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# Webster's II *New College* Dictionary

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# Webster's II

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*New College Dictionary*



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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.

**pore**<sup>1</sup> (pôr, pôr) *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.**

**pore**<sup>2</sup> (pôr, pôr) *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.

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

**po-rif'er-an** (pô-rîf'ar-an) *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** (pô-rîf'ar-as) *adj.* [Lat. *porus*, pore (< Gk. *poros*) + -**ferous**.] 1. Having pores. 2. Zool. Of or pertaining to the phylum Porifera.

**pork** (pôr'k, 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'kar, pör'-) *n.* A fattened young pig.

**pork-pie** also **pork pie** (pôr'pi', 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'nô) also **porn** (pörn) *n.* Slang. 1. Pornography. 2. Pornographic material, as a picture, movie, or book.

**por-nog-ra-phy** (pôr-nôg'ra-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'nô-grăf'ik) *adj.*

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

**po-ros-i-ty** (pô-rô-s'i-tē, pô-) *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'as, 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-fîr'ē-ə) *n.* [NLat. < PORPHYRIN.] A hereditary pathological disorder of porphyrin metabolism marked by photosensitivity and the excretion of porphyrins in the urine.

**por-phy-rin** (pôr'fô-rîn) *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'fô-rît'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'fô-roid') *n.* Metamorphic rock having porphyritic texture.

**por-phy-ry** (pôr'fô-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. *porcupiscis*: 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 PORTAGE.] Cereal, as oatmeal, boiled until thick and usu. eaten with milk.

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

**port**<sup>1</sup> (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. a. An entrance to or exit for a data network. b. A connection point for a peripheral device.

**port**<sup>2</sup> (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.

**port**<sup>3</sup> (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.

**port**<sup>4</sup> (pôrt, pôrt) *n.* [After *Oporto*, Portugal.] A rich sweet fortified red wine.

**port**<sup>5</sup> (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'ta-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'-, pör-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.

**portal** (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-tô-pôr'tl, pör'tl-tô-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>

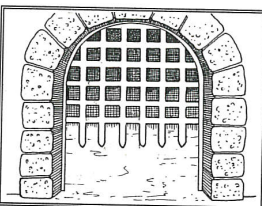
**portal vein** *n.* Anat. A vein that conducts blood from the digestive organs, spleen, pancreas, and gallbladder to the liver.

**por-ta-men-to** (pôr'ta-mên'tô, 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'ta-pāk', pör'-) *n.* [Blend of PORTABLE and PACK.] A small videotape recorder and camera combined in a portable unit.

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

**port-cul-lis** (pôr'kûl'is, pör'-) *n.* [ME *portculus* < OFr. *porte colle-ice*, 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 sâ-lôo') *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-chère** (pôr'tô-kô-shâr', 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-ten-t** (pôr'tên't', 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'tên'tas, 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-ter**<sup>1</sup> (pôr'tor, 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.

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i tie Ìr pier ò pot ò toe ò paw, for oi noise òo took

**por-ter**<sup>2</sup> (pôr'tor, pör'-) *n.* [Lat. *porta*, gate.]

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