

poi \pɔɪ\ *n*, *pl* **poi** or **pois** [Hawaiian & Samoan] (1782): a Hawaiian food of taro root cooked, pounded, and kneaded to a paste and often allowed to ferment

-poiesis *n* *comb form*, *pl* **-poieses** [NL, fr. Gk *poiesis* creation — more at **POESY**] : production : formation (hematopoiesis)

-poietic *adj* *comb form* [Gk *poietikos* creative, fr. *poietēs* maker — more at **POET**] : productive : formative (hematopoietic)

poignance \pɔɪ-njən(t)s sometimes \pɔɪ(g)-nən(t)s\ *n* (1769) : **POIGNANCY**

poignant \pɔɪ-njən(t)s sometimes \pɔɪ(g)-nən(t)s\ *adj* [ME *poinant*, fr. MF *poignant*, prp. of *poindre* to prick, sting, fr. L *pungere* — more at **PUNCTURE**] (14c) 1: pungently pervasive (a perfume) 2 a (1) : painfully affecting the feelings : **PIERCING** (2) : deeply affecting : **TOUCHING** b: designed to make an impression : **CUTTING** (a satire) 3 a: pleasantly stimulating b: being to the point : **APT** *syn* see **PUNCTURE**, **MOVING** — **poignantly** *adv*

poi-ki-lo-therm \pɔɪ-ki-lə-therm, -ki-lə\ *n* [Gk *poikilos* variegated + *ISV* -therm — more at **PAINT**] : an organism (as a frog) with a variable body temperature that is usu. slightly higher than the temperature of its environment : a cold-blooded organism — **poi-ki-lo-thermic** \pɔɪ-ki-lə-ther-mik\ *adj*

poi-lu \pɔɪ-lu, pɔɪ-lu\ *n* [Fr. *poilu* hairy, fr. MF, fr. *poil* hair, fr. L *pilus*] (1914) : a French soldier; esp. : a front-line soldier in World War I

poins-ciana \pɔɪn(t)-sē-ʔa-nə, pɔɪwən(t)-\ *n* [NL, fr. De *Poinci*, 17th cent. governor of part of the French West Indies] (1731) : any of several ornamental tropical leguminous trees or shrubs (genera *Caesalpinia* and *Delonix*) formerly placed in their own genus (*Poinciana*) — compare **ROYAL POINCIANA**

poins-et-tia \pɔɪn-ʔe-tē-ə, -ʔe-tə\ *n* [NL, fr. Joel R. Poinsett †1851 Am. diplomat] (1836) : any of several spurge (genus *Euphorbia*) with flower clusters subtended by showy involucre bracts; esp. : a showy Mexican and Central American plant (*E. pulcherrima*) with tapering usu. scarlet bracts that suggest petals and surround small yellow flowers

point \pɔɪnt\ *n* [ME, partly fr. OF, *punctum*, small spot, point in time or space, fr. L *punctum*, fr. neut. of *punctus*, pp. of *pungere* to prick; partly fr. OF *punct* sharp end, fr. (assumed) VL *puncta*, fr. L, fem. of *punctus*, pp. — more at **PUNCTURE**] (13c) 1 a (1) : an individual detail : **ITEM** (2) : a distinguishing detail (fact is one of her strong ~s) b: the most important essential in a discussion or matter (missed the whole ~ of the joke) c: **COGNENCY** 2 *obs* : physical condition 3 : an end or object to be achieved : **PURPOSE** (did not see what ~ there was in continuing the discussion) 4 a (1) : a geometric element of which it is postulated that at least two exist and that two suffice to determine a line (2) : a geometric element determined by an ordered set of coordinates b (1) : a narrowly localized place having a precisely indicated position (walked to a ~ 50 yards north of the building) (2) : a particular place : **LOCALITY** (have come from distant ~s) c (1) : an exact moment (at this ~ I was interrupted) (2) : a time interval immediately before something indicated : **VERGE** (at the ~ of death) d (1) : a particular step, stage, or degree in development (had reached the ~ where nothing seemed to matter anymore) (2) : a definite position in a scale 5 a : the terminal usu. sharp or narrowly rounded part of something : **TIP** b: a weapon or tool having such a part and used for stabbing or piercing as (1) : **ARROWHEAD** (2) : **SPEARHEAD** c (1) : the contact or discharge extremity of an electric device (as a spark plug or distributor) (2) *chiefly Brit* : an electric outlet 6 a : a projecting usu. tapering piece of land or a sharp prominence b (1) : the tip of a projecting body part (2) : **TINE** 2 (3) *pl* : the extremities or markings of the extremities of an animal esp. when of a color differing from the rest of the body c (1) : a railroad switch (2) : the tip of the angle between two rails in a railroad frog d : the head of the bow of a stringed instrument 7 : a short musical phrase; esp. : a phrase in contrapuntal music 8 a : a very small mark b (1) : **PUNCTUATION MARK**; esp. : **PERIOD** (2) : **DECIMAL POINT** 9 : a lace for tying parts of a garment together used esp. in the 16th and 17th centuries 10 : one of usu. 11 divisions of a heraldic shield that determines the position of a charge 11 a : one of the 32 equidistant spots of a compass card b : the difference of 11½ degrees between two such successive points 12 : a small detachment ahead of an advance guard or behind a rear guard 13 a : **NEEDLEPOINT** 1 b : lace made with a bobbin 14 : one of 12 spaces marked off on each side of a backgammon board 15 : a unit of measurement as (1) : a unit of counting in the scoring of a game or contest (2) : a unit used in evaluating the strength of a bridge hand b : a unit of academic credit c (1) : a unit used in quoting prices (as of stocks, bonds, and commodities) (2) *pl* : a percentage of the face value of a loan often added as a placement fee or service charge (3) : a percentage of the profits of a business venture (as a motion-picture production) d : a unit of about ½ inch used esp. to measure the size of type 16 : the action of pointing; as a : the rigidly intent attitude of a hunting dog marking game for a gunner b : the action in dancing of extending one leg and arching the foot so that only the tips of the toes touch the floor 17 : a position of a player in various games (as lacrosse); also : the player of such a position 18 : a number thrown on the first roll of the dice in craps which the player attempts to repeat before throwing a seven — compare **MISSOUT**, **PASS** 13 19 : credit accruing from creating a good impression (scored ~s for hard work) — **beside the point** : **IRRELEVANT** — **in point of** : with regard to : in the matter of (in point of law) (in point of fact) — **to the point** : **RELEVANT**, **PERTINENT** (a suggestion that was to the point)

point w (14c) 1 a : to furnish with a point : **SHARPEN** (a pencil with a knife) b : to give added force, emphasis, or piquancy to (a remark) 2 : to scratch out the old mortar from the joints of (as a brick wall) and fill in with new material 3 a (1) : to mark the pauses or grammatical divisions in : **PUNCTUATE** (2) : to separate (a decimal fraction) from an integer by a decimal point — usu. used with *off* b : to mark (as Hebrew words) with diacritics (as vowel points) 4 a (1) : to indicate the position or direction of esp. by extending a finger (a way home) (2) : to direct someone's attention to (a way to new knowledge — Elizabeth Hall) — usu. used with *out* or *up* (out a

mistake) (a way up the difference) b of a hunting dog : to indicate the presence and place of (game) by a point 5 a : to cause to be turned in a particular direction (a gun) (a boat upstream) b : to extend (a leg) and arch (the foot) in executing a point in dancing ~ *vi* 1 a : to indicate the fact or probability of something specified (everything ~s to a bright future) b : to indicate the position or direction of something esp. by extending a finger (a hand) (a map) c : to direct attention (can ~ with pride to their own traditions) d : to point game (a dog that ~s well) 2 a : to lie extended, aimed, or turned in a particular direction (a directional arrow that ~s to the north) b : to execute a point in dancing 3 of a ship : to sail close to the wind 4 : to train for a particular contest

point-blank \pɔɪnt-ˈblæŋk\ *adj* (1591) 1 a : marked by no appreciable drop below initial horizontal line of flight b : so close to a target that a missile fired will travel in a straight line to the mark 2 : **DIRECT**, **BLUNT** (a refusal) — **point-blank** *adv*

point count *n* (1950) : a method of evaluating the strength of a hand in bridge by counting points for each high card and usu. for long or short suits; also : the value of a hand so evaluated

point d'appui \pɔɪwə(n)-də-ˈpweɪ\ *n*, *pl* **points d'appui** \ˈsæmə\ [F, lit., point of support] (1819) : **FOUNDATION**, **BASE**

point-de-vie \pɔɪnt-di-ˈvi\ *adj* [ME at point devils at a fixed point] (1526) *archaic* : marked by punctilious attention to detail : **METICULOUS** — **point-de-vie** *adv*, *archaic*

poins-tie \pɔɪn-ti\ *n* [F *poins-tie* (du pied), lit., tiptoe] (1846) : a ballet position in which the body is balanced on the extreme tip of the toe

pointed \pɔɪnt-əd\ *adj* (14c) 1 a : having a point b : being an arch with a pointed crown; also : marked by the use of a pointed arch (a architecture) 2 a : being to the point : **PERTINENT** b : aimed at a particular person or group 3 : **CONSPICUOUS**, **MARKED** (a indifference) — **pointedly** *adv* — **pointed-ness** *n*

pointed *adj* [short for *appointed*] (1523) *obs* : **SET**, **FIXED**

point-telle \pɔɪn-tel\ *n* [perh. fr. *point + elle* (as in *dentelle* lace)] (1953) : an openwork design (as in knitted fabric) typically in the shape of chevrons; also : a fabric with this design

point-er \pɔɪn-tər\ *n* (1574) 1 a *pl*, *cap* : the two stars in the Big Dipper a line through which points to the North Star b : one that points out; esp. : a rod used to direct attention c : a computer memory address that contains another address (as of desired data) 2 : a large strong slender smooth-haired gundog that hunts by scent and indicates the presence of game. by pointing 3 : one that furnishes with points 4 : a useful suggestion or hint : **TIP**

point estimate *n* (1966) : the single value assigned to a parameter in point estimation

point estimation *n* (1962) : estimation in which a single value is assigned to a parameter

point guard *n* (1970) : a guard in basketball who is chiefly responsible for running the offense

point-til-til \pɔɪn-tɪl-ˈzəm, -ˈzəm\ *n*, *often cap* [F *point-til-til*, fr. *pointiller* to stipple, fr. *point* spot — more at **POINT**] (1901) : the theory or practice in art of applying small strokes or dots of color to a surface so that from a distance they blend together — **point-til-til** \pɔɪn-tɪl-ˈtɪl\ *adj*

point-til-til \pɔɪn-tɪl-ˈtɪl\ *adj* (1922) 1 : composed of many discrete details or parts 2 : of, relating to, or characteristic of pointillism or pointillists

point lace *n* (1672) : **NEEDLEPOINT** 1

point-less \pɔɪnt-ləs\ *adj* (1582) 1 : devoid of meaning : **SENSELESS** (a remark) 2 : devoid of effectiveness : **FLAT** (a attempts to be funny) — **point-less-ly** *adv* — **point-less-ness** *n*

point man *n* (1903) : a soldier who goes ahead of a patrol; broadly : one who is in the forefront (as on a political issue)

point mutation *n* (1925) : mutation due to intramolecular gene reorganization (as by substitution, addition, or deletion of a nucleotide)

point of accumulation (1929) : **LIMIT POINT**

point of departure (1857) : a starting point esp. in a discussion

point of honor (1612) : a matter seriously affecting one's honor

point of inflection (1743) : **INFLECTION POINT**

point of no return (1941) 1 : the point in the flight of an aircraft beyond which the remaining fuel will be insufficient for a return to the starting point with the result that the craft must proceed 2 : a critical point at which turning back or reversal is not possible

point of view (1720) : a position from which something is considered or evaluated : **STANDPOINT**

point set topology *n* (1957) : a branch of topology concerned with the properties and theory of topological spaces and metric spaces developed with emphasis on set theory

point source *n* (1903) : a source of radiation (as light) that is concentrated at a point and considered as having no spatial extension

point-to-point *n* (1898) : a cross-country steepclimb

poins-tie \pɔɪn-ti\ *adj* **point-ier**, **-est** (1644) 1 : coming to a rather sharp point 2 : having parts that stick out sharply here and there

poins-tie \pɔɪn-ti\ *adj* **poins-tie**, **-er** (1968) *usu* *disparaging* : **INTELLECTUAL** — **poins-tie-head** \-ti-ˈhed\ *adj*

poise \pɔɪz\ *n* [ME *poise* weight, heaviness, fr. MF *pois*, fr. L *pensum*, fr. neut. of *pensus*, pp. of *pendere* to weigh — more at **PENDANT**] (1555) 1 : a stably balanced state : **EQUILIBRIUM** (a ~ between widely divergent impulses — F. R. Leavis) 2 a : easy self-possession assurance of manner : gracious tact in coping or handling; also : the pleasantly tranquil interaction between persons of poise (no angry outbursts marred the ~ of the meeting) b : particular way of carrying oneself : **BEARING**, **CARRIAGE** *syn* see **TACT**

poise *vb* **poised**; **pois-ing** [ME to weigh, ponder, fr. MF *pois*, stem of *peser*, fr. L *pensare* — more at **PENSIVE**] (1598) 1 a : **BALANCE**; esp. : to hold or carry in equilibrium (carried a water jar poised on her head) b : to hold supported or suspended without motion in a steady position (poised her fork and gave her guest a knowing look — Louis Bromfield) 2 : to hold or carry (the head) in a particular way : to put into readiness : **BRACE** ~ *vi* 1 : to become drawn up into readiness 2 : **HOVER**

poise \pɔɪz\ *n* [F, fr. Jean Louis Marie Poiseuille †1869 Fr. physician and anatomist] (1913) : a centimeter-gram-second unit of viscosity equal to the viscosity of a fluid that would require a shearing force of

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