

Arbitrary power tends to make a man a bad sovereign, who might *possibly* have been a good one, had he been invested with authority circumscribed by laws. *Addison.*

POST, *a.* [from Fr. *aposter.*] Suborned; hired to do what is wrong. [*Not in use.*] *Sandys.*

POST, *n.* [W. *póst*; D. Dan. Sw. *post*; G. *pfoste*, *posten*, and *post*; Fr. *poste*; Sp. *poste*, *posta*; It. *posta*, *posto*; L. *postis*, from *positus*, the given participle of *pono*, to place, but coinciding with Sp. *posar*, It. *posare*, to put or set.]

1. A piece of timber set upright, usually larger than a stake, and intended to support something else; as the *posts* of a house; the *posts* of a door; the *posts* of a gate; the *posts* of a fence.

2. A military station; the place where a single soldier or a body of troops is stationed. The sentinel must not desert his *post*. The troops are ordered to defend the *post*. Hence,

3. The troops stationed in a particular place, or the ground they occupy. *Marshall. Encyc.*

4. A public office or employment, that is, a fixed place or station.

When vice prevails and impious men bear sway,

The *post* of honor is a private station. *Addison.*

5. A messenger or a carrier of letters and papers; one that goes at stated times to convey the mail or dispatches. This sense also denotes fixedness, either from the practice of using relays of horses stationed at particular places, or of stationing men for carrying dispatches, or from the fixed stages where they were to be supplied with refreshment. [See *Stage*.] Xenophon informs us that Cyrus, king of Persia, established such stations or houses.

6. A seat or situation. *Burnet.*

7. A sort of writing paper, such as is used for letters; letter paper.

8. An old game at cards.

To *ride post*, to be employed to carry dispatches and papers, and as such carriers rode in haste, hence the phrase signifies to ride in haste, to pass with expedition. *Post* is used also adverbially, for swiftly, expeditiously, or expressly.

Sent from Media *post* to Egypt. *Milton.*

Hence, to *travel post*, is to travel expeditiously by the use of fresh horses taken at certain stations.

Knight of the post, a fellow suborned or hired to do a bad action.

POST, *v. i.* [Fr. *poster*; Sp. *postear*.] To travel with speed.

And *post* o'er land and ocean without rest. *Milton.*

POST, *v. t.* To fix to a post; as, to *post* a notification.

2. To expose to public reproach by fixing the name to a post; to expose to opprobrium by some public action; as, to *post* a coward.

3. To advertise on a post or in a public place; as, to *post* a stray horse.

Laws of New England.

4. To set; to place; to station; as, to *post* troops on a hill, or in front or on the flank of an army.

5. In *book-keeping*, to carry accounts from the waste-book or journal to the ledger.

To *post off*, to put off; to delay. [*Not used.*] *Shak.*

POST, a Latin preposition, signifying *after*. It is used in this sense in composition in many English words.

POSTABLE, *a.* That may be carried. [*Not used.*] *Mountague.*

POSTAGE, *n.* The price established by law to be paid for the conveyance of a letter in a public mail.

2. A portage. [*Not used.*] *Smollet.*

POSTBOY, *n.* A boy that rides as post; a courier. *Tatler.*

POST-CHAISE, *n.* [See *Chaise*.] A carriage with four wheels for the conveyance of travelers.

POSTDATE, *v. t.* [L. *post*, after, and *date*, L. *datum*.]

To date after the real time; as, to *postdate* a contract, that is, to date it after the true time of making the contract.

POSTDILUVIAL, } [*L. post*, after, and
POSTDILUVIAN, } *a.* *diluvium*, the deluge.]

Being or happening posterior to the flood in Noah's days. *Woodward. Buckland.*

POSTDILUVIAN, *n.* A person who lived after the flood, or who has lived since that event. *Grew.*

POST-DISSEIZIN, *n.* A subsequent disseizin. A writ of *post-disseizin* is intended to put in possession a person who has been disseized after a judgment to recover the same lands of the same person, under the statute of Merton. *Blackstone.*

POST-DISSEIZOR, *n.* A person who disseizes another of lands which he had before recovered of the same person.

Blackstone.

POSTEA, *n.* [L.] The record of what is done in a cause subsequent to the joining of issue and awarding of trial.

Blackstone.

POSTED, *pp.* Placed; stationed.

2. Exposed on a post or by public notice.

3. Carried to a ledger, as accounts.

POSTER, *n.* One who posts; also, a courier; one that travels expeditiously.

POSTERIOR, *a.* [from L. *posterus*, from *post*, after; Fr. *postérieur*.]

1. Later or subsequent in time.

Hesiod was *posterior* to Homer. *Broome.*

2. Later in the order of proceeding or moving; coming after. [*Unfrequent.*]

POSTERIORITY, *n.* [Fr. *posteriorité*.]

The state of being later or subsequent; as *posteriority* of time or of an event; opposed to *priority*.

Hale.

POSTERIOR, *n. plu.* The hinder parts of an animal body. *Swift.*

POSTERITY, *n.* [Fr. *postérité*; L. *posteritas*, from *posterus*, from *post*, after.]

1. Descendants; children, children's children, &c. indefinitely; the race that proceeds from a progenitor. The whole human race are the *posterity* of Adam.

2. In a general sense, succeeding generations; opposed to *ancestors*.

To the unhappy that unjustly bleed,

Heav'n gives *posterity* to avenge the deed. *Pope.*

POSTERN, *n.* [Fr. *poterne*, fur *posterne*, from L. *post*, behind.]

1. Primarily, a back door or gate; a private entrance; hence, any small door or gate. *Dryden. Locke.*

2. In *fortification*, a small gate, usually in the angle of the flank of a bastion, or in that of the curtain or near the orillon, descending into the ditch. *Encyc.*

POSTERN, *a.* Back; being behind; private. *Dryden.*

POST-EXISTENCE, *n.* Subsequent or future existence. *Addison.*

POST-FINE, *n.* In *English law*, a fine due to the king by prerogative, after a *licentia concordandi* given in a fine of lands and tenements; called also the king's silver. *Blackstone.*

POSTFIX, *n.* [L. *post*, after, and *fix*.] In *grammar*, a letter, syllable or word added to the end of another word; a suffix. *Parkhurst.*

POSTFIX, *v. t.* To add or annex a letter, syllable or word, to the end of another or principal word. *Parkhurst.*

POSTFIXED, *pp.* Added to the end of a word.

POSTFIXING, *ppr.* Adding to the end of a word.

POST-HACKNEY, *n.* [*post* and *hackney*.] A hired posthorse. *Wotton.*

POST-HASTE, *n.* Haste or speed in traveling, like that of a post or courier. *Shak.*

POST-HASTE, *adv.* With speed or expedition. He traveled *post-haste*, that is, by an ellipsis, with *post-haste*.

POST-HORSE, *n.* A horse stationed for the use of couriers. *Sidney.*

POST-HOUSE, *n.* A house where a post-office is kept for receiving and dispatching letters by public mails; a post-office. [*The latter word is now in general use.*]

POSTHUME, *a.* Posthumous. [*Not used.*] *Watts.*

POSTHUMOUS, *a.* [L. *post*, after, and *humus*, earth; *humulus*, buried.]

1. Born after the death of the father, or taken from the dead body of the mother; as a *posthumous* son or daughter.

Blackstone.

2. Published after the death of the author; as *posthumous* works.

3. Being after one's decease; as a *posthumous* character. *Addison.*

POSTHUMOUSLY, *adv.* After one's decease.

POSTIC, *a.* [L. *posticus*.] Backward. [*Not used.*] *Brown.*

POSTIL, *n.* [It. *postilla*; Sp. *postila*; from L. *post*.]

A marginal note; originally, a note in the margin of the Bible, so called because written after the text. *Encyc.*

POSTIL, *v. t.* [It. *postillare*.] To write marginal notes; to gloss; to illustrate with marginal notes. *Bacon.*

POSTILER, *n.* One who writes marginal notes; one who illustrates the text of a book by notes in the margin.

POSTILLION, *n.* *postil'lon*. [Fr. *postillon*, a postboy, from *poste*.]

One that rides and guides the first pair of horses in a coach or other carriage; also, one that rides one of the horses, when one pair only is used, either in a coach or post-chaise.