

2. This term is also applied to some compositions in which the language is that of excited imagination; as the *poems* of Ossian.

PO'ESY, *n.* [Fr. *poesie*; L. *poesis*; Gr. *ποιησις*, from *ποιεω*, to make.]

1. The art or skill of composing poems; as, the heavenly gift of *poesy*. *Dryden*.

2. Poetry; metrical composition.
Music and *poesy* used to quicken you. *Shak.*

3. A short conceit engraved on a ring or other thing. *Shak.*

PO'ET, *n.* [Fr. *poete*; L. Sp. It. *poeta*; Gr. *ποιητης*. See *Poem*.]

1. The author of a poem; the inventor or maker of a metrical composition.

A *poet* is a maker, as the word signifies; and he who cannot make, that is, invent, hath his name for nothing. *Dryden*.

2. One skilled in making poetry, or who has a particular genius for metrical composition; one distinguished for poetic talents. Many write verses who cannot be called *poets*.

PO'ETASTER, *n.* A petty poet; a pitiful rhymist or writer of verses. *Roscommon*.

PO'ETESS, *n.* A female poet. *Hall*.

PO'ETIC, } *a.* [Gr. *ποιητικος*; L. *poeticus*.]
PO'ETICAL, }

1. Pertaining to poetry; suitable to poetry; as a *poetical* genius; *poetic* turn or talent; *poetic* license.

2. Expressed in poetry or measure; as a *poetical* composition.

3. Possessing the peculiar beauties of poetry; sublime; as a composition or passage highly *poetical*.

PO'ETICALLY, *adv.* With the qualities of poetry; by the art of poetry; by fiction. *Dryden*.

PO'ETICS, *n.* The doctrine of poetry. *Warton*.

PO'ETIZE, *v. i.* [Fr. *poetiser*.] To write as a poet; to compose verse. *Donne*.

POET-LAUREAT, *n.* A poet employed to compose poems for the birth days of a prince or other special occasion.

POET-MUSICIAN, *n.* An appellation given to the bard and lyrist of former ages, as uniting the professions of poetry and music. *Busby*.

PO'ETRESS, *n.* A female poet.

PO'ETRY, *n.* [Gr. *ποιηματα*.] Metrical composition; verse; as heroic *poetry*; dramatic *poetry*; lyric or Pindaric *poetry*.

2. The art or practice of composing in verse. He excels in *poetry*.

3. Poems; poetical composition. We take pleasure in reading *poetry*.

4. This term is also applied to the language of excited imagination and feeling.

POIGNANCY, *n.* *poin'ancy*. [See *Poignant*.]

1. Sharpness; the power of stimulating the organs of taste. *Swift*.

2. Point; sharpness; keenness; the power of irritation; asperity; as the *poignancy* of wit or sarcasm.

3. Severity; acuteness.

POIGNANT, *a.* *poin'ant*. [Fr. *poignant*, participle of *poindre*, from L. *pungere*, *pungo*, to prick.]

1. Sharp; stimulating the organs of taste; as *poignant* sauce. *Dryden*.

2. Pointed; keen; bitter; irritating; satirical; as *poignant* wit.

3. Severe; piercing; very painful or acute; as *poignant* pain or grief. *Norris*. *South*.

POIGNANTLY, *adv.* *poin'antly*. In a stimulating, piercing or irritating manner; with keenness or point.

POINT, *n.* [Fr. from *point*; Sp. It. *punto*, *punta*; W. *puenc*; from L. *punctum*, from *pungo*, to prick, properly to thrust, pret. *pepugi*, showing that *n* is not radical. Hence it accords with Norm. *pouchon*, a *punchon*, Fr. *poinçon*, Eng. to *punch*, and with *poke*, *poker*, Gr. *πηννα*, &c.]

1. The sharp end of any instrument or body; as the *point* of a knife, of a sword or of a thorn.

2. A string with a tag; as a silken *point*. *Shak.*

3. A small cape, headland or promontory; a tract of land extending into the sea, a lake or river, beyond the line of the shore, and becoming narrow at the end; as *point* Judith; Montank *point*. It is smaller than a cape.

4. The sting of an epigram; a lively turn of thought or expression that strikes with force and agreeable surprise.

With periods, *points* and tropes he slurs his crimes. *Dryden*.

5. An indivisible part of time or space. We say, a *point* of time, a *point* of space. *Locke*. *Davies*.

6. A small space; as a small *point* of land. *Prior*.

7. Punctilio; nicety; exactness of ceremony; as *points* of precedence.

8. Place near, next or contiguous to; verge; eve. He is on the *point* of departure, or at the *point* of death.

9. Exact place. He left off at the *point* where he began.

10. Degree; state of elevation, depression or extension; as, he has reached an extraordinary *point* of excellence. He has fallen to the lowest *point* of degradation.

11. A character used to mark the divisions of writing, or the pauses to be observed in reading or speaking; as the comma, semicolon, colon and period. The period is called a *full stop*, as it marks the close of a sentence.

12. A spot; a part of a surface divided by spots or lines; as the ace or sise *point*.

13. In *geometry*, that which has neither parts nor magnitude. *Euclid*.

A *point* is that which has position but not magnitude. *Playfair*.

A *point* is a limit terminating a line. *Legendre*.

14. In *music*, a mark or note anciently used to distinguish tones or sounds. Hence, *simple counterpoint* is when a note of the lower part answers exactly to that of the upper, and *figurative counterpoint*, is when a note is syncopated and one of the parts makes several notes or inflections of the voice while the other holds on one. *Encyc.*

15. In *modern music*, a dot placed by a note to raise its value or prolong its time by one half, so as to make a semibreve equal to three minims; a minim equal to three quavers, &c.

16. In *astronomy*, a division of the great circles of the horizon, and of the mariner's compass. The four cardinal *points*,

are the east, west, north and south. On the space between two of these points, making a quadrant or quarter of a circle, the compass is marked with subordinate divisions, the whole number being thirty two points.

17. In *astronomy*, a certain place marked in the heavens, or distinguished for its importance in astronomical calculations. The zenith and nadir are called *vertical points*; the nodes are the *points* where the orbits of the planets intersect the plane of the ecliptic; the place where the equator and ecliptic intersect are called *equinoctial points*; the points of the ecliptic at which the departure of the sun from the equator, north and south, is terminated, are called *solstitial points*.

18. In *perspective*, a certain pole or place with regard to the perspective plane. *Encyc.*

19. In *manufactories*, a lace or work wrought by the needle; as *point* le *Venice*, *point* de *Genoa*, &c. Sometimes the word is used for lace woven with bobbins. *Point* *devise* is used for needle work, or for nice work.

20. The place to which any thing is directed, or the direction in which an object is presented to the eye. We say, in this *point* of view, an object appears to advantage. In this or that *point* of view, the evidence is important.

21. Particular; single thing or subject. In what *point* do we differ? All *points* of controversy between the parties are adjusted. We say, in *point* of antiquity, in *point* of fact, in *point* of excellence. The letter in every *point* is admirable. The treaty is executed in every *point*.

22. Aim; purpose; thing to be reached or accomplished; as, to gain one's *point*.

23. The act of aiming or striking.
What a *point* your falcon made. *Shak.*

24. A single position; a single assertion; a single part of a complicated question or of a whole.

These arguments are not sufficient to prove the *point*.

Strange *point* and new!
Doctrine which we would know whence learned. *Milton*.

25. A note or tune.

Turning your tongue divine
To a loud trumpet, and a *point* of war. *Shak.*

26. In *heraldry*, points are the several different parts of the escutcheon, denoting the local positions of figures. *Encyc.*

27. In *electricity*, the acute termination of a body which facilitates the passage of the fluid to or from the body. *Encyc.*

28. In *gunnery*, *point-blank* denotes the shot of a gun leveled horizontally. The *point-blank* range is the extent of the apparent right line of a ball discharged. In shooting *point-blank*, the ball is supposed to move directly to the object, without a curve. Hence adverbially, the word is equivalent to *directly*.

29. In *marine language*, points are flat pieces of braided cordage, tapering from the middle towards each end; used in reefing the courses and top-sails of square-rigged vessels. *Mar. Dict.*

Point de rise, [Fr.] exactly in the point of view. *Shak.*