

# Glossary

---

## P

**pace**, train (a horse) to pace

**pack**, gang; conspire, shuffle (cards), to cheat, be off

**packing**, plotting

**paddock**, toad

**pageant**, show, spectacle

**pain**, trouble, punishment

**painful**, laborious, toilsome

**pale**, fence, enclosure; enclose, encircle

**palisado**, staked fence

**pall**, fail

**palliamment**, white robe of a candidate for the Roman consulship

**palmer**, pilgrim

**palter**, equivocate, use trickery

**pander**, go-between in a love affair, pimp

**Pandion**, see philomel

**pantaloon**, foolish old man

**pantler**, servant in charge of the pantry

**paper**, notice specifying offence committed; write down

**paragon**, compare, excel, show as a model

**Parca**, one of the three fates who prepared and cut the thread of human life

**parcel**, part, item, group

**parcel-gilt**, partly gilded

**pard**, panther or leopard

**pardie**, certainly, indeed

**Paris ball**, tennis ball

**paritor**, official who summoned offenders to an ecclesiastical court

**parlous**, perilous, cunning, dreadful

**part**, action, side

**partage**, freight, cargo

**partake**, impart, take sides

**partaker**, confederate, supporter

**parted**, divided, gifted

**partialize**, make partial  
**particular**, detail, individual, personal interest, intimacy; private, personal  
**partisan**, footsoldier's weapon, a long-handled spear with a blade  
**pash**, head; to strike violently, smash  
**passado**, a forward thrust in fencing  
**passant**, heraldic term of beast stepping; surpassing  
**passenger**, traveller on foot  
**passion**, suffering, affliction, fit of disease, overpowering emotion, passionate speech, sorrow; feel deep emotion  
**passionate**, express with passion; compassionate, sorrowful  
**patch**, fool  
**patchery**, trickery  
**paten**, thin circular metal plate  
**patent**, title, privilege, authority  
**patience**, permission, leave  
**patronage**, uphold, defend  
**pattern**, precedent, model; to give an example, be a pattern or precedent for  
**pax**, tablet kissed by priest and congregation in celebration of mass  
**peach**, denounce, turn informer  
**peat**, spoilt girl  
**peck**, pitch  
**peculiar**, individual, private, belonging to one person  
**pedant**, schoolmaster  
**peeled**, tonsured  
**Pegasus**, winged horse  
**peise**, balance, weight, suspend  
**pelf**, property, possessions  
**pelican**, believed to feed its young with its own blood  
**pelt**, rage, scold  
**pelting**, paltry, worthless  
**pencil**, paintbrush  
**pendulous**, impending, suspended  
**pensioners**, royal bodyguard  
**Penthesilea**, Amazon queen  
**peradventure**, by chance, perhaps  
**perdition**, ruin, loss, damnation  
**perdurable**, everlasting  
**peregrinate**, travelled, foreign in style  
**perfect**, fully informed, equipped, ready; accomplish, instruct

**perfection**, performance, completion  
**periapt**, amulet  
**period**, end, goal, highest point, full pause, full stop; to end  
**perjure**, perjurer; corrupt  
**perniciously**, to destruction  
**perpend**, consider  
**persistive**, steadfast  
**perspective**, optical device for producing fantastic images; picture of figure producing a distorted or unexpected effect  
**pert**, lively  
**pervert**, turn aside  
**pester**, throng, obstruct  
**pestiferous**, pernicious  
**phantasim**, fantastic being  
**Philomel, Philomela**, daughter of Pandion, raped by Tereus (husband of her sister Progne), who cut out her tongue; she wove her story into a tapestry. Progne feasted Tereus on their murdered son; Philomela was changed into a nightingale  
**Phoebe**, Diana, goddess of the moon  
**Phoebus**, Apollo, god of the sun  
**phoenix**, unique Arabian bird which, dying, is recreated from its own ashes  
**phraseless**, inexpressible  
**phthisic**, consumptive cough  
**physical**, beneficial to health  
**pia mater**, brain  
**picked**, refined, fastidious  
**Pickt-hatch**, London district noted for brothels  
**pie**, magpie  
**piece**, cask of liquor, masterpiece; add to, augment  
**pied**, parti-coloured  
**pike**, spike in centre of buckler  
**pill**, plunder, rob, strip (of bark), make bald  
**pillicock**, penis  
**pin and web**, disease of the eye  
**pinch**, bite, pang; to bite, harass, distress  
**pismire**, ant  
**placket**, petticoat, opening, slit  
**planned**, made of boards  
**plant**, sole of the foot  
**plantage**, plants

**plash**, pool  
**plausible**, pleasing  
**plausibly**, with applause  
**plausive**, deserving of applause  
**Plautus**, Roman writer of comedy  
**pleached**, formed by intertwined over-arched boughs, folded  
**pleasant**, merry, jokey  
**pleurisy**, abundance, excess  
**plight**, pledge  
**Pluto**, ruler of the underworld  
**Plutus**, god of riches  
**poach**, to thrust, stab  
**point**, highest point, conclusion, lace with tags (for attaching hose to doublet, etc.), full stop  
**poking-stick**, rod used for pleating ruffs  
**polecat**, prostitute  
**policy**, government, administration, prudence in managing public or private affairs, cunning, craftiness, trick  
**politic**, dealing with government and administration, crafty  
**politician**, schemer, scheming statesman  
**pomewater**, large juicy kind of apple  
**pomp**, procession, pageant  
**Pontic sea**, Black Sea  
**poop**, swamp, overwhelm  
**poor-john**, salted fish  
**popular**, plebeian, vulgar  
**popularity**, common pledge  
**porridge**, **porrage**, soup  
**porringer**, basin  
**port**, gate, bearing, style of living  
**portable**, bearable, enduring  
**portage**, portholes  
**portance**, behaviour  
**posied**, inscribed with a motto  
**possess**, inform, acquaint  
**posset**, drink of hot milk curdled with ale or wine; curdle, thicken  
**post**, post set up for notices, etc., doorpost on which tavern reckoning was kept, courier, messenger, post-horse; to hasten, carry swiftly  
**poster**, swift traveller  
**posy**, motto inscribed inside a ring

**potable**, able to be drunk  
**potato**, sweet potato, supposedly aphrodisiac  
**potency**, power, authority  
**potent**, potentate  
**potential**, powerful  
**potting**, tippling  
**pouncet-box**, small box for perfumes  
**powder**, preserve meat with salt or spice  
**powdering-tub**, pickling-tub, sweating-tub used in cure of venereal disease  
**power**, army  
**pox**, syphilis, venereal disease  
**practice**, trickery, conspiracy, plot  
**practisant**, one who carries out a trick  
**practise**, plot, conspire  
**praemunire**, writ for maintaining papal jurisdiction in England  
**praetor**, Roman magistrate  
**praise**, appraise, value  
**prank**, adorn  
**precedent**, former; original from which a copy is made, sign  
**precisian**, puritan  
**precursor**, forerunner  
**precurse**, heralding  
**predicament**, situation  
**prefer**, present, advance, introduce, recommend  
**pregnancy**, quickness of wit  
**pregnant**, clear, fertile, compelling, resourceful, receptive  
**prejudicate**, influence beforehand  
**prejudice**, injury; injure  
**premised**, sent before  
**preparation**, accomplishment  
**preposterous**, inverting the natural order of things, monstrous  
**prerogative**, precedence, pre-eminence  
**presage**, omen, prognostication, foreboding  
**presence**, presence±±chamber, company, person  
**present**, immediate, instant; ready money, to show, represent, bring a charge against  
**presently**, immediately  
**presentment**, dedication  
**press**, crowd, crowding, printing-press, cupboard, authority to enlist men

compulsorily; to crowd, oppress, force into military service  
**pressure**, impression, character impressed  
**pretence**, expressed aim, intention, pretext  
**prevent**, anticipate, escape, avoid  
**prick**, mark made by pricking, dot, point, spot in centre of target, prickle, penis; to mark by making a dot, etc., pierce, fix, point, spur  
**pricket**, buck in its second year  
**prick-song**, music sung from notes  
**pride**, magnificence, splendid adornment, highest state, mettle, sexual desire  
**prig**, thief  
**prime**, first, chief, sexually excited; springtime  
**primogenitive**, first-born's right to inherit  
**principal**, superior, abettor, principal rafter  
**princox**, pert youth  
**Priscian**, Roman grammarian  
**prithee**, please  
**private**, private person  
**privates**, sexual organs  
**prize**, contest; to value, esteem  
**prizer**, prize-fighter, wrestler  
**probal**, *to*, able to bear the probe or examination of  
**probation**, trial, proof  
**proceeder**, one proceeding to a university degree  
**procurator**, proxy  
**prodigious**, ominous, portentous, monstrous, abnormal  
**proditor**, traitor  
**proface**, 'may it do you good', formula of welcome before a meal  
**profited**, proficient  
**progeny**, lineage, race  
**project**, notion, idea; set forth, exhibit  
**projection**, plan  
**prolixious**, prolonged  
**prolong**, postpone  
**Prometheus**, stole fire from heaven and was chained to Mount Caucasus  
**prone**, ready, eager  
**proof**, test, trial, experience, issue, result  
**propend**, incline  
**proper**, (one's) own, private, peculiar, excellent, handsome  
**property**, identity, particular quality, take possession of, endow with

qualities, make a tool of  
**proportion**, portion, division, relative size, proportioning, rhythm  
**propose**, put forward, set before one's mind, suppose, converse  
**propriety**, identity, proper state  
**propugnation**, defence  
**prorogue**, prolong, postpone  
**prosecution**, pursuit  
**Proserpina**, daughter of Ceres, carried away by Pluto to become queen of hell  
**prosperous**, favourable  
**Proteus**, a sea-god, able to assume different shapes  
**protractive**, consisting in delay  
**proud**, elated, giving cause for pride, lofty, splendid, spirited, swollen, over-luxuriant, sexually excited  
**prove**, try, test, find by experience, experience  
**publish**, make known, proclaim, denounce  
**pucelle**, virgin, maid, slut  
**puck**, pixy, mischievous spirit  
**pudding**, sausage, stuffing  
**pudency**, modesty  
**puissance**, strength, armed force  
**puissant**, strong, powerful  
**pumpion**, pumpkin  
**punk**, prostitute, harlot  
**punto reverso**, back-handed thrust in fencing  
**purblind**, quite blind, partially blind  
**purchase**, booty, prize, annual rent from land; to strive, gain, acquire otherwise than by inheritance  
**purgation**, clearing from accusation or suspicion  
**purlieu**, tract of land bordering on a forest  
**purpose**, proposal, conversation  
**pursuivant**, junior attendant on heralds, herald, messenger  
**pursy**, short-winded, fat  
**purveyor**, steward going ahead to make provision  
**putter on**, instigator  
**puttock**, bird of prey, kite, buzzard