

Put case, for *put the case*, suppose the case to be so; a vulgar or at least inelegant phrase. *Burton.*

PU'TAGE, *n.* [See *Put*, a prostitute.] In *law*, prostitution or fornication on the part of a female. *Cowel.*

PU'TANISM, *n.* [Fr. *putanisme*.] Customary lewdness or prostitution of a female.

PU'TATIVE, *a.* [Fr. *putatif*; It. *putativo*; from L. *pulo*, to suppose.]

Supposed; reputed; commonly thought or deemed; as the *putative* father of a child.

PU'TID, *a.* [L. *putidus*, from *puteo*, to have an ill smell; W. *pued*.] Mean; base; worthless. *L'Estrange. Taylor.*

PU'TIDNESS, *n.* Meanness; vileness.

PUT'LOG, *n.* A short piece of timber used in scaffolds. *Moron.*

PUT-OFF, *n.* An excuse; a shift for evasion or delay. *L'Estrange.*

PUTRED'INOUS, *a.* [from L. *putredo*, from *putreo*, *putris*.]

Proceeding from putrefaction, or partaking of the putrefactive process; having an offensive smell. *Floyer.*

PUTREFAC'TION, *n.* [Fr. from L. *putrefactio*; *putris*, putrid, and *facio*, to make.]

A natural process by which animal and vegetable bodies are disorganized and dissolved, or reduced to their original separate elements. *Putrefaction* is greatly accelerated by heat and moisture.

PUTREFAC'TIVE, *a.* Pertaining to putrefaction; as the *putrefactive* smell or process.

2. Tending to promote putrefaction; causing putrefaction. *Brown.*

PUTREFIED, *pp.* Dissolved; rotten.

PUTREFY, *v. t.* [F. *putrefier*; L. *putrefacio*; *putris*, putrid, and *facio*, to make.]

1. To cause to dissolve; to disorganize and reduce to the simple constituent elements, as animal or vegetable bodies; to cause to rot. Heat and moisture soon *putrefy* dead flesh or vegetables.

2. To corrupt; to make foul; as, to *putrefy* the air. [*Little used*.] *Shak.*

3. To make morbid, carious or gangrenous; as, to *putrefy* an ulcer or wound.

Wiseman. Temple.

PUTREFY, *v. i.* To dissolve and return to the original distinct elements, as animal and vegetable substances deprived of the living principle; to rot.

PUTRESC'ENCE, *n.* [from L. *putrescens*, *putresco*.]

The state of dissolving, as an animal or vegetable substance; a putrid state.

Brown.

PUTRES'CENT, *a.* Becoming putrid; passing from an organized state into the constituent elements. *Brown.*

2. Pertaining to the process of putrefaction; as a *putrescent* smell.

PUTRESCIBLE, *a.* That may be putrefied; liable to become putrid; as *putrescible* substances. *Ramsay. Hist.*

PU'TRID, *a.* [Fr. *putride*; L. *putridus*, from *putris*, *putreo*.]

1. In a state of dissolution or disorganization, as animal and vegetable bodies; corrupt; rotten; as *putrid* flesh.

Indicating a state of dissolution; tending to disorganize the substances composing the body; malignant; as a *putrid* fever.

3. Proceeding from putrefaction or pertaining to it; as a *putrid* scent.

PU'TRIDNESS, } *n.* The state of being pu-

PUTRIDITY, } trid; corruption. *Floyer.*

PU'TRY, *a.* Rotten. [*Not used*.] *Marston.*

PU'TTER, *n.* [from *put*.] One who puts or places. *L'Estrange.*

PUTTER-ON, *n.* An inciter or instigator. *Shak.*

PUTTING, *ppr.* [from *put*.] Setting; placing; laying.

PUTTING-STONE, *n.* In *Scotland*, a stone laid at the gates of great houses for trials of strength. *Johnson. Pope.*

PUTTOCK, *n.* A kite. *Spenser.*

Putloc-shrouds, probably a mistake for *putloc-shrouds*.

PUTTY, *n.* [Sp. Port. *putea*.] A kind of paste or cement compounded of whiting and lintseed oil, beaten or kneaded to the consistence of dough; used in fastening glass in sashes and in stopping crevices.

2. A powder of calcined tin, used in polishing glass and steel. *Encyc.*

PUZZLE, *v. t.* [from the root of *pose*, which see.]

1. To perplex; to embarrass; to put to a stand; to gravel.

A shrewd disputant in those points, is dexterous in *puzzling* others. *More.*

He is perpetually *puzzled* and perplexed amidst his own blunders. *Addison.*

2. To make intricate; to entangle.

The ways of heaven are dark and intricate, *Puzzl'd* in mazes and perplex'd with error. *Addison.*

PUZZLE, *v. i.* To be bewildered; to be awkward. *L'Estrange.*

PUZZLE, *n.* Perplexity; embarrassment. *Bacon.*

PUZZLED, *pp.* Perplexed; intricate; put to a stand.

PUZZLE-HEADED, *a.* Having the head full of confused notions. *Johnson.*

PUZZLER, *n.* One that perplexes.

PUZZLING, *ppr.* Perplexing; embarrassing; bewildering.

PUZZOLAN, } *n.* A loose porous volcanic substance or stone.

PYCNITE, *n.* [Qu. Gr. *πυκνος*, compact.]

A mineral, the shortite of Kirwan, or shortious topaz of Jameson. It usually appears in long irregular prisms or cylinders, longitudinally striated, and united in bundles. *Werner. Cleaveland.*

PYCNOSTYLE, *n.* [Gr. *πυκνος*, thick, and *στυλος*, column.]

In *ancient architecture*, a building where the columns stand very close to each other; only one diameter and a half of the column being allowed to each intercolumniation. *Encyc.*

PYE, *n.* [probably a contracted word, and the same as *pie*, a mass.]

A confused mass; the state of printing types when the sorts are mixed.

PYE, *n.* A bird. [See *Pie*.]

PYGARG, } *n.* [Gr. *πυργαργος*.] A fowl of the genus *Falco*, the female of the hen harrier. *Ed. Encyc.*

PYGMEAN, *a.* Pertaining to a pygmy or dwarf; very small; dwarfish. *Milton.*

PYGMY, *n.* [Fr. *pygmée*; It. *pigmeo*; L. *pygmaeus*; Gr. *πυγμαίος*, from *πυγμα*, the fist; as big as the fist.]

A dwarf; a person not exceeding a cubit in height. This appellation was given by the ancients to a fabulous race of beings inhabiting Thrace, who waged war with the cranes and were destroyed. *Encyc.*

PYL'AGORE, *n.* [Gr. *πυλαγορας*.] In *ancient Greece*, a delegate or representative of a city, sent to the Amphictyonic council. *Mitford.*

PYLORIC, *a.* Pertaining to the pylorus; as the *pyloric* artery.

PYLO'RUS, *n.* [Gr. *πυλωρος*, from *πυλω*, a gate.]

The lower and right orifice of the stomach. *Core.*

PYR'ACANTH, *n.* [Gr. *πυρακανθα*, fiery thorn.]

A plant; a kind of thorn of the genus *Mespilus*. *Mason. Lee.*

PYRAL'LOLITE, *n.* [Gr. *πυρ*, fire, *αλλος* and *λιθος*; alluding to its changes of color before the blowpipe.]

A new mineral found in Finland, massive and in crystals, friable and yielding to the knife. Its color is greenish. *Cleaveland.*

PYRAMID, *n.* [Fr. *pyramide*; It. *piramide*; L. *pyramis*; Gr. *πυραμς*.] The origin and composition of this word are not ascertained. It is supposed that the Gr. *πυρ*, fire, forms one of its component parts; but W. *bera* is a pyramid, and a stack of corn.]

A solid body standing on a triangular, square or polygonal base, and terminating in a point at the top; or in geometry, a solid figure consisting of several triangles, whose bases are all in the same plane, and which have one common vertex. *Encyc.*

The *pyramids* of Egypt may have been erected to the sun, during the prevalence of Sabianism.

A *pyramid* is formed by the meeting of three or more planes at a point termed the apex. *Phillips.*

PYRAMIDAL, *a.* [Fr. *pyramidale*; It. *piramidale*.] Pyramidal.

PYRAMID'ICAL, *a.* Having the form of a pyramid.

The particles of earth being cubical, those of fire, *pyramidal*. *Enfield on Plato.*

A *pyramidal* rock. *Goldsmith.*

PYRAMID'ICALLY, *adv.* In the form of a pyramid. *Bacon.*

PYRAM'DOID, } *n.* [pyramid and Gr. *ειδος*, form.]

PYRAMOID, } A solid figure, formed by the rotation of a semi-parabola about its base or greatest ordinate.

PYRAMIS, *n.* [L.] A pyramid. *Bacon.*

PYRE, *n.* [L. *pyra*.] A funeral pile; a pile to be burnt. *Pope.*

PYRENITE, *n.* A mineral of a grayish black color, found in the Pyrenees, and considered as a variety of garnet. It occurs in minute rhombic dodecahedrons. *Cleaveland.*

PYRETOL'OGY, *n.* [Gr. *πυρετος*, fever, from *πυρ*, fire, and *λογος*, discourse.]

A discourse or treatise on fevers, or the doctrine of fevers. *Hoopcr.*

PYR'GOM, *n.* A mineral, called also *fassaite*.