that practices sly or dangerous arts.

South.

PRÆCOGNITA, *n. plu.* [L. before known.] Things previously known in order to understand something else. Thus a knowledge of the structure of the human body is one of the *præcognita* of medical science and skill.

PRÆMUNIRE, *n.* [a corruption of the L. *præmonere*, to pre-admonish.]

1. A writ, or the offense for which it is granted. The offense consists in introducing a foreign authority or power into England, that is, introducing and maintaining the papal power, creating imperium in imperio, and yielding that obedience to the mandates of the pope, which constitutionally belongs to the king. Both the offense and the writ are so denominated from the words used in the writ, *præmunire facias*, cause A B to be forewarn