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solemn or important : POMPOUS *c* : ponderously excessive (that discipline's overwrought, ~ phrases — R. M. Coles). *syn* see OMINOUS — **por-ten-tous-ly** *adv* — **por-ten-tous-ness** *n*

por-ter \ˈpɔr-tər, ˈpɔr-ɪ\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *portier*, fr. LL *portarius*, fr. L *porta* gate — more at **PORT**] (13c) chiefly Brit : a person stationed at a door or gate to admit or assist those entering

porter *n* [ME *portour*, fr. MF *porteur*, fr. LL *portator*, fr. L *portare* to carry — more at **FARE**] (14c) 1 : a person who carries burdens; *esp* : one employed to carry baggage for patrons at a hotel or transportation terminal 2 : a parlor-car or sleeping-car attendant who waits on passengers and makes up berths 3 [short for *porter's beer*]: a heavy dark brown beer brewed from browned or charred malt 4 : a person who does routine cleaning (as in a hospital or office)

porter *vt* (1609) : to transport or carry as or as if by a porter ~ *vi* : to act as a porter

por-ter-age \-tə-rīj\ *n* (15c) : a porter's work; *also* : the charge for it

por-ter-house \ˈpɔr-tər-ˈhauz, ˈpɔr-ɪ\ *n* (ca. 1758) 1 *archaic* : a house where malt liquor (as porter) is sold 2 : a large steak cut from the thick end of the short loin to contain a T-shaped bone and a large piece of tenderloin — see BEEF illustration

port-fo-lio \pɔrt-fo-le-, ɔ, pɔrt-ɪ\ *n*, *pl* -li-ɔs [It *portafoglio*, fr. *portare* to carry (fr. L) + *foglio* leaf, sheet, fr. L *folium* — more at **BLADE**] (1722) 1 : a hinged cover or flexible case for carrying loose papers, pictures, or pamphlets 2 [fr. the use of such a case to carry documents of state] : the office and functions of a minister of state or member of a cabinet 3 : the securities held by an investor : the commercial paper held by a financial house (as a bank) 4 : a set of pictures (as drawings or photographs) either bound in book form or loose in a folder

port-hole \ˈpɔrt-ˌhɔl, ˈpɔrt-ɪ\ *n* [Port] (ca. 1591) 1 : an opening (as a window) with a cover or closure *esp.* in the side of a ship or aircraft 2 : a port through which to shoot 3 : **PORT 2**

Port-ia \ˈpɔr-she, ˈpɔr-ɪ\ *n* : the heroine in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*

por-ti-co \ˈpɔr-ti-kō, ˈpɔr-ɪ\ *n*, *pl* -coes or -cos [It, fr. L *porticus* — more at **PORCH**] (1605) : a colonnade or covered ambulatory *esp.* in classical architecture and often at the entrance of a building

por-ti-er \pɔr-ˈti-er, ˈpɔr-, ˈti-, ˈpɔr-ti-er, ˈpɔr-ɪ\ *n* [F *portière*, fr. OF, fem. of *portier* porter, doorkeeper] (1843) : a curtain hanging across a doorway

por-tion \ˈpɔr-shən, ˈpɔr-ɪ\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *portion*, *portio*; akin to L *part*, *pars* part] (14c) 1 : an individual's part or share of something; as a : a share received by gift or inheritance b : DOWRY *c* : enough food *esp.* of one kind to serve one person at one meal 2 : an individual's lot, fate, or fortune : one's share of good and evil 3 : an often limited part set off or abstracted from a whole (give but that ~ which yourself proposed — Shak.) *syn* see **PART**, **FATE**

por-tion *vt* **por-tioned**; **por-tion-ing** \-sh(ə)-niŋ\ (14c) 1 : to divide into portions : **DISTRIBUTE 2** : to allot a dowry to : **DOWER**

por-tion-less \-shən-ləs\ *adj* (1782) : having no portion; *esp.* : having no dowry or inheritance

port-land cement \ˈpɔrt-lən(d)-, ˈpɔrt-ɪ\ *n* [Isle of Portland, England; fr. its resemblance to a limestone found there] (1824) : a hydraulic cement made by finely pulverizing the clinker produced by calcining to incipient fusion a mixture of clay and limestone or similar materials

port-ly \ˈpɔrt-lee, ˈpɔrt-ɪ\ *adj* **port-li-er**; -est [Port] (15c) 1 : DIGNIFIED, STATELY 2 : heavy or rotund of body : **STOUT** — **port-li-ness** *n*

port-man-teau \pɔrt-man-(t)ō, ˈpɔrt-ɪ\ *n*, *pl* -teaus or -teaux \-(t)əz\ [MF *portemanteau*, fr. *porter* to carry + *manteau* mantle, fr. L *mantellum* — more at **PORT**] (1579) 1 : a large suitcase 2 : a word or morpheme whose form and meaning are derived from a blending of two or more distinct forms (as *smog* from *smoke* and *fog*)

portmanteau *adj* (1909) 1 : combining more than one use or quality 2 : being a portmanteau (a ~ word)

port of call (1884) 1 : an intermediate port where ships customarily stop for supplies, repairs, or transshipment of cargo 2 : a stop included on an itinerary

port of entry (1840) 1 : a place where foreign goods may be cleared through a customhouse 2 : a place where an alien may be permitted to enter a country

por-trait \ˈpɔr-trət, ˈpɔr-, ˈtrāt\ *n* [MF, fr. pp. of *portraire*] (1570) 1 : PICTURE; *esp.* : a pictorial representation (as a painting) of a person usu. showing the face 2 : a sculptured figure : **BUST**, **STATUE 3** : a graphic portrayal in words

por-trait-ist \-trə-tist, ˈtrā-ɪ\ *n* (1866) : a maker of portraits

por-trait-ure \ˈpɔr-trə-ˌchür, ˈpɔr-, -char-, -tyür, -tür\ *n* (14c) 1 : the making of portraits : **PORTRAYAL 2** : **PORTRAIT**

por-tray \pɔr-ˈtrā, ˈpɔr-, ˈtrā-ɪ\ *vt* [ME *portraien*, fr. MF *portraire*, fr. L *protrahere* to draw forth, reveal, expose — more at **PROTRACT**] (14c) 1 : to make a picture of : **DEPICT 2** : a : to describe in words b : to play the role of : **ENACT** — **por-tray-er** *n*

por-tray-al \-ˈtrā-(ə)\ *n* (ca. 1847) 1 : the act or process or an instance of portraying : **REPRESENTATION 2** : **POR-TRAIT**

por-tress \ˈpɔr-trəs, ˈpɔr-ɪ\ *n* (15c) : a female porter; as a : a doorkeeper in a convent or apartment house b : **CHARWOMAN**

Port Royal-ist \pɔrt-roi-ə-list, ˈpɔrt-ɪ\ *n* [F *Port-royaliste*, fr. *Port-Royal*, a convent near Versailles, France] (ca. 1741) : a member or adherent of a 17th century French Jansenist lay community noted for its logicians and educators

Port Sa-lut \pɔr-sə-ˈlü, -sə-ˈsəl-ˈyü, -səl-ɪ\ *n* (1902) : **PORT DU SALUT**

Por-tu-guese \pɔr-ˈtʃə-ˌgēz, ˈpɔr-, -gēs; ˈpɔr-ˌtʃə-, ˈpɔr-ɪ\ *n*, *pl* Portuguese [Pg *português*, *adj.* & *n.*, fr. *Portugal*] (1534) 1 a : a native or inhabitant of Portugal b : one who is of Portuguese descent 2 : the Romance language of Portugal and Brazil — **Portuguese** *adj*

Portuguese man-of-war *n*, *pl* Portuguese man-of-wars *also* Portuguese men-of-war (1707) : any of a genus (*Physalia*) of large tropical and subtropical pelagic siphonophores having a crested bladderlike float which bears the colony



Portuguese man-of-war

comprised of three types of zooids on the lower surface with one of the three having nematocyst-equipped tentacles

por-tu-laca \pɔr-ˌtʃə-ˌlakə, ˈpɔr-ɪ\ *n* [NL, fr. L, *purslane*, fr. *portula*, dim. of *porta* gate; fr. the lid of its capsule — more at **PORT**] (1548) : any of a genus (*Portulaca*) of mainly tropical succulent herbs of the purslane family; *esp.* : a widely cultivated plant (*P. grandiflora*) with showy flowers and small conical leaves

port-wine stain \ˈpɔrt-ˌwin-, ˈpɔrt-ɪ\ *n* (ca. 1909) : a reddish purple superficial hemangioma of the skin commonly occurring as a birthmark

po-sa-da \pɔ-ˈsɑ-də\ *n* [Sp, fr. *posar* to lodge, fr. LL *pausare*] (1763) : an inn in Spanish-speaking countries

pose \ˈpɔz\ *vb* **posed**; **pos-ing** [ME, fr. MF *poser*, fr. (assumed) VL *pausare*, fr. LL, to stop, rest, pause, fr. L *pausa* pause] *vt* (14c) 1 a : to present for attention or consideration (let me ~ a question) b : to put or set forth : **OFFER** (this attitude ~s a threat to our hopes for peace) 2 a : to put or set in place b : to place (as a model) in a studied attitude ~ *vi* 1 : to assume a posture or attitude usu. for artistic purposes 2 : to affect an attitude or character usu. to deceive or impress

pose (1818) 1 : a sustained posture; *esp.* : one assumed for artistic effect 2 : an attitude, role, or characteristic assumed for effect

syn **POSE**, **AIR**, **AIRS**, **AFFECTATION**, **MANNERISM** mean an adopted way of speaking or behaving. **POSE** implies an attitude deliberately assumed in order to impress others (her shyness was just a *pose*). **AIR** may suggest natural acquirement through environment or way of life (a traveler's sophisticated *airs*). **AIRS** always implies artificiality and pretentiousness (snobbish *airs*). **AFFECTATION** applies to a trick of speech or behavior that strikes the observer as insincere (the *posh* accent is an *affectation*). **MANNERISM** applies to an acquired eccentricity that has become a habit (gesturing with a cigarette was her most noticeable *mannerism*).

pose *vt* **posed**; **pos-ing** [short for earlier *appose*, fr. ME *appose*, alter. of *opposen* to oppose] (1593) : **PUZZLE**, **BAFFLE**

Po-sei-don \pɔ-ˈsi-dən\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Poseidōn*] : the Greek god of the sea — compare **NEPTUNE**

pos-er \ˈpɔz-ər\ *n* [*pose*] (1793) : a puzzling or baffling question

poser \ˈpɔz-ər\ *n* (1838) : a person whose *pose*

po-seur \ˈpɔ-zər\ *n* [Fr. lit., *poser*, fr. *poser*] (1872) : a person who pretends to be what he or she is not : an affected or insincere person

posh \ˈpɔʃ\ *adj* [origin unknown] (1918) : **ELEGANT**, **FASHIONABLE** — **posh-ly** *adv* — **posh-ness** *n*

pos-it \ˈpɔz-ət\ *vi* **pos-it-ed**; **pos-it-ing** \ˈpɔz-ɪŋ\ *vt* [L *positus*, pp. of *ponere*] (1647) 1 : to dispose or set firmly : **FIX 2** : to assume or affirm the existence of : **POSTULATE 3** : to propose as an explanation : **SUGGEST**

po-si-tion \pɔ-ˈzi-shən\ *n* [ME *posicion*, fr. MF *position*, fr. L *positio*, *positio*, fr. *ponere* to lay down, put, place, fr. (assumed) OL *posinere*, fr. *po-* away (akin to OCS *po-*, perfective prefix, Gk *apo* away) + *L sinere* to leave — more at **OF**] (14c) 1 : an act of placing or arranging; as a : the laying down of a proposition or thesis b : an arranging in order 2 : a point of view adopted and held to (made my ~ on the issue clear) 3 a : the point or area occupied by a physical object (took her ~ at the head of the line) b : a certain arrangement of bodily parts (rose to a standing ~) 4 : a market commitment in securities or commodities; *also* : the inventory of a market trader 5 a : relative place, situation, or standing (is now in a ~ to make decisions on his own) b : social or official rank or status *c* : an employment for which one has been hired : **JOB** (a ~ with a brokerage firm) d : a situation that confers advantage or preference

position *vt* **posi-tioned**; **po-si-tion-ing** \pɔ-ˈzi-sh(ə)-niŋ\ (1817) : to put in proper position; *also* : **LOCATE**

posi-tion-al \pɔ-ˈzi-sh(ə)-nəl\ *adj* (1571) 1 : of, relating to, or fixed by position (~ astronomy) 2 : involving little movement (~ warfare) 3 : dependent on position or environment or context (the front articulated \k\ in *key* and the back-articulated \k\ in *cool* are ~ variants) — **po-si-tion-al-ly** *adv*

positional notation *n* (1941) : a system of expressing numbers in which the digits are arranged in succession, the position of each digit has a place value, and the number is equal to the sum of the products of each digit by its place value

position effect *n* (1930) : genetic effect that is due to interaction of adjacent genes and that is modified when the spatial relationships of the genes change (as by chromosomal inversion)

position paper *n* (1949) : a detailed report that recommends a course of action on a particular issue

posi-tive \ˈpɔz-ɪ-tiv, ˈpɔz-ˌtiv\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF *positif*, fr. L *positivus*, fr. *positus*, pp. of *ponere*] (14c) 1 a : formally laid down or imposed : **PRESCRIBED** (~ laws) b : expressed clearly or peremptorily (her answer was a ~ *no*) *c* : fully assured : **CONFIDENT 2** a : of, relating to, or constituting the degree of comparison that is expressed in English by the unmodified and uninflected form of an adjective or adverb and denotes no increase or diminution b (1) : independent of changing circumstances : **UNCONDITIONED** (2) : relating to or constituting a motion or device that is definite, unyielding, constant, or certain in its action (a ~ system of levers) *c* (1) : **INCONTESTABLE** (~ proof) (2) : **UNQUALIFIED** (a ~ disgrace) 3 a : not fictitious : **REAL** (a ~ influence for good in the community) b : active and effective in social or economic function rather than merely maintaining peace and order (a ~ government) 4 a : having or expressing actual existence or quality as distinguished from deprivation or deficiency (~ change in temperature); as (1) : capable of being constructively applied (2) : not speculative : **EMPIRICAL** b : having rendition of light and shade similar in tone to the tones of the original subject (a ~ photographic image) : that is or is generated in a direction arbitrarily or customarily taken as that of increase or progression (~ rotation of the earth) (we are making some ~ progress) d : directed or moving toward a source of stimulation (a ~ taxis) *e* : real and numerically greater than zero (> 2 is a ~ integer) 5 a (1) : being, relating to, or charged with electricity of which the proton is the elementary unit and which predominates in a glass body after being rubbed with silk (2) : having more protons than electrons (a ~ ion) b (1) : having higher electric potential and constituting the part from which the current flows to the external circuit (the ~ terminal of a discharging storage battery) (2) : being an electron-collecting electrode of an electron tube 6 a

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