

PROMPT, *a.* [Fr. *prompt*; It. Sp. *pronto*; L. *promptus*, from *promo*.]

1. Ready and quick to act as occasion demands.

Very discerning and *prompt* in giving orders.

2. Of a ready disposition; acting with cheerful alacrity; as *prompt* in obedience or compliance.

Tell him

I'm *prompt* to lay my crown at's feet.

3. Quick; ready; not dilatory; *applied* to things; as, he manifested a *prompt* obedience; he yielded *prompt* assistance.

When Washington heard the voice of his country in distress, his obedience was *prompt*.

4. Quick; hasty; indicating boldness or forwardness.

And you perhaps too *prompt* in your replies.

5. Ready; present; told down; as *prompt* payment.

6. Easy; unobstructed.

PROMPT, *v. t.* To incite; to move or excite to action or exertion; to instigate. Insults *prompt* anger or revenge; love *prompts* desire; benevolence *prompts* men to devote their time and services to spread the gospel. Ambition *prompted* Alexander to wish for more worlds to conquer.

2. To assist a speaker when at a loss, by pronouncing the words forgotten or next in order, as to *prompt* an actor; or to assist a learner, by suggesting something forgotten or not understood.

Ascham. Shak. Bacon.

3. To dictate; to suggest to the mind.

And whispering angels *prompt* her golden dreams.

4. To remind. [Not used.]

PROMPTED, *pp.* Incited; moved to action; instigated; assisted in speaking or learning.

PROMPTER, *n.* One that prompts; one that admonishes or incites to action.

2. One that is placed behind the scenes in a play house, whose business is to assist the speakers when at a loss, by uttering the first words of a sentence or words forgotten; or any person who aids a public speaker when at a loss, by suggesting the next words of his piece.

PROMPTING, *ppr.* Inciting; moving to action; aiding a speaker when at a loss for the words of his piece.

PROMPTITUDE, *n.* [Fr. from L. *promptus*; It. *promptitudine*; Sp. *promptitud*.]

1. Readiness; quickness of decision and action when occasion demands. In the sudden vicissitudes of a battle, *promptitude* in a commander is one of the most essential qualifications.

2. Readiness of will; cheerful alacrity; as *promptitude* in obedience or compliance.

PROMPTLY, *adv.* Readily; quickly; expeditiously; cheerfully.

PROMPTNESS, *n.* Readiness; quickness of decision or action. The young man answered questions with great *promptness*.

3. Cheerful willingness; alacrity.

3. Activity; briskness; as the *promptness* of animal actions.

PROMPTUARY, *n.* [Fr. *promptuaire*; L. *promptuarium*.]

That from which supplies are drawn; a storehouse; a magazine; a repository.

PROMPTURE, *n.* Suggestion; incitement. [Not used.]

PROMULGATE, *v. t.* [L. *promulgo*.] To publish; to make known by open declaration; as, to *promulgate* the secrets of a council. It is particularly applied to the publication of laws and the gospel. The moral law was *promulgated* at mount Sinai. The apostles *promulgated* the gospel. Edicts, laws and orders are *promulgated* by circular letters, or through the medium of the public prints.

PROMULGATED, *pp.* Published; made publicly known.

PROMULGATING, *ppr.* Publishing.

PROMULGATION, *n.* The act of promulgating; publication; open declaration; as the *promulgation* of the law or of the gospel.

PROMULGATOR, *n.* A publisher; one who makes known or teaches publicly what was before unknown.

PROMULGE, *v. t.* *promulgi*. To promulgate; to publish or teach. [Less used than *promulgate*.]

PROMULGED, *pp.* Published.

PROMULGER, *n.* One who publishes or teaches what was before unknown.

PROMULGING, *ppr.* Publishing.

PROMATION, *n.* [from L. *pronus*, having the face downwards.]

1. Among anatomists, that motion of the radius whereby the palm of the hand is turned downwards; the act of turning the palm downwards; opposed to *supination*.

2. That position of the hand, when the thumb is turned towards the body, and the palm downwards.

PROMATOR, *n.* A muscle of the fore arm which serves to turn the palm of the hand downward; opposed to *supinator*.

PRONE, *a.* [L. *pronus*.] Bending forward; inclined; not erect.

2. Lying with the face downward; contrary to *supine*.

3. Headlong; precipitous; inclining in descent.

Down thither *prone* in flight.

4. Sloping; devious; inclined.

Since the floods demand

For their descent, a *prone* and sinking land.

5. Inclined; propense; disposed; *applied* to the mind or affections, usually in an ill sense; as men *prone* to evil, *prone* to strife, *prone* to intemperance, *prone* to deny the truth, *prone* to change.

PROMENESS, *n.* The state of bending downward; as the *promeness* of beasts that look downwards; opposed to the *crectness* of man.

2. The state of lying with the face downwards; contrary to *supineness*.

3. Descent; declivity; as the *promeness* of a hill.

4. Inclination of mind, heart or temper; propension; disposition; as the *promeness* of the Israelites to idolatry; *promeness* to self-gratification or to self-justification; *promeness* to comply with temptation;

sometimes in a good sense; as the *prone-ness* of good men to commiserate want.

PRONG, *n.* [Possibly it is formed with *n* casual, from the W. *prociaw*, to stab, or Scot. *prog*, *brog*, a sharp point.]

1. A sharp pointed instrument.

Prick it on a *prong* of iron.

2. The tine of a fork or of a similar instrument; as a fork of two or three *prongs*. [This is the sense in which it is used in America.]

PRONG HOE, *n.* A hoe with prongs to break the earth.

PROMITY, for *promeness*, is not used.

PRONOMINAL, *a.* [L. *pronomem*. See *Pronoun*.]

Belonging to or of the nature of a pronoun.

PRONOUN, *n.* [Fr. *pronom*; It. *pronomine*; Sp. *pronombre*; L. *pronomem*; *pro*, for, and *nomen*, name.]

In grammar, a word used instead of a noun or name, to prevent the repetition of it. The personal pronouns in English, are *I*, *thou* or *you*, *he*, *she*, *we*, *ye* and *they*. The last is used for the name of things, as well as for that of persons. Other words are used for the names of persons, things, sentences, phrases and for adjectives; and when they stand for sentences, phrases and adjectives, they are not strictly *pronouns*, but relatives, substitutes or representatives of such sentences. Thus we say, "the jury found the prisoner guilty, and the court pronounced sentence on him. *This* or *that* gave great joy to the spectators." In these sentences, *this* or *that* represents the whole preceding sentence, which is the proper antecedent. We also say, "the jury pronounced the man guilty, *this* or *that* or *which* he could not be, for he proved an alibi." In which sentence, *this* or *that* or *which* refers immediately to *guilty*, as its antecedent.

PRONOUNCE, *v. t.* *pronouns*. [Fr. *prononcer*; It. *pronunciare*; Sp. *pronunciar*; L. *pronuncio*; *pro* and *nuncio*.]

1. To speak; to utter articulately. The child is not able to *pronounce* words composed of difficult combinations of letters. Adults rarely learn to *pronounce* correctly a foreign language.

2. To utter formally, officially or solemnly. The court *pronounced* sentence of death on the criminal.

Then Baruch answered them, he *pronounced* all these words to me with his mouth. Jer. xxxvi.

Sternly he *pronounced* the rigid interdiction.

3. To speak or utter rhetorically; to deliver; as, to *pronounce* an oration.

4. To speak; to utter, in almost any manner.

5. To declare or affirm. He *pronounced* the book to be a libel; he *pronounced* the act to be a fraud.

PRONOUNCE, *v. i.* *pronouns*. To speak; to make declaration; to utter an opinion. How confidently soever men *pronounce* of themselves—

PRONOUNCEABLE, *a.* *pronouns*'able. That may be pronounced or uttered.

Pinkerton.