

The *positiveness* of sins of commission lies both in the habitude of the will and in the executed act too; the *positiveness* of sins of omission is in the habitude of the will only.

Norris.

2. Undoubting assurance; full confidence; peremptoriness; as, the man related the facts with *positiveness*. In matters of opinion, *positiveness* is not an indication of prudence.

POSITIVITY, *n.* Peremptoriness. [*Not used.*] *Watts.*

POSTURE, for *posture*, is not in use. [See *Posture*.]

POSNET, *n.* [W. *posned*, from *posiaue*. See *Pose*.]

A little basin; a porringer, skillet or saucepan. *Owen.*

POSOLOGICAL, *a.* Pertaining to posology.

POSOLŌGY, *n.* [Gr. *ποσος*, how much, and *λογος*, discourse.]

In medicine, the science or doctrine of doses. *Amer. Dispensatory.*

POS/POLITE, *n.* A kind of militia in Poland, consisting of the gentry, who in case of invasion, are summoned to arms for the defense of the country. *Core.*

Posse comitatus, in law, the power of the country, or the citizens, who are summoned to assist an officer in suppressing a riot, or executing any legal precept which is forcibly opposed. The word *comitatus* is often omitted, and *posse* alone is used in the same sense. *Blackstone.*

2. In *low language*, a number or crowd of people; a rabble.

POSSESS, *v. t.* [L. *possessus*, *possideo*, a compound of *po*, a Russian preposition, perhaps *by*, and *sedeo*, to sit; to *sit in* or *on*. We have this word from the Latin, but the same compound is in our mother tongue, Sax. *besittan*, to possess; *be*, by, and *sittan*, to sit; *gesittan*, *besettan*, *gesettan*, are also used; D. *bezitten*; G. *besitzen*; Dan. *besidder*; Sw. *besitta*; Fr. *posseder*; Arn. *požedi*; Sp. *poseer*; It. *posdere*.]

1. To have the just and legal title, ownership or property of a thing; to own; to hold the title of, as the rightful proprietor, or to hold both the title and the thing. A man may *possess* the farm which he cultivates, or he may *possess* an estate in a foreign country, not in his own occupation. He may *possess* many farms which are occupied by tenants. In this as in other cases, the original sense of the word is enlarged, the holding or tenure being applied to the title or right, as well as to the thing itself.

2. To hold; to occupy without title or ownership.

I raise up the Chaldeans, to *possess* the dwelling-places that are not theirs. Hab. i.

Neither said any of them that aught of the things which he *possessed* was his own. Acts iv.

3. To have; to occupy. The love of the world usually *possesses* the heart.

4. To seize; to gain; to obtain the occupation of.

The English marched towards the river Eske, intending to *possess* a hill called Under-Eske.

Hayward.

5. To have power over; as an invisible agent or spirit. Luke viii.

Beware what spirit rages in your breast; For ten inspired, ten thousand are *possess'd*. *Roscommon.*

6. To affect by some power.

Let not your ears despise my tongue, Which shall *possess* them with the heaviest sound

That ever yet they heard. *Swift.*

To *possess of*, or *with*, more properly to *possess of*, is to give possession, command or occupancy.

Of fortune's favor long *possess'd*. *Dryden.*
This *possesses* us of the most valuable blessing of human life, friendship.

Gov. of the Tongue.

To *possess one's self of*, to take or gain possession or command; to make one's self master of.

We *possessed ourselves* of the kingdom of Naples. *Addison.*

To *possess with*, to furnish or fill with something permanent; or to be retained.

It is of unspeakable advantage to *possess* our minds with an habitual good intention. *Addison.*

If they are *possessed with* honest minds. *Addison.*

POSSESS'ED, *pp.* Held by lawful title; occupied; enjoyed; affected by demons or invisible agents.

POSSESS'ING, *ppr.* Having or holding by absolute right or title; occupying; enjoying.

POSSESS'ION, *n.* The having, holding or detention of property in one's power or command; actual seizin or occupancy, either rightful or wrongful. One man may have the *possession* of a thing, and another may have the right of possession or property.

If the *possession* is severed from the property; if A has the right of property, and B by unlawful means has gained *possession*, this is an injury to A. This is a bare or naked *possession*. *Blackstone.*

In *bailment*, the bailee, who receives goods to convey, or to keep for a time, has the *possession* of the goods, and a temporary right over them, but not the property. *Property in possession*, includes both the right and the occupation. Long undisturbed *possession* is presumptive proof of right or property in the possessor.

2. The thing possessed; land, estate or goods owned; as foreign *possessions*.

The house of Jacob shall *possess* their *possessions*. Obad. 17.

When the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great *possessions*. Matt. xix.

3. Any thing valuable possessed or enjoyed. Christian peace of mind is the best *possession* of life.

4. The state of being under the power of demons or invisible beings; madness; lunacy; as demoniacal *possession*.

Writ of possession, a precept directing a sheriff to put a person in peaceable possession of property recovered in ejectment. *Blackstone.*

To *take possession*, to enter on, or to bring within one's power or occupancy.

To *give possession*, to put in another's power or occupancy.

POSSESS'ION, *v. t.* To invest with property. [*Not used.*] *Carew.*

POSSESS'IONER, *n.* One that has possession of a thing, or power over it. [*Little used.*] *Sidney.*

POSSESS'IVE, *a.* [L. *possessivus*.] Pertaining to possession; having possession.

Possessive case, in English grammar, is the genitive case, or case of nouns and pronouns, which expresses, 1st, possession, ownership, as *John's* book; or 2dly, some relation of one thing to another, as *Hommer's* admirers.

POSSESS'OR, *n.* An occupant; one that has possession; a person who holds in his hands or power any species of property, real or personal. The owner or proprietor of property is the permanent *possessor* by legal right; the lessee of land and the bailee of goods are temporary *possessors* by right; the disseizor of land and the thief are wrongful *possessors*.

2. One that has, holds or enjoys any good or other thing.

Think of the happiness of the prophets and apostles, saints and martyrs, *possessors* of eternal glory. *Law.*

POSSESS'ORY, *a.* Having possession; as a *possessory* lord. *Howell.*

Possessory action, in law, an action or suit in which the right of possession only, and not that of property, is contested.

Blackstone.

POS'SET, *n.* [W. *posel*, from the root of *pose*, W. *posiaw*, to gather. The L. *posca* may have the same origin.]

Milk curdled with wine or other liquor.

Dryden. Arbuthnot.

POS'SET, *v. t.* To curdle; to turn. *Shak.*

POSSIB'ILITY, *n.* [from *possible*; Fr. *possibilité*.]

The power of being or existing; the power of happening; the state of being possible.

It often implies improbability or great uncertainty. There is a *possibility* that a new star may appear this night. There is a *possibility* of a hard frost in July in our latitude. It is not expedient to hazard much on the bare *possibility* of success. It is prudent to reduce contracts to writing, and to render them so explicit as to preclude the *possibility* of mistake or controversy.

POS'SIBLE, *a.* [Fr. *possible*; Sp. *posible*; from L. *possibilis*, from *posse*. See *Power*.]

That may be or exist; that may be now, or may happen or come to pass; that may be done; not contrary to the nature of things. It is *possible* that the Greeks and Turks may now be engaged in battle. It is *possible* the peace of Europe may continue a century. It is not physically *possible* that a stream should ascend a mountain, but it is *possible* that the Supreme Being may suspend a law of nature, that is, his usual course of proceeding. It is not *possible* that 2 and 3 should be 7, or that the same action should be morally right and morally wrong.

This word when pronounced with a certain emphasis, implies improbability. A thing is *possible*, but very improbable.

POS'SIBLY, *adv.* By any power, moral or physical, really existing. Learn all that can *possibly* be known.

Can we *possibly* his love desert? *Milton.*

2. Perhaps; without absurdity.