

There being no mean between *penetrability* and impenetrability. *Cheyne.*

PEN/ETRABLE, *a.* [Fr. from *L. penetrabilis*. See *Penetrate*.]

1. That may be penetrated, entered or pierced by another body.

Let him try thy dart,

And pierce his only *penetrable* part.

*Dryden.*

2. Susceptible of moral or intellectual impression.

I am not made of stone,

But *penetrable* to your kind entreaties.

*Shak.*

PEN/ETRAIL, *n.* [*L. penetralia*.] Interior parts. [Not used.] *Harvey.*

PEN/ETRANCY, *n.* [*L. penetrans*.] Power of entering or piercing; as the *penetrancy* of subtil effluvia. *Ray.*

PEN/ETRANT, *a.* [*L. penetrans*.] Having the power to enter or pierce; sharp; subtil; as *penetrant* spirit; food subtilized and rendered fluid and *penetrant*.

*Boyle. Ray.*

PEN/ETRATE, *v. t.* [*L. petro*, from the root of *pen*, a point.]

1. To enter or pierce; to make way into another body; as, a sword or dart *penetrates* the body; oil *penetrates* wood; marrow, the most *penetrating* of oily substances.

*Arbuthnot.*

2. To affect the mind; to cause to feel. I am *penetrated* with a lively sense of your generosity.

3. To reach by the intellect; to understand; as, to *penetrate* the meaning or design of any thing.

4. To enter; to pass into the interior; as, to *penetrate* a country.

PEN/ETRATE, *v. i.* To pass; to make way.

Born where heaven's influence scarce can *penetrate*.

*Pope.*

2. To make way intellectually. He had not *penetrated* into the designs of the prince.

PEN/ETRATED, *pp.* Entered; pierced; understood; fathomed.

PEN/ETRATING, *ppr.* Entering; piercing; understanding.

2. *a.* Having the power of entering or piercing another body; sharp; subtil. Oil is a *penetrating* substance.

3. Acute; discerning; quick to understand; as a *penetrating* mind.

PEN/ETRATION, *n.* The act of entering a body. *Milton.*

2. Mental entrance into any thing abstruse; as a *penetration* into the abstruse difficulties of algebra. *Watts.*

3. Acuteness; sagacity; as a man of great or nice *penetration*.

PEN/ETRATIVE, *a.* Piercing; sharp; subtil.

Let not air be too gross nor too *penetrative*.

*Wotton.*

2. Acute; sagacious; discerning; as *penetrative* wisdom. *Swift.*

3. Having the power to affect or impress the mind; as *penetrative* shame. *Shak.*

PEN/ETRATIVENESS, *n.* The quality of being *penetrative*.

PEN/FISH, *n.* A kind of celpout with a smooth skin. *Dict. Nat. Hist.*

PEN/GUIN, *n.* [*W. pen*, head, and *gwyn*, white; or *L. pinguidine*, with fatness.]

1. A genus of fowls of the order of *Palmipeds*. The penguin is an aquatic fowl with very short legs, with four toes, three of which are webbed; the body is clothed with short fethers, set as compactly as the scales of a fish; the wings are small like fins, and covered with short scale-like fethers, so that they are useless in flight. Penguins seldom go on shore, except in the season of breeding, when they burrow like rabbits. On land they stand erect; they are tame and may be driven like a flock of sheep. In water they swim with rapidity, being assisted by their wings. These fowls are found only in the southern latitudes. *Encyc.*

2. A species of fruit. *Miller.*

PEN/ICIL, *n.* [*L. penicillus*. See *Pencil*.]

1. Among physicians, a tent or pledget for wounds or ulcers.

2. A species of shell.

PENIN/SULAR, *n.* [*L. pene*, almost, and *insula*, an isle; *It. penesolo*.]

1. A portion of land, connected with a continent by a narrow neck or isthmus, but nearly surrounded with water. Thus Boston stands on a *peninsula*.

2. A large extent of country joining the main land by a part narrower than the tract itself. Thus Spain and Portugal are said to be situated on a *peninsula*.

PENIN/SULAR, *a.* In the form or state of a *peninsula*; pertaining to a *peninsula*.

PENIN/SULATE, *v. t.* To encompass almost with water; to form a *peninsula*.

South river *peninsulates* Castle hill farm, and at high tides, surrounds it.

*Bentley's Hist. Coll.*

PENIN/SULATED, *pp.* Almost surrounded with water.

PENIN/SULATING, *ppr.* Nearly surrounding with water.

PEN/ITENCE, } *n.* [*Fr. penitence*, from *L. penitentia*, from *peniteo*, from *pena*, pain, punishment. See *Pain*.]

Repentance; pain; sorrow or grief of heart for sins or offenses; contrition. Real *penitence* springs from a conviction of guilt and ingratitude to God, and is followed by amendment of life.

PEN/ITENT, *a.* [*Fr. from L. penitens*.]

Suffering pain or sorrow of heart on account of sins, crimes or offenses; contrite; sincerely affected by a sense of guilt and resolving on amendment of life.

The proud he tam'd, the *penitent* he cheer'd.

*Dryden.*

PEN/ITENT, *n.* One that repents of sin; one sorrowful on account of his transgressions.

2. One under church censure, but admitted to penance. *Stillingfleet.*

3. One under the direction of a confessor.

*Penitents* is an appellation given to certain fraternities in catholic countries, distinguished by their habits and employed in charitable acts. *Encyc.*

Order of *penitents*, a religious order established by one Bernard of Marseilles, about the year 1272, for the reception of reformed courtisans. The congregation of *penitents* at Paris, was founded with a similar view. *Encyc.*

PENITEN/TIAL, *a.* [*Fr. penitentiel*; *It. penitenziale*.]

Proceeding from or expressing penitence or contrition of heart; as *penitential* sorrow or tears. *South.*

PENITEN/TIAL, *n.* Among the Romanists, a book containing the rules which relate to penance and the reconciliation of penitents. *Encyc.*

PENITEN/TIARY, *a.* Relating to penance, or to the rules and measures of penance. *Bramhall.*

PENITEN/TIARY, *n.* One that prescribes the rules and measures of penance.

*Bacon. Aglyffe.*

2. A penitent; one that does penance. *Hammond.*

3. At the court of Rome, an office in which are examined and delivered out the secret bulls, graces or dispensations relating to cases of conscience, confession, &c. *Encyc.*

4. An officer in some cathedrals, vested with power from the bishop to absolve in cases reserved to him. The pope has a grand penitentiary, who is a cardinal and is chief of the other penitentiaries. *Encyc.*

5. A house of correction in which offenders are confined for punishment and reformation, and compelled to labor; a workhouse. A state prison is a *penitentiary*.

PEN/ITENTLY, *adv.* With penitence; with repentance, sorrow or contrition for sin.

PEN/KNIFE, *n.* [See *Pen* and *Knife*.] A small knife used for making and mending pens.

PEN/MAN, *n.* plu. *penmen*. [See *Pen* and *Man*.]

1. A man that professes or teaches the art of writing. More generally,

2. One that writes a good hand.

3. An author; a writer; as the sacred *penmen*. *Addison.*

PEN/MANSHIP, *n.* The use of the pen in writing; the art of writing.

2. Manner of writing; as good or bad *penmanship*.

PEN/NACHED, *a.* [*Fr. pennaché* or *pennaché*, from *panache*, a plume or bunch of fethers.]

Radiated; diversified with natural stripes of various colors; as a flower. [*Little used*.] *Evclyn.*

PEN/NANT, } *n.* [*Fr. fanion, pennon*; *It. pennone*; *Sp. pendon*; *W. penwn*; *Goth. fana*; *L. pannus*, n. eloth.]

1. A small flag; a banner. [See *Pendant*.]

2. A tackle for hoisting things on board a ship. *Ainsworth.*

PEN/NATE, } *a.* [*L. pennatus*, winged, from *penna*, a quill or wing.]

1. Winged.

2. In *botany*, a pennate leaf is a compound leaf in which a simple petiole has several leaflets attached to each side of it. [See *Pinnate*.]

PEN/NED, *pp.* Written.

PEN/NED, *a.* Winged; having plumes. *Hulot.*

PEN/NER, *n.* A writer.

2. A pen-case. [*Local*.] *Ainsworth.*

PEN/NIFORM, *a.* [*L. penna*, a fether or quill, and *form*.]

Having the form of a quill or fether.

*Encyc.*