



# Merriam- Webster's Collegiate<sup>®</sup> Dictionary

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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** \pɔr-tər, 'pɔr-\ 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-rɪj\ n (15c) : a porter's work; *also* : the charge for it

**por-ter-house** \pɔr-tər-'haʊs, 'pɔr-\ 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-'fɒ-lɪ-ə, 'pɔrt-\ n, *pl* -li-əs [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** \pɔrt-'hɒl, 'pɔrt-\ 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

**Por-tia** \pɔr-'ʃi-ə, 'pɔr-\ n : the heroine in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*

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

**por-tion** \pɔr-'ʃən, 'pɔr-\ n [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *portio*, *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

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

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

**port-land cement** \pɔrt-'lænd(-)d-, 'pɔrt-\ 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** \pɔrt-'li, 'pɔrt-\ *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-'mæn-(t)ō, 'pɔrt-\ n, *pl* -teaus or -teaux \-(t)ōz\ [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** \pɔr-'træt, 'pɔr-, -'træt\ 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** \-træt-'tɪst, -'træt-\ n (1866) : a maker of portraits

**por-trait-ure** \pɔr-'træt-'ʃʊr, 'pɔr-, -'char-, -'tʃʊr, -'tʃʊr\ n (14c) 1 : the making of portraits : PORTRAYAL 2 : PORTRAIT

**por-tray** \pɔr-'trā, 'pɔr-, -'trā-\ *vt* [ME *portrain*, 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** \-'trā-(ə)\ n (ca. 1847) 1 : the act or process or an instance of portraying : REPRESENTATION 2 : POR-TRAIT

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

**Port Royal-ist** \pɔrt-'rɔɪ-'əl-ɪst, 'pɔrt-\ 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-'lüt, -'sə-, -'səl-'yü-, -'səl-\ n (1902) : PORT DU SALUT

**Por-tu-guese** \pɔr-'tʃə-'gēz, 'pɔr-, -'gēs, 'pɔr-'tʃə-, 'pɔr-\ 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-'tʃə-'lə-kə, 'pɔr-\ 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** \pɔrt-'wɪn-, 'pɔrt-\ n (ca. 1909) : a reddish purple superficial hemangioma of the skin commonly occurring as a birthmark

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

**pose** \pɔz\ *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 air). 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 *pose*, fr. ME *apponere*, alter. of *opponere* to oppose] (1593) : PUZZLE, BAFFLE

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

**pos-er** \pɔz-'ər\ n [Pose] (1793) : a puzzling or baffling question

**poser** \pɔz\ (1838) : a person who poses

**po-seur** \pɔ-'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** \pɒʃ\ *adj* [origin unknown] (1918) : ELEGANT, FASHIONABLE — **posh-ly** *adv* — **posh-ness** *n*

**pos-it** \pɔz-'ɪt\ *vt* **pos-it-ed** \pɔz-'ɪt-əd, 'pɔz-'ɪt-əd\; **pos-it-ing** \pɔz-'ɪt-ɪŋ, 'pɔz-'ɪt-ɪŋ\ [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** \pɔz-'ɪʃən\ 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* **po-si-tioned**; **po-si-tion-ing** \pɔz-'ɪʃ(ə)-niŋ\ (1817) : to put in proper position; *also* : LOCATE

**po-si-tion-al** \pɔz-'ɪʃ(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 \kē\ *key* and the back-articulated \k\ in \kü\ *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** \pɔz-'ɪ-tɪv, 'pɔz-'ɪ-tɪv\ *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) c : 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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2prow \ˈpraʊ, archaic ˈprəʊ\ n [MF *proue*, prob. fr. Oit dial. *prua*, fr. L *prora*, fr. Gk *prōra*] (1555) 1: the bow of a ship; STEM 2: a pointed projecting front part  
prow-ess \ˈpraʊ-əs also ˈprəʊ-\ n [ME *proesse*, fr. OF *proesse*, fr. *prou*] (13c) 1: distinguished bravery; esp: military valor and skill 2: extraordinary ability (his ~ on the football field)  
1prowl \ˈpraʊ(ə)\ vb [ME *prollen*] vi (14c): to move about or wander stealthily in or as if in search of prey ~ vi: to roam over in a predatory manner — **prowler** \ˈpraʊ-lər\ n  
2prowl n (1803): an act or instance of prowling — **on the prowl**: in the act of prowling; also: in search of something (his fourth wife had just left him, and he was on the prowl again — Mary McCarthy)  
prowl car n (1937): SQUAD CAR  
prox-e-mics \ˈprɒk-ˈse-miks\ n pl but sing or pl in constr [proximity + -emics (as in *phonemics*)] (1963): the study of the nature, degree, and effect of the spatial separation individuals naturally maintain (as in various social and interpersonal situations) and of how this separation relates to environmental and cultural factors — **prox-e-mic** \-mɪk\ adj  
prox-i-mal \ˈprɒk-sə-məl\ adj [L *proximus*] (1727) 1: situated close to: PROXIMATE 2: next to or nearest the point of attachment or origin, a central point, or the point of view; esp: located toward the center of the body — compare DISTAL 3: of, relating to, or being the mesial and distal surfaces of a tooth — **prox-i-mal-ly** \-mə-lē\ adv  
proximal convoluted tubule n (ca. 1899): the convoluted portion of the vertebrate nephron that lies between Bowman's capsule and the loop of Henle and functions esp. in the resorption of sugar, sodium and chloride ions, and water from the glomerular filtrate — called also **proximal tubule**  
prox-i-mate \ˈprɒk-sə-mət\ adj [L *proximatus*, pp. of *proximare* to approach, fr. *proximus* nearest, next, superl. of *prope* near — more at APPROACH] (1661) 1: immediately preceding or following (as in a chain of events, causes, or effects) (~ rather than ultimate, goals — Reinhold Niebuhr) 2 a: very near: CLOSE b: soon forthcoming: IMMINENT — **prox-i-mate-ly** adv — **prox-i-mate-ness** n  
prox-i-mi-ty \ˈprɒk-si-mə-ti\ n [MF *proximité*, fr. L *proximitas*, *proximitas*, fr. *proximus*] (15c): the quality or state of being proximate: CLOSENESS  
proximity fuze n (1945): a fuze for a projectile that uses the principle of radar to detect the presence of a target within the projectile's effective range  
prox-i-mo \ˈprɒk-sə-mə\ adj [L *proximo mense* in the next month] (1855): of or occurring in the next month after the present  
proxy \ˈprɒk-si\ n, pl **proxies** [ME *procuracie*, contr. of *procuracie*, fr. AF, fr. ML *procuratia*, alter. of L *procuratio* procuration] (15c) 1: the agency, function, or office of a deputy who acts as a substitute for another 2 a: authority or power to act for another b: a document giving such authority; *specif*: a power of attorney authorizing a specified person to vote corporate stock 3: a person authorized to act for another: PROCURATOR — **proxy** adj  
proxy marriage n (1900): a marriage celebrated in the absence of one of the contracting parties who is represented at the ceremony by a proxy  
prude \ˈpruɪd\ n [F, good woman, prudish woman, short for *prude-femme* good woman, fr. OF *prude femme*] (1704): a person who is excessively or prudishly attentive to propriety or decorum; esp: a woman who shows or affects extreme modesty  
pru-dence \ˈpru-dəns\ n [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *prudencia*, alter. of *providentia* — more at PROVIDENCE] (14c) 1: the ability to govern and discipline oneself by the use of reason 2: sagacity or shrewdness in the management of affairs 3: skill and good judgment in the use of resources 4: caution or circumspection as to danger or risk  
pru-dent \-dənt\ adj [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *prudens*, *prudens*, contr. of *provident*-, *providens* — more at PROVIDENT] (14c): characterized by, arising from, or showing prudence as a: marked by wisdom or judiciousness b: shrewd in the management of practical affairs c: marked by circumspection: DISCREET d: PROVIDENT, FRUGAL syn see WISE — **pru-dent-ly** adv  
pru-den-tial \ˈpru-dən(t)-shəl\ adj (15c) 1: of, relating to, or proceeding from prudence 2: exercising prudence esp. in business matters — **pru-den-tial-ly** \-den(t)-sh(ə)-lē\ adv  
pru-dery \ˈpru-d(ə)-ri\ n, pl -er-ies (1709) 1: the characteristic quality or state of a prude 2: a prudish act or remark  
pru-dish \ˈpru-dɪʃ\ adj (1717): marked by prudery: PRIGGISH — **pru-dish-ly** adv — **pru-dish-ness** n  
pru-i-nose \ˈpru-ə-nəs\ adj [L *pruinosis* covered with hoarfrost, fr. *pruina* hoarfrost — more at FREEZE] (ca. 1826): covered with whitish dust or bloom (~ stems)  
1prune \ˈpruɪn\ n [ME, fr. MF, plum, fr. L *prunum* — more at PLUM] (14c): a plum dried or capable of drying without fermentation  
2prune vb **pruned**; **pruning** [ME *prouynen*, fr. MF *proignier*, prob. alter. of *provigner* to layer, fr. *provin* layer, fr. L *propagin*-, *propago*, fr. *pro-forward* + *pangere* to fix — more at PRO, PACT] vi (15c) 1 a: to reduce esp. by eliminating superfluous matter (*pruned* the text) (~ the budget) b: to remove as superfluous (~ away all ornamentation) 2: to cut off or cut back parts of for better shape or more fruitful growth ~ vi: to cut away what is unwanted or superfluous — **prun-er** n  
pru-nel-la \ˈpru-ne-lə\ also **pru-nelle** \-nel\ n [F *prunelle*, lit., sloe, fr. dim. of *prune* plum] (1670) 1: a twilled woolen dress fabric 2: a heavy woolen fabric used for the uppers of shoes  
pruning hook n (1611): a pole bearing a curved blade for pruning plants  
pru-nus \ˈpru-nəs\ n [NL, fr. L, plum tree, fr. Gk *proumnē*] (1901): any of a genus (*Prunus*) of drupaceous trees or shrubs of the rose family that have showy clusters of usu. white or pink flowers first appearing in the spring often before the leaves including many grown for ornament or for their fruit (as the plum, cherry, or apricot)  
pru-ri-ence \ˈpru-ri-ən(t)-s\ n (1781): the quality or state of being prurient  
pru-ri-en-cy \-ən(t)-sē\ n (1795): PRURIENCE  
pru-ri-ent \-ən(t)-sē\ adj [L *prurient*-, *pruriens*, prp. of *prurire* to itch, crave; akin to L *pruna* glowing coal, Skt *plōsati* he sings, and prob. to L *pruina* hoarfrost — more at FREEZE] (1592): marked by or arousing an immoderate or unwholesome interest or desire; esp: marked by, arousing, or appealing to unusual sexual desire — **pru-ri-ent-ly** adv

pru-ri-go \ˈpru-ri-(g)ō, -rē-\ n [NL, fr. L, itch, fr. *prurire*] (ca. 1646): a chronic inflammatory skin disease marked by itching papules  
pru-rit-ic \-ri-tik\ adj (1899): of, relating to, or marked by itching  
pru-ri-tus \-ri-təs, -rē-\ n [L, fr. *prurire*] (1653): itching  
Prus-sian blue \ˈprə-shən-\ n [Prussia, Germany] (1724) 1: any of numerous blue iron pigments formerly regarded as ferric ferrocyanide 2: a dark blue crystalline hydrated ferric ferrocyanide Fe<sub>4</sub>[Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub>]<sub>3</sub>·xH<sub>2</sub>O used as a test for ferric iron 3: a greenish blue  
Prus-sian-ise Brit var of PRUSSIANIZE  
Prus-sian-ism \ˈprə-shə-ni-zəm\ n (1856): the practices or policies (as the advocacy of militarism) held to be typically Prussian  
Prus-sian-ize \-nī-zə\ vt -ized, -izing often cap (1861): to make Prussian in character or principle (as in authoritarian control or rigid discipline) — **Prus-sian-i-za-tion** \ˈprə-shə-nə-zə-shən\ n  
pru-tah or pru-ta \ˈpru-tā\ n, pl **pru-toth** \-tōt, -tōth, -tōs\ or **pru-tot** \-tōt, -tōs\ [NHeb *perutah*, fr. LHeb, a small coin] (1949) 1: a former monetary unit of Israel equivalent to 1/1000 pound 2: a coin representing one prutah  
1pry \ˈpraɪ\ vt **pried**; **pry-ing** [ME *prien*] (14c): to look closely or inquisitively; also: to make a nosy or presumptuous inquiry  
2pry vt **pried**; **pry-ing** [prob. back-formation fr. *prize*] (ca. 1806) 1: to raise, move, or pull apart with a lever: PRIZE 2: to extract, detach, or open with difficulty (*pried* the secret out of my sister)  
3pry n (1823) 1: a tool for prying 2: LEVERAGE  
pry-er var of PRYER  
prying adj (1552): impertinently or officiously inquisitive or interrogatory syn see CURIOUS — **pry-ing-ly** \-ɪŋ-lē\ adv  
Prze-wal-ski's horse \ˈpʒə-vəl-skēz-, ʃə-, ˈpə-zhə-vəl-\ n [Nikolai M. *Przewalskii* †1888 Russ. soldier & explorer] (1881): a small stocky bay- or dun-colored wild horse (*Equus caballus przewalskii* syn. *E. przewalskii*) of central Asia having a large head and short erect mane — called also **Prze-wal-ski horse** \-skē-\  
psalm \ˈsɑ:m, ˈsɑ:m, ˈsɒ:m, ˈsɒlm, NewEng also ˈsɑ:m\ n, often cap [ME, fr. OE *psalm*, fr. LL *psalmus*, fr. Gk *psalmos*, lit., twanging of a harp, fr. *psallein* to pluck, play a stringed instrument] (bef. 12c): a sacred song or poem used in worship; esp: one of the biblical hymns collected in the Book of Psalms  
psalm-book \-bʊk\ n (12c) **archaic**: PSALTER  
psalm-ist \ˈsɑ-mɪst, ˈsɑ-l-, ˈsɒ-, ˈsɒl-, NewEng also ˈsɑ-mɪst\ n (15c): a writer or composer of esp. biblical psalms  
psalm-o-dy \ˈsɑ-mə-dē, ˈsɑ-l-, ˈsɒ-, ˈsɒl-, NewEng also ˈsɑ-mə-dē\ n [ME *psalmodie*, fr. LL *psalmodia*, fr. LGk *psalmodia*, lit., singing to the harp, fr. Gk *psalmos* + *aidein* to sing — more at ODE] (14c) 1: the act, practice, or art of singing psalms in worship 2: a collection of psalms  
Psalms \ˈsɑ:mz, ˈsɑ:mz, ˈsɒ:mz, ˈsɒlmz, NewEng also ˈsɑ:mz\ n pl but sing in constr: a collection of sacred poems forming a book of canonical Jewish and Christian Scripture — see BIBLE table  
Psal-ter \ˈsɑl-tər, ˈsɒl-\ n [ME, fr. OE *psalter* & OF *psaltier*, fr. LL *psalterium*, fr. LGk *psalterion*, fr. Gk, *psaltery*] (bef. 12c): the Book of Psalms; also: a collection of Psalms for liturgical or devotional use  
psal-te-ri-um \ˈsɑl-tir-ē-əm, ˈsɒl-\ n, pl -ria \-ē-ə\ [NL, fr. LL, *psalter*; fr. the resemblance of the folds to the pages of a book] (ca. 1846): OMASUM  
psal-tery also psal-try \ˈsɑl-t(ə)-rē, ˈsɒl-\ n, pl -ter-ies also -tries [ME *psalterie*, fr. MF, fr. L *psalterium*, fr. Gk *psalterion*, fr. *psallein* to play on a stringed instrument] (14c): an ancient musical instrument resembling the zither  
p's and q's \ˈpeɪz-ˈn-ˈkyuz\ n pl [fr. the phrase *mind one's p's and q's*, alluding to the difficulty a child learning to write has in distinguishing between p and q] (1779) 1: something (as one's manners) that one should be mindful of (better watch his p's and q's when I get a six-gun of my own — Jean Stafford) 2: best behavior (being on her p's and q's for two solid days was too much — Guy McCrone)  
pse-pho-logy \ˈsē-fə-lə-jē\ n [Gk *psēphos* pebble, ballot, vote; fr. the use of pebbles by the ancient Greeks in voting] (1952): the scientific study of elections — **pse-pho-log-i-cal** \ˈsē-fə-lə-jī-kəl\ adj — **pse-pho-log-ist** \ˈsē-fə-lə-jɪst\ n  
pseud \ˈsju:d\ n [short for *pseudo-intellectual*] (1964) Brit: a person who pretends to be an intellectual  
pseud- or pseudo- **comb form** [ME, fr. LL, fr. Gk, fr. *pseudēs*, fr. *pseudēsthai* to lie; akin to Arm *sut* lie and prob. to Gk *psychein* to breathe — more at PSYCH-]: false: spurious (*pseudoclassic*) (*pseudopodium*)  
pseud-ep-i-graph \ˈsju-dē-pə-graf\ n (1884): PSEUDEPIGRAPHON 2  
pseud-epi-gra-phon \ˈsju-di-ˈpɪ-grə-fən\ n, pl -pha \-fə\ [NL, sing. of *pseudepigrapha*, fr. Gk, neut. pl. of *pseudepigraphos* falsely inscribed, fr. *pseud-* + *epigraphēin* to inscribe — more at EPIGRAPH] (1692) 1 pl: APOCRYPHA 2: any of various pseudonymous or anonymous Jewish religious writings of the period 200 B.C. to 200 A.D.; esp: one of such writings (as the Psalms of Solomon) not included in any canon of biblical Scripture — usu. used in pl.  
pseud-epi-gra-phy \-fə\ n [Gk *pseudepigraphos*] (ca. 1842): the ascription of false names of authors to works  
pseu-do \ˈsju-(d)ō\ adj [ME, fr. *pseudo*] (15c): being apparently true but actually as stated: SHAM, SPURIOUS (distinction between true and ~ humanism — K. F. Reinhardt)  
pseu-do-al-le-le \ˈsju-də-ə-lē(ə)\ n (1948): any of two or more closely linked genes that act usu. as if a single member of an allelic pair but undergo crossing-over and recombination  
pseu-do-cho-lin-es-ter-ase \ˈsju-dō-kō-lin-es-tə-rās, -rāz\ n, (1943): CHOLINESTERASE 2  
pseu-do-class-ic \ˈsju-dō-ˈkla-sɪk\ adj (1899): pretending to be or erroneously regarded as classic — **pseudoclassic** n  
pseu-do-class-i-cism \ˈkla-sə-si-zəm\ n (1871): imitative representation of classicism in literature and art

\\ abut \\ kitten, F table \\er\\ further \\a\\ ash \\ā\\ ace \\ā\\ mop, mar  
\\au\\ out \\ch\\ chin \\e\\ bet \\e\\ easy \\g\\ go \\i\\ hit \\i\\ ice \\j\\ job  
\\j\\ sing \\ō\\ go \\ō\\ law \\oi\\ boy \\th\\ thin \\t\\ the \\ū\\ loot \\ū\\ foot  
\\y\\ yet \\z\\ vision \\ā, k, ŋ, œ, œ, ue, ũ, see Guide to Pronunciation