

1. Originally, the chief notary; and anciently, the title of the principal notaries of the emperors of Constantinople. Hence,
2. In *England*, an officer in the court of king's bench and common pleas. The prothonotary of the king's bench records all civil actions. In the common pleas, the prothonotaries, of which there are three, enter and enroll all declarations, pleadings, judgments, &c., make out judicial writs and exemplifications of records, enter recognizances, &c. *Encyc.*

3. In the *United States*, a register or clerk of a court. The word however is not applied to any officer, except in particular states.

Apostolical prothonotaries, in the court of Rome, are twelve persons constituting a college, who receive the last wills of cardinals, make informations and proceedings necessary for the canonization of saints, &c. *Encyc.*

PROTOCOL, *n.* [Low L. *protocollum*; Gr. *πρωτος*, first, and *κολα*, glue; so called perhaps from the gluing together of pieces of paper, or from the spreading of it on tablets. It was formerly the upper part of a leaf of a book on which the title or name was written.]

1. The original copy of any writing. [*Not now used.*] *Ayliffe.*

2. A record or registry.

PROTOCOLIST, *n.* In Russia, a register or clerk. *Tooke.*

PROTOMARTYR, *n.* [Gr. *πρωτος*, first, and *μαρτυρ*, martyr.]

1. The first martyr; a term applied to Stephen, the first christian martyr.
2. The first who suffers or is sacrificed in any cause. *Dryden.*

PROTOPLAST, *n.* [Gr. *πρωτος*, first, and *πλαστος*, formed.]

The original; the thing first formed, as a copy to be imitated. Thus Adam has been called our *protoplast*. *Bryant. Harvey.*

PROTOPLASTIC, *a.* First formed.

PROTOPOPE, *n.* [Gr. *πρωτος*, first, and *ποπη*.]

Chief pope or imperial confessor, an officer of the holy directing synod, the supreme spiritual court of the Greek church in Russia. *Tooke, Russ.*

PROTOSULPHATE, *n.* In chemistry, the combination of sulphuric acid with a protoxyd.

PROTOTYPE, *n.* [Fr. from Gr. *πρωτοτυπος*; *πρωτος*, first, and *τυπος*, type, form, model.]

An original or model after which any thing is formed; the pattern of any thing to be engraved, cast, &c.; exemplar; archetype. *Wotton. Encyc.*

PROTOXYD, *n.* [Gr. *πρωτος*, first, and *οξυς*, acid.]

A substance combined with oxygen in the first degree, or an oxyd formed by the first degree of oxydization. *Thomson.*

PROTOXYDIZE, *v. t.* To oxydize in the first degree.

PROTRACT, *v. t.* [L. *protractus*, from *protraho*; *pro* and *traho*, to draw.]

1. To draw out or lengthen in time; to continue; to prolong; as, to *protract* an argument; to *protract* a discussion; to *protract* a war or a negotiation.

2. To delay; to defer; to put off to a distant time; as, to *protract* the decision of a question; to *protract* the final issue.

PROTRACT, *n.* Tedious continuance. [*Not used.*] *Spenser.*

PROTRACTED, *pp.* Drawn out in time; delayed.

PROTRACTER, *n.* One who protracts or lengthens in time.

PROTRACTING, *ppr.* Drawing out or continuing in time; delaying.

PROTRACTION, *n.* The act of drawing out or continuing in time; the act of delaying the termination of a thing; as the *protraction* of a debate.

PROTRACTIVE, *a.* Drawing out or lengthening in time; prolonging; continuing; delaying.

He suffered their *protractive* arts. *Dryden.*

PROTRACTOR, *n.* An instrument for laying down and measuring angles on paper with accuracy and dispatch, and by which the use of the line of chords is superseded. It is of various forms, semicircular, rectangular or circular. *Encyc.*

PROTREPICAL, *a.* [Gr. *προτρεπτικός*, from *προτρεπω*, *προτρεπωμαι*, to exhort; *προ* and *τρεπω*, to turn.]

Hortatory; suatory; intended or adapted to persuade. [*Little used.*] *Ward.*

PROTRUDE, *v. t.* [L. *protrudo*; *pro* and *trudo*, to thrust. See *Thrust*.]

1. To thrust forward; to drive or force along; as food *protruded* from the stomach into the intestine. *Locke.*

2. To thrust out, as from confinement. The contents of the abdomen are *protruded* in hernia.

PROTRUDE, *v. i.* To shoot forward; to be thrust forward.

The parts *protrude* beyond the skin. *Bacon.*

PROTRUDED, *pp.* Thrust forward or out.

PROTRUDING, *ppr.* Thrusting forward or out.

PROTRUSION, *n.* *s* as *z*. The act of thrusting forward or beyond the usual limit; a thrusting or driving; a push. *Locke.*

PROTRUSIVE, *a.* Thrusting or impelling forward; as *protrusive* motion. *Darwin.*

PROTUBERANCE, *n.* [L. *protuberans*, *protubero*; *pro* and *tuber*, a puff, bunch or knob.]

A swelling or tumor on the body; a prominence; a bunch or knob; any thing swelled or pushed beyond the surrounding or adjacent surface; on the surface of the earth, a hill, knoll or other elevation. *Hale. More.*

Protuberance differs from *projection*, being applied to parts that rise from the surface with a gradual ascent or small angle; whereas a *projection* may be at a right angle with the surface.

PROTUBERANT, *a.* Swelling; prominent beyond the surrounding surface; as a *protuberant* joint; a *protuberant* eye.

PROTUBERATE, *v. i.* [L. *protubero*, *supra*.]

To swell or be prominent beyond the adjacent surface; to bulge out.

If the navel *protuberates*, make a small puncture with a lancet through the skin. *Sharp.*

PROTUBERATION, *n.* The act of swelling beyond the surrounding surface. *Cooke.*

PROTUBEROUS, *a.* Protuberant. *Smith.*

PROUD, *a.* [Sax. *prut*; D. *preutsich*, proud, prudish, also *prat*, proud, and *pratten*, to fret. We find in the Italian. *prode* is valiant, brave; *produ*, the *prow* of a ship; *prodezza*, prowess; probably of the same family, with the radical sense of swelling, stretching or erecting. See *Prude*.]

1. Having inordinate self-esteem; possessing a high or unreasonable conceit of one's own excellence, either of body or mind. A man may be *proud* of his person, of his talents, of his accomplishments or of his achievements. He may be *proud* of any thing to which he bears some relation. He may be *proud* of his country, his government, his equipage, or of whatever may, by association, gratify his esteem of himself. He may even be *proud* of his religion or of his church. He conceives that any thing excellent or valuable, in which he has a share, or to which he stands related, contributes to his own importance, and this conception exalts his opinion of himself. *Proud* is followed by *of*, before the object, *supra*.

2. Arrogant; haughty; supercilious. A foe so *proud* will not the weaker seek. *Milton.*

3. Daring; presumptuous. By his understanding he smiteth through the *proud*. Job xxvi.

4. Lofty of mien; grand of person; as a *proud* steed. *Milton.*

5. Grand; lofty; splendid; magnificent. Storms of stones from the *proud* temple's height. *Dryden.*

6. Ostentatious; grand; as *proud* titles. *Shak.*

7. Splendid; exhibiting grandeur and distinction; exciting pride; as a *proud* day for Rome.

8. Excited by the animal appetite; applied particularly to the female of the canine species.

9. Fungous; as *proud* flesh. *Sharp.*

PROUDLY, *adv.* With an inordinate self-esteem; in a proud manner; haughtily; ostentatiously; with lofty airs or mien.

Proudly he marches on and void of fear. *Pope.*

PROVABLE, *a.* [See *Prove*.] That may be proved.

PROVABLY, *adv.* In a manner capable of proof. *Hudoe.*

PROVAND, *n.* Provender. [*Not in use.*]

PROVE, *v. t.* *prōv*. [Sax. *profan*; D. *proeven*; G. *proberen*; Dan. *prøver*; Sw. *prova*; W. *provi*; Arm. *proui*, *provein*; L. *probo*; It. *provare*; Sp. *probar*, to try; Fr. *éprouver*; Russ. *probnyu*, to prove; *probavayti*, to pierce, to penetrate, to send by force. The primary sense is to strain, to urge by force, or rather to thrust or drive. The word *brow* may be of the same family, from its projection. See *Probe*.]

1. To try; to ascertain some unknown quality or truth by an experiment, or by a test or standard. Thus we *prove* the strength of gunpowder by experiment; we *prove* the strength or solidity of cannon by experiment. We *prove* the contents of a