

# Collins English Dictionary

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**personnel** *n* 1 the people employed in an organization or for a service 2 the department in an organization that appoints or keeps records of employees 3 (in the armed forces) people, as opposed to machinery or equipment [French]

**perspective** *n* 1 a way of regarding situations or facts and judging their relative importance: *the female perspective on sex and love* 2 objectivity: *Kay's problems helped me put my minor worries into perspective* 3 a method of drawing that gives the effect of solidity and relative distances and sizes 4 the appearance of objects or buildings relative to each other, determined by their distance from the viewer [Latin *perspicere* to inspect carefully]

**Perspex** *n* trademark a clear acrylic resin used as a substitute for glass

**perspicacious** *adj* formal acutely perceptive or discerning [Latin *perspicax*]

**perspicacity** *n*

**perspicuous** *adj* literary (of speech or writing) easily understood; lucid [Latin *perspicuus* transparent]

**perspicuity** *n*

**perspiration** *n* 1 the salty fluid secreted by the sweat glands of the skin; sweat 2 the act of sweating

**perspire** *vb* -spiring, -spired to sweat [Latin *per-* through + *spirare* to breathe]

**persuade** *vb* -suading, -suaded 1 to make (someone) do something by reason or charm: *we tried to persuade him not to come up the mountain with us* 2 to cause to believe; convince: *persuading people of the need for enforced environmental protection may be difficult* [Latin *persuadere*]

**persuadable** *adj*

**persuasion** *n* 1 the act of persuading 2 the power to persuade 3 a set of beliefs; creed: *the Roman Catholic persuasion*; literary *intellectuals of the modernist persuasion*

**persuasive** *adj* able to persuade: *a persuasive argument* **persuasively** *adv*

**pert** *adj* 1 saucy or impudent 2 attractive in a neat way: *pert buttocks* [Latin *apertus* open]

**pertain** *vb* (often foll. by *to*) 1 to have reference or relevance: *the notes pertaining to the case* 2 to be appropriate: *the product pertains to real user needs* 3 to belong (to) or be a part (of) [Latin *pertinere*]

**pertinacious** *adj* 1 doggedly resolute in purpose or belief 2 stubbornly persistent [Latin *per-* (intensive) + *tenax* clinging]

**pertinacity** *n*

**pertinent** *adj* relating to the matter at hand; relevant [Latin *pertinens*]

**pertinence** *n*

**perturb** *vb* 1 to disturb the composure of 2 to throw into disorder [Latin *perturbare* to confuse]

**perturbation** *n* literary anxiety or worry

**peruke** *n* historical a wig for men worn in the 17th and 18th centuries [French *perruque*]

**peruse** *vb* -rusing, -rused 1 to read or examine with care 2 to browse or read in a leisurely way [*per-* (intensive) + *use*]

**perusal** *n*

**pervade** *vb* -vading, -vaded to spread through or throughout (something) [Latin *per-* through + *vadere* to go]

**pervasion** *n* **pervasive** *adj*

**perverse** *adj* 1 deliberately acting in a way different from what is regarded as normal or proper 2 wayward or contrary; obstinate [Latin *perversus* turned the wrong way] **perversely** *adv*

**perversity** *n*

**perversion** *n* 1 any abnormal means of obtaining sexual satisfaction 2 the act of perverting

**pervert** *vb* 1 to use wrongly or badly 2 to interpret wrongly or badly; distort 3 to lead (someone) into abnormal behaviour, esp. sexually; corrupt 4 to debase ▷ *n* 5 a person who practises sexual perversion [Latin *pervertere* to turn the wrong way]

**perverted** *adj*

**pervious** *adj* 1 able to be penetrated; permeable: *the thin walls were pervious to the slightest sound* 2 receptive to new ideas; open-minded [Latin *per-* through + *via* a way]

**Pesach** or **Pesah** (pay-sahk) *n* same as **Passover**

**peseta** (pess-say-ta) *n* a former monetary unit of Spain [Spanish]

**pesky** *adj* **peskier**, **peskiest** informal chiefly US & Canad troublesome [probably changed from *pesty*]

**peso** (pay-so) *n*, pl **-sos** the standard monetary unit of Chile, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, the Philippines, and Uruguay [Spanish: weight]

**pessary** *n*, pl **-ries** *med* 1 a device worn in the vagina, either as a support for the uterus or as a contraceptive 2 a vaginal suppository [Greek *pessos* plug]

**pessimism** *n* 1 the tendency to expect the worst in all things 2 the doctrine of the ultimate triumph of evil over good [Latin *pessimus* worst]

**pessimist** *n*

**pessimistic** *adj* **pessimistically** *adv*

**pest** *n* 1 an annoying person or thing; nuisance 2 any organism that damages