

made from the fermented root of the
a paste.
evoking a keen sense of sadness or re-
keenly felt: *the sensation was most*
c sharp or pungent in taste or smell.
rcy /-yansə/ n.; *poignantly* /-yantiə/

adj. Geology relating to the texture of an
l crystals of one mineral occur within

ed: *poikiloblastic*. ■ variable: *poikilo-*

horm; -kil-/ n. Zoology an organism
dy temperature except by behavioral
h **HOMEOTHERM**; compare with **COLD-**
mal /,poi,kələ'thərmal; -kil-/ adj;
lə'thərmik; -kila-/ adj; *poikilo-*

cal, informal an infantry soldier in the
old War I.

,p(w)ān-/ n. a tropical tree (genera
the pea family, with showy red or red

·n. a small Mexican shrub (*Euphorbia*
pulcherrima) of the spurge family,
its surrounding the small yellow flow-
erose plant.

·sharp end of a tool, weapon, or other
· Archaeology a pointed flake or blade,
d. ■ see **GLAZIER'S POINT**. ■ Ballet an
prong of a deer's antler. 2 a dot or
a period. ■ a decimal point: *fifty-five*

stroke used in the alphabets of Semitic
or distinguish particular consonants.
a surface. 3 a particular spot, place,
map, object, or surface. ■ a particular
process. ■ (usu. **the point**) the critical
oint of) the verge or brink of (doing or
the point of leaving. ■ [usu. with adj.]

nge of state occurs: *it is packed to the*
enty-four triangles on a backgammon
ing having position but not spatial ex-
direction, for example the intersec-
tion or detail in a discussion, list, or
at forward by a person in discussion.

·idea. ■ (usu. **the point**) the signifi-
what is intended or being discussed,
or in questions) advantage or purpose
·something. ■ relevance or effective-
·characteristic, typically a good one;
rts and games) a mark or unit of scor-

on total of the two thrown dice (4, 5,
shooter to keep throwing until the
ber again and wins. ■ a unit used in
or extent. ■ an advantage or success
■ a unit of credit toward an award or
profits from a movie or recording of
ed in its production. ■ a punishment
riving offense and recorded cumula-

·cense. ■ a unit of weight (one hun-
diamonds. ■ a unit of varying value,
stocks, bonds, or futures. ■ Bridge 2
(4 points for an ace, 3 for a king, 2
ometimes with extra points for long
assessing the strength of a hand,
gest suit in a player's hand, contain-
eight cards. 6 each of thirty-two di-
ces around a compass. ■ the corre-

ie horizon. ■ the angular interval
of a compass, i.e., one eighth of a
s —) unspecified places consid-
from a specified place. 7 a piece of
water. 8 (usu. **points**) Brit. another
rting a unit of measurement for type
US and UK is one twelfth of a pica,
and in Europe is 0.015 inch (0.376

·position. ■ Ice Hockey either of two
t inside the blue line where it meets
ach of a set of electrical contacts in
le. 12 a small leading party of an
position at the head of a column or
NT MAN. 13 (usu. **points**) the ex-
t a horse or cat. 14 (usu. **points**)
or cord used for lacing a garment.
g up a reef in a sail. 16 the action

· 17 Music an important phrase or
mposition. ■ v. 1 [intrans.] direct at-
ion of something, typically by ex-

tending one's finger. ■ [with adverbial of direction] indicate a particular
time, direction, or reading. ■ [trans.] direct or aim (something) at
someone or something. ■ [with adverbial of direction] face or be turned
in a particular direction. ■ [with adverbial] cite or put forward a fact
or situation as evidence of something. ■ (**point to**) (of a situation)
be evidence or an indication that (something) is likely to happen or
be the case. ■ [trans.] (of a dog) indicate the presence of (game) by
acting as pointer. ■ [trans.] chiefly Ballet extend (the toes or feet) by
tensing the foot and ankle so as to form a point. 2 [trans.] give force
or emphasis to (words or actions). 3 [trans.] fill in or repair the
joints of (brickwork, a brick structure, or tiling) with smoothly fin-
ished mortar or cement. 4 [trans.] give a sharp, tapered point to: *he*

twisted and pointed his mustache. 5 [trans.] insert points in (written
Hebrew). ■ mark (Psalms) with signs for chanting. 6 [intrans.] Nauti-
cal (of a sailing vessel) sail close to the wind.

PHRASES **beside the point** irrelevant. **case in point** an instance
or example that illustrates what is being discussed. **in point of fact**
see **FACT**. **make one's point** put across a proposition clearly and
convincingly. **make a point of** make a special and noticeable effort
to do (a specified thing). **off the point** irrelevant. **point the finger**
openly accuse someone or apportion blame. **the point of no re-**

turn the point in a journey or enterprise at which it becomes essen-
tial or more practical to continue to the end instead of returning to
the point of departure. **point of sailing** a sailboat's heading in rela-
tion to the wind. **score points** deliberately make oneself appear su-
perior to someone else by making clever remarks. **take someone's**

point chiefly Brit. accept the validity of someone's idea or argument.
to the point relevant. **up to a point** to some extent but not com-
pletely. **win on points** Boxing win by scoring more points than one's
opponent (as awarded by the judges and/or the referee) rather than by
a knockout.

PHRASAL VERBS **point something out** direct someone's gaze or
attention toward something, esp. by extending one's finger. ■ [re-
porting verb] say something to make someone aware of a fact or cir-
cumstance.

point after touchdown

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poison

point after touchdown n. another term for **EXTRA POINT**.
point-blank adj. & adv. (of a shot, bullet, or other missile) fired from
very close to its target. ■ [as adj.] (of the range of a shot, bullet, or
other missile) so close as to allow no possibility of missing. ■ (of a
statement or question) blunt and direct; without explanation or qual-
ification.

point d'appui /pwæn də'pwi/ n. (pl. **points d'appui** pronunc.
same) a support or prop; a strategic point.

pointe /point/; pwænt/ n. (pl. or pronunc. same) Ballet the tips of the
toes. ■ (also **pointe work**) dance performed on the tips of the toes.

PHRASES on (or en) **pointe** /æn; ɔn/ on the tips of the toes.
pointed /'pointid/ adj. 1 having a sharpened or tapered tip or end:
his face tapers to a pointed chin. 2 (of a remark or look) express-
ing criticism in a direct and unambiguous way: *pointed comments*.

·pointedly adv. (in sense 2); **pointedness** n.

pointed arch n. an arch with a pointed crown.

pointelle /'pointel/ (also trademark **Pointelle**) n. a type of
knitwear or woolen fabric with small eyelet holes that create a lacy
effect.

Pointe-Noire /pwænt 'nwɑr/ a city in the Republic of Congo; pop.
576,000.

pointer /'pointər/ n. 1 a long thin piece of metal on a scale or dial
that moves to indicate a figure or position. ■ a rod used for pointing
to features on a map or chart. ■ a hint as to what might happen in the
future: *the figures were a pointer to gradual economic recovery*. ■ a
small piece of advice; a tip: *here are some pointers on how to go*

about the task. ■ Computing another term for **CURSOR**. ■ Computing a
variable whose value is the address of another variable; a link. 2 a
dog of a breed that on scenting game stands rigid looking toward it.

pointers /'pointəz/ (the **Pointers**) Astronomy (in the northern hem-
isphere) two stars of the Big Dipper in Ursa Major, through which a
line points nearly to Polaris. ■ (in the southern hemisphere) two

stars in the Southern Cross, through which a line points nearly to the
south celestial pole.

point guard n. Basketball the backcourt player who directs the
team's offense.

pointillism /'pwæntɪzəm; 'pointɪzəm/ n. a technique of
neo-Impressionist painting using tiny dots, which become blended
in the viewer's eye. —pointillist /'pwæntɪ'jest; 'pointɪst/ n. &
adj.; pointillistic /'pwæntɪ'stɪk; 'pointɪstɪk/ adj.

pointing /'pointɪŋ/ n. cement or mortar used to fill the joints of
brickwork, esp. when added externally to a wall to improve its ap-
pearance and weatherproofing. ■ the process of adding such cement
or mortar.

point lace n. lace made with a needle on a parchment pattern.

pointless /'pointlis/ adj. 1 having little or no sense, use, or pur-
pose. 2 (of a contest or competitor) without a point scored.
—pointlessly adv.; **pointlessness** n.

point man n. the soldier at the head of a patrol. ■ (esp. in a political
context) a person at the forefront of an activity or endeavor.

point mutation n. Genetics a mutation affecting only one or very
few nucleotides in a gene sequence.

point of departure n. the starting point of a line of thought or
course of action; an initial assumption.

point of honor n. an action or circumstance that affects one's rep-
utation or conscience.

point of order n. a query in a formal debate or meeting as to
whether correct procedure is being followed.

point of sale (abbr.: **POS**) n. the place at which goods are retailed:
refunds will be provided at the point of sale.

point of view n. a particular attitude or way of considering a mat-
ter: *change his point of view*. ■ (in fictional writing) the narrator's
position in relation to the story being told. ■ the position from
which something or someone is observed.

point source n. Physics a source of energy, such as light or sound,
that can be regarded as having negligible dimensions.

point spread n. 1 a forecast of the number of points by which a
stronger team is expected to defeat a weaker one, used for betting
purposes. 2 Physics & Physiology the spread of energy from a point
source, esp. with respect to light coming into an optical instrument
or eye.

point system n. a system for distributing or allocating resources
or for ranking or evaluating candidates or claimants on the basis of
points.

point-to-point n. (pl. **point-to-points**) an amateur steeplechase for
horses used in hunting. ■ adj. (of a route or journey) from one place
to the next without stopping or changing; direct. ■ (of a telecom-
munications or computer link) directly from the sender to the re-
ceiver. —point-to-pointer n.; **point-to-pointing** n.

pointy /'pointi/ adj. (pointier, pointiest) informal having a pointed
tip or end: *a pointy goatee*.

pointy-headed adj. informal, chiefly derogatory intellectual; expert:
some pointy-headed college professor.

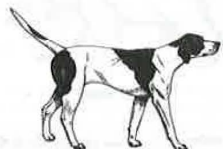
poise¹ /'poiz/ n. 1 graceful and elegant bearing in a person. ■ com-
posure and dignity of manner. 2 archaic balance; equilibrium. ■ v.
be or cause to be balanced or suspended. ■ (be poised) (of a per-
son or organization) be ready to do something: [with infinitive] *poised*
to resume.

poise² n. Physics a unit of dynamic viscosity, such that a tangential
force of one dyne per square centimeter causes a velocity change
one centimeter per second between two parallel planes separated by
one centimeter in a liquid.

poised /'poizd/ adj. having a self-assured manner. ■ having a grace-
ful and elegant bearing.

poi·sha /'poɪʃə/ n. (pl. same) a monetary unit of Bangladesh,
equal to one hundredth of a taka.

poison /'poɪzən/ n. a substance that, when introduced into or ab-
sorbed by a living organism, causes death or injury, esp. one that
kills by rapid action. ■ Chemistry a substance that reduces the activ-
ity of a catalyst. ■ Physics an additive or impurity in a nuclear reac-
tor that slows a reaction by absorbing neutrons. ■ a person, idea,
action, or situation that is considered to have a destructive or cor-
rupting effect or influence. ■ v. [trans.] administer poison to (a per-
son or animal), either deliberately or accidentally. ■ adulterate or
contaminate (food or drink) with poison. ■ [usu. as adj.] (**poi-**
soned) treat (a weapon or missile) with poison in order to augment
its lethal effect. ■ (of a dangerous substance) kill or cause to be-
come very ill. ■ contaminate or pollute (an area, the air, or water).
■ figurative prove harmful or destructive to. ■ Chemistry (of a sub-



English pointer

Pointers /'pointəz/ (the **Pointers**) Astronomy (in the northern hem-
isphere) two stars of the Big Dipper in Ursa Major, through which a
line points nearly to Polaris. ■ (in the southern hemisphere) two

See page xiii for the Key to the pronunciations

ROPES
& GRAY



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