

PEPPER-MINT-TREE, *n.* The *Eucalyptus piperita*, a native of New South Wales. *Encyc.*

PEPPER-POT, *n.* A plant of the genus *Capsicum*.

PEPPER-TREE, *n.* A plant of the genus *Vitis*.

PEPPER-WATER, *n.* A liquor prepared from powdered black pepper; used in microscopical observations. *Encyc.*

PEPPER-WORT, *n.* A plant of the genus *Lepidium*.

PEP'TIC, *a.* [Gr. *πεπτικός*, from *πέπω*, to digest.]

Promoting digestion; dietetic, as *peptic* precepts. *Kitchener.*

PER, a Latin preposition, denoting through, passing, or over the whole extent, as in *perambulo*. Hence it is sometimes equivalent to *very* in English, as in *peracutus*, very sharp. As a prefix, in English, it retains these significations, and in chemistry it is used to denote *very* or *fully*, to the utmost extent, as in *peroxyd*, a substance oxydated to the utmost degree.

*Per* is used also for *by*, as *per* bearer, *by* the bearer.

*Per annum*, [L.] by the year; in each year successively.

*Per se*, [L.] by himself; by itself; by themselves.

PERACUTE, *a.* [L. *peracutus*; *per*, through, and *acutus*, sharp.]

Very sharp; very violent; as a *peracute* fever. [Little used.] *Harvey.*

PERADVENTURE, *adv.* [Fr. *par aventure*; *par*, by, and *aventure*, from L. *venio*, to come.]

By chance; perhaps; it may be. *Hooker.*

It has been used as a noun for doubt or question, but rather improperly. The word is obsolescent and inelegant.

PERAGRATE, *v. i.* [L. *peragro*; *per*, through, over, and *ager*, a field.]

To travel over or through; to wander; to ramble. [Little used.]

PERAGRATION, *n.* The act of passing through any space; as the *peragation* of the moon in her monthly revolution. [Little used.] *Brown. Holder.*

PERAMBULATE, *v. t.* [L. *perambulo*; *per* and *ambulo*, to walk.]

To walk through or over; properly and technically, to pass through or over for the purpose of surveying or examining something; to visit as overseers; as, to *perambulate* a parish. So in New England, the laws require the selectmen of towns to appoint suitable persons annually to *perambulate* the borders or bounds of the township, and renew the boundaries, or see that the old ones are in a good state.

PERAMBULATED, *pp.* Passed over; inspected.

PERAMBULATING, *ppr.* Passing over or through for the purpose of inspection.

PERAMBULATION, *n.* The act of passing or walking through or over. *Bacon.*

2. A traveling survey or inspection. *Howell.*

3. A district within which a person has the right of inspection; jurisdiction. *Holiday.*

4. Annual survey of the bounds of a parish in England, or of a township in America.

PERAMBULATOR, *n.* An instrument or wheel for measuring distances, to be used in surveying or traveling; called also a *pedometer*. *Encyc.*

PERBISULPHATE, *n.* A sulphate with two proportions of sulphuric acid, and combined with an oxyd at the maximum of oxydation. *Silliman.*

PERCARBURETED, *a.* The percarbureted hydrogen of the French chemists is said to be the only definite compound of these two elements. *Ure.*

PERCASE, *adv.* [*per* and *case*, by case.] Perhaps; perchance. [Not used.] *Bacon.*

PERCEANT, *a.* [Fr. *perçant*.] Piercing; penetrating. [Not used.] *Spenser.*

PERCEIVABLE, *a.* [See *Percieve*.] Perceptible; that may be perceived; that may fall under perception or the cognizance of the senses; that may be felt, seen, heard, smelt or tasted. We say, the roughness of cloth is *perceivable*; the dawn of the morning is *perceivable*; the sound of a bell is *perceivable*; the scent of an orange is *perceivable*: the difference of taste in an apple and an orange is *perceivable*.

2. That may be known, understood or conceived. [Less proper.]

PERCEIVABLY, *adv.* In such a manner as to be perceived.

PERCEIVANCE, *n.* Power of perceiving. [Not in use.] *Milton.*

PERCEIVE, *v. t.* [L. *percipio*; *per* and *capio*, to take.]

1. To have knowledge or receive impressions of external objects through the medium or instrumentality of the senses or bodily organs; as, to *perceive* light or color; to *perceive* the cold of ice or the taste of honey.

2. To know; to understand; to observe.

Till we ourselves see it with our own eyes, and *perceive* it by our own understanding, we are in the dark. *Locke.*

3. To be affected by; to receive impressions from.

The upper regions of the air *perceive* the collection of the matter of tempests before the air below. *Bacon.*

PERCEIVED, *pp.* Known by the senses; felt; understood; observed.

PERCEIVER, *n.* One who perceives, feels or observes.

PERCEPTIBILITY, *n.* The state or quality of being perceptible; as the *perceptibility* of light or color.

2. Perception. [Less proper.] *More.*

PERCEPTIBLE, *a.* [Fr.; from L. *percipio*, *perceptus*.]

1. That may be perceived; that may impress the bodily organs; that may come under the cognizance of the senses; as a *perceptible* degree of heat or cold; a *perceptible* odor; a *perceptible* sound. A thing may be too minute to be *perceptible* to the touch.

2. That may be known or conceived of.

PERCEPTIBLY, *adv.* In a manner to be perceived.

The woman decays *perceptibly* every week. *Pope.*

PERCEPTION, *n.* [L. *perceptio*. See *Percieve*.]

1. The act of perceiving or of receiving impressions by the senses; or that act or

process of the mind which makes known an external object. In other words, the notice which the mind takes of external objects. We gain a knowledge of the coldness and smoothness of marble by *perception*.

2. In philosophy, the faculty of perceiving; the faculty or peculiar part of man's constitution, by which he has knowledge through the medium or instrumentality of the bodily organs. *Reid. Encyc.*

3. Notion; idea. *Hall.*

4. The state of being affected or capable of being affected by something external.

This experiment discovers *perception* in plants. *Bacon.*

PERCEPTIVE, *a.* Having the faculty of perceiving. *Glanville.*

PERCEPTIVITY, *n.* The power of perception or thinking. *Locke.*

PERCH, *n.* [Fr. *perche*; L. *perca*; G. *bars*, a perch, and *barsch*, sharp, keen, pungent; D. *baars*; Sw. *abborre*; Dan. *aborre*. It would seem from the German, that this fish is named from its prickly spines, and the name allied to *perk*.]

A fish of the genus *Perca*. This fish has a deep body, very rough scales, an arched back, and prickly dorsal fins.

PERCH, *n.* [Fr. *perche*; L. *pertica*; W. *pere*; Arm. *perchen*; probably allied to the former word in the sense of sharpness, shooting or extending. See *Perk*.]

1. A pole; hence, a roost for fowls, which is often a pole; also, any thing on which they light.

2. A measure of length containing five yards and a half; a rod. In the popular language of America, *rod* is chiefly used; but *rod*, *pole* and *perch*, all signifying the same thing, may be used indifferently.

PERCH, *v. i.* To sit or roost; as a bird.

2. To light or settle on a fixed body; as a bird.

PERCH, *v. t.* To place on a fixed object or perch. *More.*

PERCIPANCE, *adv.* [*per* and *chance*.] By chance; perhaps. *Wotton.*

PERCIPHERS, *n.* Paris candles anciently used in England; also, a larger sort of wax candles which were usually set on the altar. *Bailey.*

PERCHLORATE, *n.* A compound of perchloric acid with a base.

PERCHLORIC, *a.* Perchloric acid is chlorine converted into an acid by combining with a maximum of oxygen. *Silliman.*

PERCIPIENT, *a.* [L. *percipiens*.] Perceiving; having the faculty of perception. Animals are *percipient* beings; mere matter is not *percipient*. *Bentley.*

PERCIPIENT, *n.* One that perceives or has the faculty of perception. *More.*

PERCLOUSE, *n.* *s* as *z*. Conclusion. [Not used.] *Raleigh.*

PERCOLATE, *v. t.* [L. *percolo*; *per* and *colo*, to strain; Fr. *coulér*, to flow or run.] To strain through; to cause to pass through small interstices, as a liquor; to filter. *Hale.*

PERCOLATE, *v. i.* To pass through small interstices; to filter; as, water *percolates* through a porous stone.

PERCOLATED, *pp.* Filtered; passed through small interstices.