

WEBSTER'S
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COLLEGE
DICTIONARY
FOURTH EDITION



WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD™ COLLEGE DICTIONARY

Fourth Edition

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entrance, passage: see PORT²] 1 a covered entrance to a building, usually projecting from the wall and having a separate roof 2 an open or enclosed gallery or room on the outside of a building, as a veranda or sun porch 3 [Obs.] a portico

por-cine (pôr'sin', -sin) *adj.* [Fr *porcin* < L *porcinus* < *porcus*, hog; see PORK] of or like pigs or hogs

por-cino (pôr ché'nô) *n., pl. -ni (-nê)* a large, fleshy, edible boletus mushroom (*Boletus edulis*) with a brown cap and a thick, white stem; *cepe*: *usually used in pl.*: also **porcini** mushroom

por-cu-pine (pôr'kyä pin') *n., pl. -pines' or -pine'* [ME *porkepyne* < MFr *porc espin*, spinous hog, spine hog < OIt *porcospino* < L *porcus*, pig (see FARROW¹) + SPINE] any of a terrestrial Old World family (Hystriidae) or an arboreal New World family (Erethizontidae) of rodents, having coarse hair mixed with long, stiff, sharp spines that can be erected

Por-cu-pine (pôr'kyä pin') [descriptive] river in N Yukon Territory, Canada, flowing into the Yukon River in NE Alas.: 590 mi (949 km)

por-cu-pine-fish (-fish') *n., pl. -fish' or -fish'es* (see FISH) any of a family (Diodontidae, order Tetraodontiformes) of tropical, marine bony fishes that can erect the long spines on their body by inflating themselves with air or water: also written **porcupine fish**

pore¹ (pôr, pör) *vi.* **pored**, **por'ing** [ME *poren* < ?] 1 [Now Rare] to gaze intently 2 to read or study carefully: with *over* /to pore over a book/ 3 to think deeply and thoroughly; ponder: with *over*

pore² (pôr, pör) *n.* [ME < L *porus* < Gr *poros* < IE *poros, passage < base *per-, to bring through > FARE] 1 [Obs.] a passage; channel 2 a tiny opening, usually microscopic, as in plant leaves or skin, through which fluids may be absorbed or discharged 3 a similar opening in rock or other substances

pore fungus a basidiomycete having spores that are produced inside microscopic tubules in the underside of its mushroom

porgy (pôr'gē) *n., pl. -gies or -gy* [prob. altered < Sp or Port *pargo* < L *pagrus* < Gr *phagros*, sea bream] 1 any of a family (Sparidae) of marine percid food fishes having spiny fins and a wide body covered with large scales, as the scup, the pinfish, and the sheepshead 2 any of various other fishes, as the menhaden

por-rif-er-an (pô rif'ēr ən, pə-) *n.* [L *porus*, PORE² + -FER + -AN] SPONGE (sense 1) —*adj.* of or pertaining to the poriferans

por-rif-er-ous (-əs) *adj.* [L *porus*, PORE² + -FEROUS] 1 having pores 2 Zool. of the sponges, or poriferans

por-rism (pôr'riz'm, pô'riz'-) *n.* [ME *porysme* < ML *porisma* < Gr, lit., a thing brought < *porizein*, to bring < *poros*, passage: see PORE²] *Ancient Math.* a geometrical proposition variously defined, as a) a proposition deduced from some other demonstrated proposition; corollary b) a proposition that uncovers the possibility of finding such conditions as to make a specific problem capable of innumerable solutions

pork (pôrk) *n.* [ME *porc* < OFr < L *porcus*, a pig < IE *porkos, pig > FARROW¹] 1 [Obs.] a pig or hog 2 the flesh of a pig or hog, used as food, esp. when used fresh, or uncured 3 [Informal] money, jobs, etc. received as pork barrel

pork barrel [Informal] government appropriations for political patronage, as for local improvements to please legislators' constituents — **pork-barreling** *n.*

porker (pôr'kər) *n.* a hog, esp. a young one, fattened for use as food

pork-pie (hăt) (pôr'k'pi') *n.* a man's soft hat with a round, flat crown

porky (pôr'kē) *adj.* **pork'y-er**, **pork'y-est** 1 of or like pork 2 fat, as though overfed 3 [Slang] saucy, cocky, presumptuous, impertinent, or the like — **pork'y-ness** *n.*

porn (pôrn) *n., adj.* [Slang] short for PORNOGRAPHY, PORNOGRAPHIC: also **porno** (pôr'nô)

por-nog-ra-phy (pôr năg'ră fē) *n.* [L < Gr *pornographos*, writing about prostitutes < *pornē*, a prostitute, orig. a euphemism, lit., (something) sold, akin to *pernemē*, to sell (esp. as a slave, or for a bribe) < IE base *per-, to sell, bring across, come over > FARE + Gr *graphein*, to write: see GRAPHIC] 1 writings, pictures, etc. intended primarily to arouse sexual desire 2 the production of such writings, pictures, etc. — **por-nog'-ra-pher** *n.* — **por-no-graphic** (pôr'nə graf'ik) *adj.* — **por'-no-graph'i-cally** *adv.*

poro-mer-ic (pôr'ə mer'ik) *n.* [arbitrary coinage, prob. < PORO(US) + (POLY)MERIC] a synthetic, leatherlike, porous material, often coated or impregnated with a polymer

por-os-ity (pô răs'ə tē, pə-, *pl. -ties* [ME *porositee* < ML *porositās*: see fol. + -ITY] 1 the quality or state of being porous 2 the ratio, usually expressed as a percentage, of the volume of a material's pores, as in rock, to its total volume 3 anything porous 4 PORE²

por-ous (pôr'əs, pôr'-) *adj.* [ME < ML *porosus* < L *porus*, PORE²] full of pores, through which fluids, air, or light may pass — **por-ously** *adv.* — **por'-ous-ness** *n.*

por-phy-ra-tin (pôr fir'ə tin) *n.* [PORPHYR(IN) + -AT(E)¹ + -IN¹] any of various complex compounds formed of metals and porphyrins

por-phyria (pôr fir'ē ə) *n.* [ModL < fol. + -IA] an inherited disorder of pigment metabolism with excretion of porphyrins in the urine and dangerous sensitivity to sunlight

por-phy-rin (pôr'fä rin) *n.* [L < Gr *porphyra*, purple + -IN¹] any of a group of pyrrole derivatives, found in cytoplasm, that combine

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porcine / Port-au-Prince

with iron and magnesium to form heme and chlorophyll, respectively

por-phy-ritic (pôr'fä rit'ik) *adj.* [ME *porphiritike* < ML *porphyriticus* < L *porphyrites* < Gr *porphyrites*] 1 of porphyry 2 like porphyry: having distinct crystals in a fine-grained mass

por-phy-roid (pôr'fä roid') *n.* a metamorphic rock having large crystals embedded in a fine-grained matrix of either igneous or sedimentary origin

por-phy-rop-sin (pôr'fä röp'sin) *n.* [L < Gr *porphyra*, purple + *opsis*, appearance < ops, EYE] + -IN¹] a photosensitive, carotenoid protein pigment found in the rods of the retinas of freshwater vertebrates

por-phyry (pôr'fä rē) *n., pl. -ries* [ME *porfirie* < OFr *porfire* < ML *porphyreum*, altered < L *porphyrites* < Gr *porphyrites* (lithos), lit., purple (stone) < *porphyros*, purple] 1 [Historical] an Egyptian rock with large feldspar crystals contained in a purplish ground-mass 2 any igneous rock with large, distinct crystals, esp. of alkali feldspar, embedded in a fine-grained matrix

por-poise (pôr'päs) *n., pl. -poises or -poise* [ME *porpoys* < OFr *porpays*, lit., swine fish < L *porcus*, pig (see FARROW¹) + *piscis*, FISH] 1 any of a family (Phocidae) of small, usually gregarious toothed whales found in most seas, with a torpedo-shaped body and a blunt snout 2 a dolphin or any of several small whales

por-ridge (pôr'j, pär'-) *n.* [altered < POTTAGE by confusion with ME *porrey* < OFr *poree* < VL *porrata*, leek broth < L *porrum*, leek, akin to Gr *prason*, leek] 1 [Obs.] pottage 2 [Chiefly Brit.] a soft food made of cereal or meal boiled in water or milk until thick

por-rin-ger (pôr'in jər) *n.* [earlier *pottanger*, *pottager* < Fr *potager*, soup dish: altered by assoc. with prec.] a small, shallow bowl, often of pewter and usually having a flat, horizontal handle

Por-sena (pôr'si nə), **Lars** (lärz) 6th cent. B.C.; Etruscan king who, according to legend, attacked Rome in an unsuccessful attempt to restore Tarquin to the throne: also **Por-senna** (pôr sen'ə)

port¹ (pôrt) *n.* [ME < OFr & OE < L *portus*, haven, entrance: see FORD] 1 a harbor 2 a city or town with a harbor where ships can load and unload cargo 3 PORT OF ENTRY

port² (pôrt) *n.* [after *Oporto*, city in Portugal] a sweet, usually dark-red, fortified wine

port³ (pôrt) *vt.* [ME *porter* < L *portare*, to carry: see FARE] 1 [Now Rare] to carry 2 to carry, hold, or place (a rifle or sword) in front of one, diagonally upward from right to left, as for inspection — *n.* [ME *porte* < MFr < the v.] 1 the manner in which one carries oneself; carriage 2 the position of a ported weapon

port⁴ (pôrt) *n.* [L < PORT¹: so named because the side toward the port (dock), since the steering oar (see STARBOARD) prevented docking to the right] the left-hand side of a ship, boat, or airplane as one faces forward: opposed to STARBOARD — *adj.* 1 of or on this side 2 designating a sailing tack on which the wind passes over the port side — *vt., vi.* to move or turn (the helm) to the port side

port⁵ (pôrt) *n.* [ME < OFr *porte* < L *porta*, door, akin to *portus*: see PORT¹] 1 [Now Scot.] a portal; gateway, esp. to a town or city 2 a) PORTHOLE b) a porthole covering 3 an opening, as in a cylinder face or valve face, for the passage of steam, gas, water, etc. 4 a) Electronics a place at which energy or signals enter or leave a device, circuit, etc. b) Comput. the circuit, outlet, etc. which serves as a connection between a computer and its peripheral

Port *abbrev.* 1 Portugal 2 Portuguese

porta- (pôr'tə) *combining form* portable: also sp. **port'-a-**
port-able (pôr'tə bəl) *adj.* [ME < MFr < LL *portabilis* < *portare*: see FARE] 1 that can be carried 2 a) easily carried or moved, esp. by hand (a portable TV) b) that can be used anywhere because operated by self-contained batteries (a portable radio) 3 [Obs.] bearable; endurable — *n.* something portable — **port'-abil'-ity** *n.*

por-tage (pôr'tij; for *n.* 2 & *v.*, also pôr tăzh') *n.* [ME < MFr < ML *portaticum* < L *portare*, to carry: see FARE] 1 a) the act of carrying or transporting b) the charge for this 2 a) a carrying of boats and supplies overland from one lake or river to another, as during a canoe trip b) any route over which this is done — *vt., vi.* — **tagged**, **-tag-ing** *to carry (a canoe, supplies, etc.) over a portage

por-tal (pôr'təl) *n.* [ME < MFr < ML *portale*, orig. neut. of *portalis*, of a door < L *porta*: see PORT¹] 1 a doorway, gate, or entrance, esp. a large and imposing one 2 any point or place of entry, as one where nerves, vessels, etc. enter an organ 3 a website designed to provide access to numerous other sites and, variously, e-mail service, online shopping, etc. — *adj.* [ML *portalis*] designating, of, or like the vein carrying blood from the intestines, stomach, etc. to the liver

portal-to-portal pay (pôr't'l tə pôrt'l) wages for workers based on the total time spent from the moment of entering the mine, factory, etc. until the moment of leaving it

por-ta-mento (pôr'tə men'tō) *n., pl. -ti (-tē)* [It < *portare*, to carry < L: see FARE] Music a continuous gliding from one note to another, sounding intervening tones; glide

port-ance (pôr'təns) *n.* [Early ModE < MFr < *porter*, to bear: see PORT¹] [Archaic] one's bearing or demeanor

Port Arthur 1 former name for LÜSHUN 2 [after Arthur Stilwell, local philanthropist] seaport in SE Tex., on Sabine Lake: pop. 59,000 3 see THUNDER BAY

por-ta-tive (pôr'tə tiv) *adj.* [ME < OFr *portatif*, lit., that is carried < L *portatus*, pp. of *portare*, to carry (see FARE) + OFr *-if*, -IVE] 1 of or having the power of carrying 2 portable

Port-au-Prince (pôr'tō prins'; Fr pôr tō prāns') seaport & capital of Haiti, on the Caribbean: pop. 1,255,000

See the inside front cover for pronunciation information.

The symbol * is used to mark terms of American origin.

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