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Webster's II

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World genus *Hystrix*, the New World genus *Erethizon*, and related genera, that are covered with long, sharp quills or spines.

porcupine fish *n.* A spiny tropical marine fish, *Diodon hystrix*, capable of inflating itself when attacked.

pore¹ (pôr, pör) *vi.* **pored, por-ing, pores.** [ME *pouren*.] 1. To gaze steadily or earnestly. 2. To read or study carefully and attentively <poring over the map>. 3. To meditate deeply: PONDER.

pore² (pôr, pör) *n.* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *porus* < Gk. *poros*.] 1. A minute orifice, as one in the skin of an animal, serving as an outlet for perspiration, or in a plant stem or leaf, serving as a means of absorption and transpiration. 2. A minute surface opening or passageway, as in a rock.

pore fungus *n.* A fungus having a crustlike fruiting body with a porous or pitted surface.

por-gy (pôr'gē) *n., pl. porgy or -gies.* [Sp. *pargo* < Lat. *pagrus*, a kind of fish < Gk. *pagros*.] 1. A deep-bodied marine fish of the family Sparidae. 2. A fish related to or resembling the porgy.

po-rif'er-an (pō-rif'ar-ən) *n.* [NLat. *Porifera*, phylum name: Lat. *porus*, pore (< Gk. *poros*) + Lat. *ferre*, to bear.] SPONGE 1a. — **po-rif'er-al, po-rif'er-an** *adj.*

po-rif'er-ous (pō-rif'ar-əs) *adj.* [Lat. *porus*, pore (< Gk. *poros*) + -FEROUS.] 1. Having pores. 2. Zool. Of or pertaining to the phylum Porifera.

pork (pôrk, pörk) *n.* [ME < OFr. *porc*, pig < Lat. *porcus*.] 1. The flesh of swine used as food. 2. Slang. Government funds, appointments, or other favors acquired by a representative for his or her constituency as political patronage.

pork barrel *n.* Slang. A government project or appropriation aiding a specific legislator's constituency.

pork-er (pôr'kär, pör'-) *n.* A fattened young pig.

pork-pie also **pork pie** (pôr'kpi', pör'-) *n.* 1. A thick-crust pie filled with chopped pork. 2. A man's hat with a low, flat crown and a snap brim.

por-ky (pôr'kē) *n., pl. -kies.* [Shortening and alteration of PORCUPINE.] Informal. A porcupine. — *adj.* -**ki-er, -ki-est.** Fat: pudgy.

por-no (pôr'nō) also **porn** (pörn) *n.* Slang. 1. Pornography. 2. Pornographic material, as a picture, movie, or book.

por-nog-ra-phy (pôr-nôg'rā-fē) *n.* [< Gk. *pornographos*, writing about prostitutes: *pornē*, prostitute + *graphein*, to write.] The presentation of sexually explicit behavior, as in a photograph, intended to arouse sexual excitement. — **por-nog'ra-pher** *n.* — **por'no-graph'ic** (pôr'nō-grāf'ik) *adj.*

po-ro-mer-ic (pôr'ə-mēr'ik, pör'-) *n.* [Gk. *poros*, pore + (POLY)-MERIC.] Any of several tough, porous substitutes for leather.

po-ros-i-ty (pō-rōs'i-tē, pō'-) *n., pl. -ties.* [Med. Lat. *porositas* < *porosus*, porous.] 1. The quality, state, or degree of being porous. 2. A porous structure or part.

po-rous (pôr'əs, pör'-) *adj.* [ME < Med. Lat. *porosus* < Lat. *porus*, pore < Gk. *poros*.] 1. Having or full of pores. 2. Allowing the passage of gas or liquid through pores or interstices. — **po'rous-ly** *adv.* — **po'rous-ness** *n.*

por-phy-r-i-a (pôr-fir'ē-ə) *n.* [NLat. < PORPHYRYN.] A hereditary pathological disorder of porphyrin metabolism marked by photosensitivity and the excretion of porphyrins in the urine.

por-phy-rin (pôr'fā-rin) *n.* [< Gk. *porphura*, purple.] Any of various nitrogen-containing organic compounds occurring universally in protoplasm and providing the foundation structure for hemoglobin, chlorophyll, and certain enzymes.

por-phy-rit-ic (pôr'fā-rīt'ik) also **por-phy-rit-i-cal** (-i-kəl) *adj.* 1. Of or containing porphyry. 2. Having relatively large isolated crystals in a mass of fine texture.

por-phy-roid (pôr'fā-roid') *n.* Metamorphic rock having porphyritic texture.

por-phy-ry (pôr'fā-rē) *n., pl. -ries.* [ME *porfurie* < Med. Lat. *porphyrium* < Lat. *porphyrites* < Gk. *porphurites* < *porphura*, purple.] Rock having relatively large conspicuous crystals, esp. feldspar, in a fine-grained igneous matrix.

por-poise (pôr'pās) *n., pl. porpoise or -poises.* [ME *porpoys* < OFr. *porpois* < Med. Lat. *porcopiscis*: Lat. *porcus*, pig + Lat. *piscis*, fish.] 1. A gregarious marine mammal of the genus *Phocaena* or related genera, with a blunt snout and a triangular dorsal fin. 2. An aquatic mammal, as the dolphin, related to the porpoise.

por-ridge (pôr'rij, pör'-) *n.* [Alteration of POTTAGE.] Cereal, as oatmeal, boiled until thick and usu. eaten with milk.

por-rin-ger (pôr'rin-jər, pör'-) *n.* [Alteration of ME *potinger* < OFr. *potager* < *potage*, soup < *pot*, pot.] A shallow bowl or cup with a handle.

port¹ (pôrt, pôrt) *n.* [ME < OE < Lat. *portus*.] 1. a. A town or city having a harbor for ships taking on or discharging cargo. b. A place on a waterway that provides a harbor for a nearby city. c. The harbor or waterfront district of a city. 2. A place of shelter or anchorage: HAVEN. 3. A port of entry. 4. Computer Sci. An entrance to or exit for a data network.

port² (pôrt, pôrt) *n.* [Orig. unknown.] The left-hand side of a ship or aircraft facing forward. — *adj.* Of, relating to, or situated on the port. — *vt.* **port-ed, port-ing, ports.** To turn or shift (the helm of a vessel) to the left.

port³ (pôrt, pôrt) *n.* [ME < OFr. *porte*, gate < Lat. *porta*.] 1. Naut. a.

A porthole. b. A covering for a porthole. 2. An opening, as in a cylinder or valve face, for the passage of fluid or steam. 3. A hole in an armored vehicle or fortified structure through which weapons may be fired. 4. Scot. A gateway or portal, as to a town.

port⁴ (pôrt, pôrt) *n.* [After *Oporto*, Portugal.] A rich sweet fortified red wine.

port⁵ (pôrt, pôrt) *vt.* **port-ed, port-ing, ports.** [OFr. *porter*, to carry < Lat. *portare*.] To carry (a weapon) diagonally across the body, with the muzzle or blade near the left shoulder. — *n.* 1. The position of a ported weapon. 2. Carriage or bearing: POSTURE.

port-a-ble (pôr'tā-bəl, pör'-) *adj.* [ME < OFr. < LLat. *portabilis* < Lat. *portare*, to carry.] 1. Capable of being carried. 2. Easily carried or moved. 3. Archaic. Endurable: bearable. — *n.* Something portable, as a light typewriter or television. — **port'a-bil'i-ty, port'a-ble-ness** *n.* — **port'a-bly** *adv.*

port-age (pôr'tij, pör'-, pôr-tāzh') *n.* [ME < OFr. < *porter*, to carry < Lat. *portare*.] 1. The carrying of boats and supplies overland between two waterways or around an obstacle, as a waterfall. 2. A track or route used for portage. — *v.* -**aged, -ag-ing, -ag-es.** — *vt.* To transport by portage: PACK < "They had illegally portaged back to Canada a small fortune in beaver skins" — Irving Stone> — *vi.* To make a portage.

por-tal (pôr'tl, pör'-) *n.* [ME < OFr. < Med. Lat. *portale*, city gate < *portalis*, of a gate < Lat. *porta*, gate.] 1. A large and imposing doorway, entrance, or gate. 2. An entrance or means of entrance <a portal of enlightenment>. 3. The portal vein. — *adj.* Of or relating to the portal vein.

por-tal-to-por-tal (pôr'tl-tō-pôr'tl, pör'tl-tō-pôr'tl) *adj.* Of or based on the total time spent by a worker on the employer's property regardless of actual work time <portal-to-portal pay>

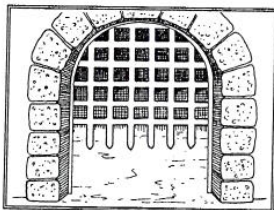
portal vein *n.* Anat. A vein that conducts blood from the digestive organs, spleen, pancreas, and gallbladder to the liver.

por-ta-men-to (pôr'tā-mén'tō, pör'-) *n., pl. -ti* (-tē) [Ital. < *portare*, to carry < Lat.] Mus. A smooth constant glide in passing from one tone to another, esp. with the voice or with a bowed stringed instrument.

por-ta-pak or por-ta-pack (pôr'tā-pāk', pör'-) *n.* [Blend of PORTABLE and PACK.] A small videotape recorder and camera combined in a portable unit.

por-ta-tive (pôr'tā-tiv, pör'-) *adj.* [ME *portatif* < OFr. < Lat. *portare*, to carry.] 1. Portable. 2. Capable of carrying.

port-cul-lis (pôr-kŭl'is, pör'-) *n.* [ME *portullis* < OFr. *porte colle*, sliding door.] A sliding wood or iron grille suspended in the gateway of a fortified place in such a way that it can be quickly lowered in case of attack.



portcullis

Port du Sa-lut (pôr' dû sã-lŭt') *n.* var. of PORT SALUT.

Porte (pôrt, pôrt) *n.* [Fr., short for *la Sublime Porte*, the High Gate.] The government of the Ottoman Empire.

porte-co-chère or porte-co-chere (pôr'tō-kō-shär', pör'-) *n.* [Fr. *porte cochère*, coach door.] 1. A carriage entrance leading into the courtyard of a town house. 2. A porch roof projecting over a driveway at the entrance to a building.

por-tend (pôr-tënd', pör'-) *vt.* -**tend-ed, -tend-ing, -tends.** [ME *portenden* < Lat. *portendere*.] 1. To serve as a sign or warning of: PRESAGE. 2. To suggest or indicate <rumors that portend unrest>

por-tent (pôr'tënt', pör'-) *n.* [Lat. *portentum* < *portendere*, to portend.] 1. An indication of something important, calamitous, or evil about to occur: OMEN. 2. Prophetic or threatening significance. 3. Something marvelous: PRODIGY.

por-ten-tous (pôr-tén'təs, pör'-) *adj.* 1. Like or constituting a portent: FOREBODING. 2. Arousing wonder and awe. 3. Characterized by pompousness. — **por-ten'tous-ly** *adv.* — **por-ten'tous-ness** *n.*

por-ter¹ (pôr'tər, pör'-) *n.* [ME *portour* < OFr. *porteur* < LLat. *portator* < Lat. *portare*, to carry.] 1. One employed to carry travelers' luggage. 2. One employed to wait on passengers in a railway parlor or sleeping car. 3. One employed to do routine cleaning, as in an office or institution.

por-ter² (pôr'tər) *n.* Lat. *porta*, gate

por-ter³ (pôr'tər) *n.* sembling light

por-ter-age (pôr'tər-āj) *n.* as done by port

por-ter-ess (pôr'tər-ēs) *n.* alehouse or cho

por-ter-hous (pôr'tər-haʊs) *n.* loun, having a

port-fo-li-o (pôr't-fō-li-ō) *n.* tare, to carry (<

port-hole (pôr't-hōl) *n.* a ship's side. 2.

por-ti-co (pôr'ti-kō) *n.* ticus < *porta*,

por-tière or p tier, porter < LL

por-tion (pôr'ti-ŋ) *n.* a whole. 2. A pe

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