

**"or 'p' aia", is, orate pro anima**  
pray for the soul of

**a (before a consonant)/ab (before a vowel) (preposition + ablative)**  
by, from

**a coelo usque ad centrum**

from the sky to the centre of the earth: this theoretically describes the measure to which a plot of land extends upwards and downwards, but the concept is now qualified by planning and other legislation

**a fortiori**

by a stronger argument: a phrase used to emphasise the strength of an argument by contrasting it with an earlier weaker one

**a mensa et thoro**

from bed and board: used to describe the judicial separation of husband and wife

**a morte testatoris**

from the death of the testator: describes a bequest payable immediately to the beneficiary as opposed to one postponed to a later date, for example until the beneficiary reaches a stated age

**a non domino**

from one who is not the owner: when land is sold by a lawful occupier but all trace of the identity of the true owner has been lost; the purchaser's defective title is cured by passage of time

**a posteriori**

viewed from after; reasoning from effect to cause

**a priori**

viewed from before; reasoning from cause to effect

**a servarum**

servant/servants

**a.d., ante diem**

this phrase is usually followed by a specific number, e.g. ante diem quintum meaning 'five days before' the day of the event, and is used to record specific calendar dates. NB include both the day of the event and the day included, to reckon the correct date. Example: a.d. V Id. Mar. means ante diem quintum Idus Martias, which translates to 5 days before the 15th of March, or, the 11th of March.

**ab initio**

[Latin] "from the beginning"; used in reference to situations regarding the validity of a deed, marriage, estate, etc.

**ab initio**

from the beginning

**ab intestate**

[Latin] the condition of inheriting from one who died without making a will

**ab intestato**

from a person dying intestate; description of property acquired according to the rules of intestate succession

**abatement**

the difference between the amount of the estate of an heir is to receive as specified in a will and the amount actually received, due to property devaluation between the time the will was made and when the death occurred; the entry of a stranger into the estate after the death of the possessor but before the heir or devisee can take control

**abavia, abavus**

a person's great-great-grandmother or great-great-grandfather

**abbas, abbatis**

abbot

**abbreviate**

an abstract of a writ and warrant recorded in an official register in bankruptcy proceedings to give public notice thereof

**abeyance**

the condition of an estate which either has been claimed but not taken possession of, or which is liable to be claimed by someone

**absolutely insolvent**

the state of a debtor whose liabilities are greater than his assets

**abstract**

to take the main points and essential information from a document such as a will, deed, bounty land warrant, census, etc.

**abut**

to adjoining or border such as in land, estates, or farms

**abuttal**

a boundary where one's land joins or meets another's land

**ac**

and

**acadian**

inhabitant of Acadia (Nova Scotia); a descendant of French settlers of Acadia who live in Louisiana, i.e. Cajuns

**accession**

(1) the natural or industrial addition to existing property (e.g. by reproduction or building); (2) an arrangement set out in a deed approved by the creditors of an insolvent person as an alternative to sequestration

**accession number**

number assigned by a librarian or archivist denoting the time a book, manuscript, or artifact was placed within a collection

**accommodation**

land allotted to families in a town or settlement

**accommodation note**

a statement, draft, or paper drawn for the purpose of obtaining credit with no consideration

**accomptant**

accountant

**Accountant in Bankruptcy**

the official supervising the administration of sequestration (bankruptcy)

**Accountant of Court**

the officer of the Supreme Court supervising the conduct of persons appointed by the court to look after the financial affairs of others

**accretion**

the right of inheritance by survival

**acquiescence**

defence to a claim which arises through failure of a person whose rights have been infringed to object within a reasonable time after he became aware of the facts

**acquirenda**

assets acquired by a bankrupt after the effective date of his sequestration

**acra, -e**

acre

**act and warrant**

in sequestration, a judicial order confirming the appointment of a permanent trustee in terms of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985

**actio quanti minoris**

an action in Roman law whereby the purchaser of defective goods could seek from the seller the difference between the actual value of the goods and the value they should have had under the contract. This was formally brought into Scots law by the Contract (Scotland) Act 1997

**ad (preposition + accusative)**

towards, to, for, at (implies movement towards)

**ad factum praestandum**

for the performance of an act. A court order which requires the performance or fulfilment of some physical rather than financial obligation, for example to restore a damaged wall

**ad hoc**

[Latin] for this special reason; for a special purpose

**ad interim**

in the meantime; a temporary order

**ad longum**

at length; used of documents or statements quoted in full, as opposed to a summary or extract

**ad perpetuam rei memoriam**

As(for) a perpetual record of the matter

**ad ultimum**

finally

**ad valorem**

according to value, for example stamp duty fixed as a percentage of a house price

**ad verbatim**

[Latin] "to the word"; in full

**adam, ade**

Adam

**adjudication**

(1) (generally) the decision of a judge or arbiter; (2) the means by which the Court of Session vests a title to land in a claimant or hands over the heritable property of a debtor in security or in satisfaction of a debt to a creditor; (3) a decision by the Inland Revenue Commissioners on stamp duties

**adjust**

to alter the written pleadings in a case during an initial authorised period. This does not need the court's permission and the parties exchange such adjustments without lodging them in court the court sees them when adjustment is closed, when the final version is then lodged. See amend

**admeasure**

to give each heir or claimant his or her rightful share of an estate, dower, or property

**admeasurement**

the adjustment or apportionment of the shares of an estate, dower, pasture held in common, inheritance, etc.

**admeasurement of dower**

the readjustment of a dower when an heir becomes of age because a parent or guardian was receiving an unfair share to support the child

**administration**

the management or settling of the estate of a person who died without a will, of a person whose estate is being handled by an executor under a will, or of a minor or mentally incompetent person

**administration bond**

a specified amount of money, usually twice the estimated value of the estate, posted by the person chosen by the court to act as administrator of an estate which insures that the administrator will fulfill his obligations satisfactorily according to law

**administration cum testamento annexo**

[also administration cum testamento annexo] administration granted by the court in instances where the person who makes a will has neglected to name an executor, or where the executor is unable or refuses to act

**administration de bonis non**

administration of a deceased person's property that was not completely distributed by the first administrator

**administration de bonis non cum testamento annexo**

administration granted by the court when part of the estate is still unadministered because of the death of the executor

**administration pendite lite**

administration of an estate carried out while a suit is pending concerning the validity of the will

**administration with will annexed**

[also administration cum testamento annexo] administration granted by the court in instances where the person who makes a will has neglected to name an executor, or where the executor is unable or refuses to act

**administratrix**

a female administrator

**administrator**

a person appointed by the court to administer the estate of an incompetent person or an intestate who differs from an executor in that he is court appointed whereas the executor is appointed by the deceased

**admissa fuit tenens**

was admitted a tenant

**admissible evidence**

testimony given to a court or tribunal which conforms with the legal facts

**admitted freeman**

a servant who sold himself to a master for a period of time (usually 4 to 7 years) in order to pay for passage to another country; the contract was transferrable, saleable, and was passed on to heirs if the master died

**admitti tenens**

to be admitted as a tenant

**adolescens, adulescens**

young man or woman between 15 and 30 years

**adoption**

To take into one's family through legal means and raise as one's own child.

**adoption by baptism**

a spiritual affinity contracted between godfathers and godchildren in the baptism ceremony, and entitled the godchild to a share of the godfather's estate

**adoption by matrimony**

the act of taking the children of a spouse's former marriage as one's own upon marriage

**adoption by testament**

to appoint a person heir if he follows the stipulations in the will to take the name, arms, etc. of the adopter

**adsum**

to be present at, appear before, support, assist

**advancement**

a gift given to a child by a living parent in anticipation of an inheritance

**adventurer**

one who purchased shares in the Virginia Land Company at 12 pounds, 10 shillings each, and received 100 acres in Virginia

**adventus, -us**

appearance in court, arrival, Advent

**adverse possession**

actual possession of real property obtained by aggressive or "notorious" actions, and gaining title to the property by keeping it for a statutory period of time

**advocate**

solicitor acting in a law court

**advocate**

lawyer

**advocate**

(1) a member of the Scottish Bar, the equivalent of the English 'barrister'; (2) a solicitor who is a member of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen; (3) (verb) to submit the judgement of an inferior court to review by a superior court. In modern practice this procedure is rare and is restricted to criminal jurisdiction

**aecclesia, -e**

church

**aequalis**

something or someone being of the same age as another

**aetas**

[Latin] lifetime; age; generation

**aetas; aetas suae**

age; his or her age

**aetatis suae**

[Latin] the condition of being in a specified year of one's life aetatis suae 25 means in the twenty-fifth year of one's age, after a person's twenty-fourth birthday

**aetatum**

for life

**affidavit**

a written document created while under oath before an authorized officer such as a notary public, court officer, etc.

**affidavit**

a written statement made on oath and signed by the maker, most commonly used in undefended actions of divorce

**affirm**

(verb) as a witness, to make a solemn declaration to tell the truth, where the maker prefers, for religious or other reasons, not to take the oath

**affirmation**

a declaration made by a person having conscientious objections against swearing an oath

**after-acquired property**

property that was acquired after the date of a will

**ag. lab**

agricultural labourer

**age of consent**

age at which persons can marry without parental consent

**age of majority**

age at which a person becomes able to handle his own affairs being usually 18 for girls and 21 for boys

**aggregate (census)**

an enumeration in which no names are recorded, only the number of individuals within an age group, religious group, type of profession, national origin, etc.

**agnate**

a person related to another on the father's side; the opposite of cognate (related on the mother's side)

**agnes, agnetis**

Agnes

**agricola, -e**

farmer

**ahnentafel**

a German word that translates as "ancestor table"

**aie., animae**

life, soul, spirit

**alewife**

woman who ran an alehouse

**alexander, alexandri**

Alexander

**alicia, -e**

Alice

**aliment**

provision for maintenance for the support of a spouse or child

**aliquis tenens**

any tenant holding

**aliter, and, alius**

otherwise, and, other

**alius, alia, aliud (adjective)**

the other

**allegation**

a document stating there was no impediment to the marriage (a) not close relatives, (b) not minors, (c) did not have a wife or husband living to whom they were already married.

**allutarius**

tanner

**almoner**

giver of charity

**alter, altera, alterum (adjective)**

the other (of two things)

**am., amen**

Amen

**amabila, -e,**

Amabila

**amen**

amen (Hebrew word; does not decline)

**amend**

to alter the written pleadings in an action, only with permission of the court, after the adjustment period is closed, or to alter names and addresses of the parties or what the court is being asked to grant at any time. The court may impose conditions for the right to amend, for example paying a sum in costs to the other side for inconvenience. See adjust

**amicus curiae**

a friend of the court; one who argues at the request or with the leave of the court for an unrepresented party or in the public interest and free of charge

**amita, amita magna, amita maior, amita maxima**

a person's aunt, grand-aunt, great-grandaunt, great-great-grandaunt on the male side of the family

**anenuensis**

secretary or stenographer

**ancestors**

person from whom you are descended in a direct line

**ancillae**

young servants

**anglia, -e**

England

**anglicus, -i**

Englishman

**anima, -e**  
(dative and ablative plural animabus) soul

**animal, animalis**  
animal

**animo donandi**  
with the intention of giving as a gift

**animo imbecillus**  
weak, frail

**anna, -e**  
Anna

**annealer**  
processed metal or glass by furnace-heating and immersion in chemical baths

**anno predicto**  
in the before-said/aforesaid year

**anno, annus**  
of or for one year

**annos natus est**  
a term used to indicate the age of a person in years and will always be preceded by a numeral, ex. octo annos natus est, meaning he/she is eight years old, or was born eight years ago

**annuitant**  
non-working person receiving an annual income or pension

**annuity**  
a right to a yearly payment of money

**annunciatio, annunciationis**  
Annunciation

**annuo redditu**  
annual rent

**annus bissextus**  
leap year

**anonyma, anonymus**  
stillborn daughter (anonyma) or son (anonymus)

**ante (preposition + accusative)**  
before

**ante litem motam**  
before a court action is raised

**antea**  
formerly

**antiquorum**  
ancient

**antiquus, -a, -um (adjective)**  
old

**apothecary**  
shopkeeper/warehouseman/druggist

**apparent heir**  
predecessor has died but title not completed

**apparent insolvency**

the legal formalities which must be established under the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985 prior to sequestration proceedings by creditors

**appellant**

a person appealing to a higher court from the decision of a lower court (e.g. in a criminal case from the sheriff court or district court to the High Court of Justiciary, or in a civil case from the Court of Session to the House of Lords)

**appono, apponere, apposui, appositum (3)**

to affix

**apprentice**

trainee bound to learn a craft or trade

**appurtenances**

the rights, duties, and perquisites of one who held manorial land usually, grazing rights, payment of fines, submission to the manorial court, and a pew in church

**aprilis**

April

**apud (preposition + accusative)**

at, by, near, to, towards

**aquaticus, -a, -um (adjective)**

worked by water

**arbiter**

a person appointed to adjudicate in a dispute outside the courts. On a question of fact, his decision is final; on a question of law, unless otherwise agreed, he may (on the application of either party) and must (if the Court of Session so directs) state a case for the court's opinion on any question of law

**archangelus, -i**

archangel

**archicoquus**

head cook

**archives**

reference to the storage of older records

**arenarius**

sand digger or vender

**argentier**

controller of finances, a treasurer

**argentum, -i**

silver

**armenta**

cattle for ploughing

**armentales**

belonging to a herd

**armentum**

a herd

**armiger**

armour-bearer, used to denote an esquire

**armiger, armigeri**

squire, esquire

**army h.p**

soldier on half pay

**arrestment**

the taking or freezing of the property of a debtor which is in the hands of a third party, done to obtain security for a creditor

**artificer**

soldier mechanic who does repairs

**ascendant**

ancestor

**ascendant**

a relative from a previous generation, for example a parent or great-uncle

**ascription**

the application of payments to debts in a prescribed order. Thus a sum paid by a debtor would be set against interest due before reducing the original debt

**ashman**

shipman or sailor

**assessor**

the person whose responsibility is to decide on the value of property and the rate of tax to be paid, sometimes being the local sheriff or constable

**assignation**

(1) the act of transferring rights to incorporeal moveable property, for example an insurance policy; (2) the document transferring such rights

**assignee**

a person who has been assigned another's rights or personal property

**assignor**

an individual who assigns his rights or interests in something to another person

**assizor**

a juror

**assoilzie**

(verb) to absolve; to make a final decision in a civil action in favour of the defender. The judgement is termed 'absolvitor'

**atavia, atavus**

a person's great-great-great-grandmother or great-great-great-grandfather

**attestation**

witnessing of a document

**attorney**

a person acting on behalf of another with his written authority (called a power of attorney)

**auctor in rem suam**

one who acts in his own interest. Trustees and agents, for example, must not promote their own interests when handling others' affairs

**audi alteram partem**

hear the other side: the rule of natural justice that no decision should be reached by a court or tribunal until all parties have been given an opportunity to be heard

**audio, audire, audivi, auditum (4)**

to hear

**Auditor of Court**

the court officer or other person responsible for the assessment of lawyers' fees in the Court of Session or sheriff court

**augustus, -i**

August

**aunt**

The sister of one's father or mother or the wife of one's uncle

**aurifaber, aurifabri**

goldsmith

**aurifaber/aurifex**

goldsmith

**authority**

a judicial decision, authoritative textbook or statute justifying a proposition or statement of law

**ava, -e**

grandmother

**avia/avus**

a person's grandmother/grandfather

**avisamentum, -i**

advice

**avizandum**

the judge needs time to consider his verdict and prepare a judgement

**avunculi**

maternal uncle

**avunculus, avunculus magnus, avunculus maior, avunculus maximus**

a person's uncle, grand-uncle, great-granduncle, great-great-granduncle on the female side of the family

**avus, -i**

grandfather

**b.i.d., bis in die**

twice a day

**back bond or back letter**

an agreement in the form of a letter, qualifying the provisions of another document, for example agreeing that settlement of a loan payable on demand will not actually be demanded for a minimum of a year

**bailie**

magistrate in a scottish burgh

**bailiff**

guard of fishing rights on a river

**bairns' part**

the part of the moveable assets (cash, insurance policies, etc.) of a deceased person to which his children have a legal right despite the terms of any will. See legitim

**baker**

baker

**banksman**

mine worker at pithead unloading coal from the cages

**banns**

publication or posting of intended marriages, published for three consecutive Sundays prior to the event

**barbetonsor**

barber

**bard**

poet or story-teller

**baro, baronis**

baron, tenant-in-chief

**baron officer**

also known as barony officer, employed to uphold the law within the barony (district)

**barrister**

lawyer

**baseline**

specific survey line on which all latitude measurements are based

**bastard**

an illegitimate child; born out of wedlock.

**baxter**

baker

**baxter/bagster**

baker

**beadle**

parish official employed in church to usher and keep order.

**beadman**

licensed beggar

**beamer**

a weaver's beamer drew yarn through and onto the long heavy beam of a loom.

**beatae memoriae**

of blessed memory

**beatus, -a, -um (adjective)**

blessed

**bedeswoman**

an alms woman, licensed beggar

**beetler**

cloth mill worker operating a beetling machine to emboss fabric

**beildsman**

licensed beggar

**benchman**

a shoemaker benchman cut the leather for boots and shoes. also leather cutter for chairs.

**bene (adverb)**

well

**benedictus, -i**

Benedict

**beneficiary**

a person who will benefit from the terms of a deed such as a will

**bequeath**

to give personal property to a person in a will

**bequest**

a gift, personal property or money handed down in a will

**berlin blacker**

applied a dull black varnish as a coating for ironware products

**biduum**

two days

**biennium**

for a period of two years

**binding out**

[also PUTTING OUT] the condition of apprenticed or indentured children

**bis anno**

twice a year

**black borderer**

person who made black-edged stationery for funeral intimations

**black lister**

black dyer

**blaxter**

bleacher of cloth

**bleacher**

mill worker who whitened textiles, or paper

**blended family**

a family unit that includes natural children, step-children, foster children, half-brothers and -sisters, and/or adopted children, all as part of a single family group

**blockcutter**

person who hand-carves wooden blocks used for printing

**blockmaker**

a trader or broker

**blockprinter**

person who prints on paper or cloth with carved wooden blocks

**blood relationship**

the relationship between two people who have either one common parent (relationship of the half blood) or two common parents (relationship of the whole blood), as distinguished from relationship by marriage, where no parent is shared

**bluestocking**

female writer

**boatman**

boat operator providing river or loch crossings.

**bobbin turner**

maker of wooden bobbins and spools for textile mills

**bona**

[Latin] in good faith

**bona fide(s)**

(in) good faith

**bona notabilia**

[Latin] considerable goods

**bond**

A binding agreement; a covenant; a duty, a promise, or another obligation by which one is bound. See also MARRIAGE BOND.

**bond servant**

a servant who sold himself to a master for a period of time (usually 4 to 7 years) in order to pay for passage to another country; the contract was transferrable, saleable, and was passed on to heirs if the master died

**bonded passenger**

passengers convicted of various crimes

**bondmaid**

a female slave; a bound servant not due wages

**bondman**

a male slave; one bound to service without wages

**bondsman**

a person who will vouch for or be liable for a sum of money if a person fails to appear in court

**boniface**

innkeeper

**bonus, -a, -um (adjective)**

good

**bookmaker**

the "bookie" accepts gambling bets, traditionally on racing horses, dogs

**boot clicker**

worked machine that made lace holes in boot uppers

**boot clipper**

person using scissors cut the threads connecting rubber boot parts

**boot closer**

person who stitched the leather uppers of boots and shoes

**boot laster**

person who shaped the uppers of boots on a metal "last"

**boot sprigger**

person who nailed the soles and uppers of boots together with 'sprigs' - small headless nails

**boots**

employed by a hotel for general portering duties, assisting waiters etc.

**born in the covenant**

in LDS records, one born to a couple who has been sealed in marriage, and thus is sealed to the parents

**bosca, -e**

wood, woodland, firewood

**boscus, -i**

wood, woodland, firewood

**bottler**

filler of bottles, often in distillery

**bound out**

[also PUTTING OUT] the condition of apprenticed or indentured children

**bounding charter or bounding title**

a deed which defines the land comprised in it by reference to its boundaries. Reference may be to walls, roads or the land of another person, or by measurement

**bounty land**

land designated as payment for military service

**bounty land warrant**

a right to free land in the public domain; the certificate, to satisfy the law, showing time served, unit (regiment or corps), and where served

**boves iugales**

ox teams

**bowman**

sub-tenant who farmed on a "steelbow", requiring to divide annual produce with main tenant or/tacksman

**boxmaster**

treasurer or deacon of a trade guild or association- eg weavers guild

**brasener/brazier**

brass worker

**brasiator**

brewer

**brass founder**

the founder poured molten metal into moulds to make brass buckles, handles, fittings.

**brazier**

metal worker in brass, a brass smith

**breve, brevis**

writ

**brevitatis causa**

for the sake of brevity: a phrase incorporating by reference the terms of some other document, usually into writing

**brewer**

beer manufacturer

**brewster**

maker of beer, a brewer

**brightsmith**

metal worker

**brocard**

a legal maxim derived from Roman law or ancient custom and regarded as part of the common law

**brownsmith**

copper or brass smith

**brusher**

coal miner who repaired mine passage roofs and sides

**burgagium, -ii**

burgage

**burgess**

man listed as merchant or craftsman in a town burgh

**burgomaster**

mayor

**burnisher**

polishes or shines metal

**byreman**

farm worker who looked after cows in the byre (cattle-shed)

**cabinetmaker**

maker of wooden furniture

**cadastre**

a register kept for taxation purposes containing amount, value, and ownership of land; a poll (head) tax record of those qualifying to vote; a Domesday book

**cadger**

travelling pedlar

**cal. prin.**

calico printer. calico was a cotton cloth imported from india, then patterned with dyes

**calcar, calcaris**

spur

**calender**

a log of events, dates or sources consulted, & a record of what was found

**callenderer**

smoothed cloth or paper by passing through rollers

**campo**

field

**candler**

maker or seller of candles

**capel**

chapel

**caper, capra, caprae**

male goat, female goat

**capio, capere, cepi, captum (3)**

to take, seize, rent

**capitis damnare**

condemn to death

**carbonarius**

charcoal maker

**carder**

prepared wool for spinning by brushing with wire pads

**carman**

driver of horse-drawn tramcars in late 19th century

**carner**

granary keeper

**carolus, -i**

Charles

**carta, -e**

charter

**carter**

worked with horse and cart on farms or in towns

**carter**

maker or driver of carts

**cartwright**

maker and repairer of horse-drawn carts

**caruca, -e**

plough

**castrum, -i**

castle

**casus**

accident, fall, event, misfortune

**casus improvisus**

a situation not provided for or not foreseen, usually in the interpretation of rules, contracts and Acts of Parliament

**casus omissus**

a situation omitted, that should have been provided for within the existing law, especially in statute

**catallum, -i**

chattel

**catechist**

instructor in religious doctrine

**caulker**

filling cracks usually in ships by sealing with tar

**causa sine qua non**

the cause but for which the harm would not have resulted

**causewaymaker**

built town roads (causeways) with stone setts

**cautioner**

person who stands surety for another, for example for the arrival of a groom on his marriage day

**caveat**

a formal notice to a court requesting that warning be given to a party of the lodging of any case which seeks interim orders (e.g. interdict) against him and that such orders should not be granted until he has been able to appear before the court to oppose them

**celeriter (adverb)**

quickly

**cellarman**

keeper of wine and spirits

**cemetery records**

records created about burials; includes both sexton records (office records), and tombstones, both of which can yield valuable genealogical information

**census**

official listing or counting of persons; the Federal Census has been taken every 10 years since 1790; there also are state censuses in some states which may have been taken every 5 to 10 years

**census index**

alphabetical listing of names enumerated in a census

**census record**

records that were created to number the population, especially sponsored by governments to determine the available men for soldiers; the amount of information given in a census varies, according to the needs and purposes of those who sponsored the census

**centum**

one hundred

**centum et unus**

one hundred and one

**chairman**

one of two persons who carried a sedan chair and passenger

**chaisemaker**

carriage maker

**chandler**

dealer in goods, often a ship's supplier

**chandler**

candlemaker

**change-keeper**

an inn-keeper

**chapman**

dealer of goods from a stall, or by travelling from village to village

**chapper**

employed to knock on doors of early risers. eg bakers, jute workers etc.

**charwoman**

cleaning woman

**chattels**

personal property, both animate and inanimate (usually livestock)

**check weighman**

he checked how much a miner was due to be paid on the coal he produced.

**chiffonier**

wigmaker

**chiffonier**

ragpicker

**chirurgian**

surgeon

**chowder**

seller of fish, a fishmonger

**christening**

baptism into most churches; often occurs a few hours or days following a birth and often was recorded for places and time periods when there are no birth records, therefore, christening records are a major source for family history information.

**christina, -e**

Christina

**christoferus, -i**

Christopher

**circa**

about or approximately, usually used in front of a date or year

**citation**

the source or authority from which information or data is taken. In genealogy, every fact needs at least one citation

**citation**

(1) the procedure whereby a defender is called to court to answer an action or a witness to give evidence; (2) a reference to a previous case or opinion in support of a legal argument, i.e. where to find it published

**ciu aie ppict' ds am = cuius animae propicietur deus, amen**

may God have mercy on his soul

**civis**

citizen

**civis, civis**

citizen [genitive plural civium]

**clagger**

person removing clags or dirty clots from a wool fleece

**clark**

clerk

**clarke**

cleric or scribe

**clavis, clavis**

key [genitive plural clavium]

**clericus, -i**

clerk

**clerk**

clergyman, cleric

**clicker**

worked machine that made lace holes in boot and shoe uppers

**clogger**

maker of clogs - wooden shoes

**closed record**

the final written pleadings of the parties to a civil action

**cloth dresser**

cloth mill worker who cut the sheets of cloth with shears

**cloth lapper**

cleaned cotton fibres before sheets fed into carding machines

**cloth tearer**

assisted a cloth printer in a print mill . usually a youngster.

**clothier**

stocked and sold clothes which the tailor made

**clothier**

one who makes/sells clothes or sells cloth

**coachman**

driver of coach and horses

**coachsmith**

maker and repairer of horse-drawn coaches.

**coal trimmer**

person who stabilised coal-carrying barges/ships

**coalmaster**

owner and operator of a coal mine

**coat of arms**

shield with certain distinctive symbols or emblems painted on it in definite fixed colors identifying one person and his direct descendants

**cobbler**

maker or repairer of shoes

**codicil**

a supplement to a will

**codicil**

an addition to or alteration of a will without re-writing it entirely

**cognate**

a person related on the mother's side; the opposite of agnate (related on the father's side)

**cognitionis causa tantum**

have the amount of the debt ascertained; an action raised by the creditor of a deceased debtor for the purpose of proving his debt to make a claim in the administration of the deceased's assets

**cognosco, cognoscere, cognovi, cognitum (3)**

to know, get to know

**coilhewer**

coal miner/worker

**collactanea**

foster mother

**collateral**

relatives descended from the same ancestors, but in a different line (aunts, uncles, cousins those not in your direct line)

**collateral security**

an additional security reinforcing the primary security for the performance of an obligation

**collier**

coal miner, at the coal face

**collier**

a coal miner or a coal ship

**coloni**

crofter, farmer, settler or colonist

**colourman**

mixer of dyes in textile trade

**colporteur**

travelling book seller

**colporteur**

peddler of books

**colzear**

something to do w/ coal or books?

**combmaker**

a maker of combs for textiles, or hair. see also vulcanite comb maker

**comes**

used to denote an earl

**comitatus, -us**

county, earldom, county court

**common ancestor**

one shared by any two or more people

**commomer**

legal term meaning proprietor

**common debtor**

a debtor in respect of whom several creditors claim a share of arrested goods or money

**common interest**

an interest other than ownership which justifies a party exercising some control in the use of the property, for example a mutual wall between two houses

**common law**

law which does not derive from Acts of Parliament, etc. It includes law as laid down in judicial decisions and academic opinions

**common law marriage**

a marriage without ceremony, civil or ecclesiastical, which may or may not be recognized as a legal marriage

**communis, -e (adjective)**

common

**compos mentis**

of sound mind

**composition**

an arrangement between a debtor and his creditors whereby debts are discharged in exchange for only an agreed partial payment

**compositor**

person who sets up type for printing

**concedo, concedere, concessi, concessum (3)**

to concede, grant, allow

**concordia, -e**

agreement

**condo, condere, condidi, conditum (3)**

to make (a will)

**confirmation**

(1) the authority of the court to an executor of a deceased person's estate to begin gathering in and administering the assets; (2) the document evidencing this authority

**confirmo, confirmare, confirmavi, confirmatum (1)**

to confirm

**conicere**

to commit to prison

**coniugium**

in a marriage, or, the state of being married

**conjoined arrestment order**

an order against the earnings of a debtor to enforce the payment to different creditors. Each creditor gets a share but the total deducted from the earnings each week or month is the same

**conjunct or confidant persons**

persons closely related by blood or affinity, including business associates; transfer of assets to such persons is viewed suspiciously by creditors, especially in bankruptcies

**conquestus, -us**

conquest, the Norman conquest of England in 1066

**consanguinity**

blood relationship

**consensus in idem**

agreement as to those matters in a contract which are essential to make the contract binding, for example there is no consensus if one party believes he is hiring from another but the other believes he is selling to the first party

**conservator**

guardian or custodian

**consilium, -ii**

counsel, council

**consobrina/consobrinus**

a person's female/male first cousin on mother's side

**consolidated index**

an index combined from more than one source

**constable cook**

cook

**consuetudinar**

customary

**consuetudinariis**

customary tenant

**consuetum pretium**

customary price

**contra leges**

illegally

**contra proferentem**

against the person putting it forward. An ambiguous term in a contract will be read so as not to benefit the person who inserted it

**contractor**

someone contracted to perform a trade or service, often by the owner eg a coal mining contractor.

**contributory negligence**

Since 1945 the court may reduce an award of damages in proportion to the claimant's share of responsibility for what happened

**convey**

transfer property or the title to property

**conveyance**

a written instrument that transfers title to property from one party to another

**conveyor**

grantor or seller

**convincere**

to prove guilty of an offence

**convivium**

a form of land tenure whereby the tenant was bound to provide meat and drink for his lord once per year

**cooper**

maker of barrels and casks, often for distillers

**cooper/couper**

makes and repairs barrels and casks

**copia**

a copy. Also an opportunity or means of access to some item.

**coppice keeper**

one who takes care of small wood

**copyhold**

the right by a written transcript or record to occupy a particular piece of land

**coram**

before or in the presence of

**coram (preposition + ablative)**

in the presence of, before

**coram paribus**

before one's peers

**cordiner**

maker of leather shoes and boots

**cordiner/cordwainer**

shoemaker/ works with leather

**cordwainer**

see cordiner

**coriarius**

tanner

**cork cutter**

worked in cutting and preparing imported raw cork bark from portugal

**coronator, coronatoris**

coroner

**costermonger**

street seller of apples, other fruit and vegetables

**costermonger**

peddler of fruits and vegetables

**cotari**

cottage

**cott idie**  
every day

**cottar**  
tenant with only a cottage and little land

**cottidianus, cottidie**  
daily, everyday

**cotton piecer**  
piecers in cotton mills, often children, had to lean over spinning-machines to repair broken threads

**cotton warper**  
cotton mill loom operator who set the warp thread (yarn) on the looms before weaving

**cotton winder**  
cotton mill worker who wound the thread on weaving looms

**counterclaim**  
a claim by a defender in a case against the pursuer even though he could have sued for it separately if he wished

**court baron**  
a medieval English manorial court that any lord could hold for and among his tenants; by the 13th century the steward of the manor, a lawyer, usually presided; the manorial court usually met every three weeks, and considered personal actions between its suitors; much of the business of the court was to administer the "custom of the manor" and to admit copyhold tenants; the proceedings were recorded on the court roll

**cousin**  
[1] a child of one's aunt or uncle; also called first cousin; [2] a relative descended from a common ancestor, such as a grandparent, by two or more steps in a diverging line; [3] a relative by blood or marriage; a kinsman or kinswoman; [4] a member of a kindred group or country

**cowan**  
old name for a builder of dry stone walls - a dry stone dyker

**cow-feeder**  
tenant of small farm with dairy cows

**cowper**  
maker of cups

**cramer**  
occupant of a crame, or booth

**crastinum, -i**  
morrow

**crayman**  
driver of a cart carrying heavy loads

**creditor**  
a person who is owed money

**creelman**  
carried goods to market in a creel (basket)

**crofter**  
tenant of farm and cottage (croft), usually in highlands and islands.

**croftum**  
a croft

**croftum, -i**  
croft, enclosed piece of arable land

**crown as superior**  
retour or service of heir

**crowner**

coroner

**cubicularrius**

"chamber chylid (child)", valet

**cui., or ciu = cuius**

whose

**culler**

gelded of male animals

**culture**

concepts, habits, skills, art, instruments, institutions, and so forth of a given group of people in a given period of time

**cum (preposition + ablative)**

with

**cum ad curia**

whereas at a court

**cum haec ita sint**

under the circumstances

**cum suis per tinentibus**

with their appurtenances

**cumque etiam**

whereas also

**curator**

person appointed by law as guardian

**curator ad litem**

a person appointed by the court to act for another person under disability (e.g. by reason of illness or mental disorder) whose interests have to be safeguarded in legal proceedings

**curator bonis**

a person appointed to act generally for a person incapable (through illness or absence) of administering his own affairs

**curatory**

the assets administered by a curator

**curia, -e**

court

**currier**

person curing or tanning hides

**currier**

tans leather; uses curry comb on horses

**customer**

custom-house collection officer

**cutler, cultellarius, cultellar**

one who makes or sells knives, etc.

**cutter**

cutter of cloth for the tailor

**d., defunct**

died

**d.s.p., decessit sine prole**

died without issue

**d.s.p.l., decessit sine prole legitima**

died without legitimate issue

**d.s.p.m. and d.s.p.m.s., decessit sine prole mascula superstite**

died without surviving male issue

**d.s.p.s., decessit sine prole superstite**

died without surviving issue

**d.s.p.v.m., decessit sine prole vita matris**

the individual died without issue during the lifetime of his/her own mother

**d.s.p.v.p., decessit sine prole vita patris**

the individual died without issue during the lifetime of his/her own father

**d.v.m., decessit vita matris**

an individual who dies during the lifetime of his/her own mother, implies that the individual had living children at the time of his/her own death

**d.v.p., decessit vita patris**

an individual who dies during the lifetime of his/her own father, implies that the individual had living children at the time of his/her own death

**dag maker**

maker of pistols

**dagmaker**

pistol or dag (a dag is a gun) maker

**daguerreotype**

photographic process invented by L. J. M. Daguerre (1789-1857), a French painter, in which pictures were reproduced on silver plates by sensitizing them with iodine and then developing them with mercury

**dairymaid**

woman or girl employed to milk cows, make butter in dairy

**damages**

a sum of money claimed as compensation for loss or injury through negligence or breach of contract

**damnare**

to pass sentence for a crime

**dampnum, -i**

damage

**danegeld**

a tax levied annually to maintain forces to oppose the Danes or to buy them off

**dapifer**

steward in a royal or noble house

**dareman**

dairyman

**darner**

repaired holes or gaps in textile garments, typically stockings.

**data**

given, dated

**datum**

given, dated

**de**

[Latin] from; out of; about; at; for

**de (preposition + ablative) f**

from, concerning, of, for

**de anno in annum**

[Latin] from year to year

**de bonis non**

[Latin] "of the goods not administered"; the distribution of property not completed by the first administrator

**de facto**

[Latin] "in fact"; something accomplished and done but not necessarily legally sanctioned

**de facto**

in fact but not recognised by law, for example a de facto (but illegal) President

**de jure**

[Latin] "by right"; an action or deed lawfully and legitimately accomplished as opposed to de facto

**de jure**

in law (but not necessarily in fact), for example a de jure (but exiled) President

**de minimis non curat lex**

the law does not concern itself with trifles; the courts will not provide a remedy for a trivial complaint

**de novo**

new, afresh; starting again from the beginning

**de plano**

summarily; without further legal enquiry; usually 'decree de plano'

**de presenti**

now, at the present time

**de recenti**

recent. Possession de recenti of stolen goods may create the presumption that the possessor is the thief

**debent**

should, as in should perform a specific act

**debeo, debere, debui, debitum (2)**

to owe, to be obliged to do (something)

**debet**

owes, as in owes money

**decedent**

the deceased individual

**decem**

ten (does not decline)

**december, decembris**

December

**decessit**

[Latin] died

**declaration of intention**

a declaration filed by a couple in a local court, indicating their intention to marry; also a document filed in a court by an alien who intended to become a United States citizen.

**decree**

the judgement of a court or arbiter in civil proceedings

**deed**

document signed, sealed, and delivered according to the law conveying title to real estate

**deed of acquittance**

a deed by which additional acreage is transferred or sold to the original patent owner when and if it was found that, by survey, the patented land had more acreage than was originally thought

**deed of agreement**

a deed concerned with the sale of personal property, deeds land to persons who agree to take care of the grantor for the remainder of his life

**deed of conveyance**

document showing the transfer of ownership of property and perhaps the ownership of a land warrant

**deed of decree**

document showing property transferred usually as a result of a petition or court action

**deed of gift**

deed showing a transfer of property made without a monetary payment as consideration

**deed of separation**

an instrument through the medium of a third party acting as trustee, in which provision is made by a husband for separation from his wife, and for her separate maintenance

**deed of trust**

a mortgage arrangement which allows a third party to hold the deed until the buyer has paid his debt

**deed poll**

a deed made by one person, and only one person is obligated to fulfill the terms of the deed

**defensor, defensoris**

defender

**degree of consanguinity**

degree of blood relationship used to determine right of inheritance

**degree of relationship**

the distance between two persons related by blood under Canon Law (used in most states) two persons who descend from a common ancestor, but not one from the other (brother, cousins, etc.) have a collateral consanguinity and a degree of relationship of the same number as the number of generations the furthest is removed from the closest common progenitor; for example, an uncle and nephew are related in the second degree because the nephew is two generations from the common ancestor (his grandfather and his uncle's father); two brothers are related in the first degree and first cousins are related to each other in the second degree; in lineal relationships (direct lines) each generation is a degree

**dei gratia**

by the Grace of God

**del credere agent**

describes an agreement by an agent to guarantee the performance by a third person in a contract to his employer

**delectus personae**

the choice of a specific person because of personal considerations. Such a person must perform a contract himself or be regarded as in breach of it

**delegatus non potest delegare**

a person entrusted with a task may not pass it on to someone else; or at least he will remain legally liable for loss whoever does the work

**delict**

negligent acts causing loss; the English term is tort

**dempster**

one who pronounces judgement - a doomster (judge)

**denarius, denarium**

an English penny

**deposition**

a written testimony by a witness for use in court in his or her absence

**descendant**

one whose ancestry can be traced to a particular individual

**descendant chart**

graphic document that shows descendants of a source couple for a specified number of generations

**devise**

to give real property by will

**devisee**

the person to whom real property is left in a will

**dextans**

a measure equal to five-sixths

**dexter**

dyer

**dico, dicere, dixi, dictum (3)**

to say

**dictum**

an opinion on a specific issue made by a judge in the course of a judgement

**diem de die, diem ex die**

from day to day

**diem obire**

die

**dies**

day

**dies dominica**

Sunday

**dies iovis**

Thursday

**dies lune**

Monday

**dies martis**

Tuesday

**dies mercurii**

Wednesday

**dies non**

a day (e.g. a Sunday or public holiday) when judicial proceedings are not conducted

**dies sabbati**

Saturday

**dies veneris**

Friday

**dies, diei**

day

**diker/ dyker**

builder of dry stone walls

**dilatory defence**

a defence in civil proceedings designed to delay them; one without real substance

**dilectus, -a, -um (adjective)**

beloved

**dimidia**

one-half of a measurement, such as one-half of one acre

**dimidius, -a, -um (adjective)**

half

**direct line**

descent from an ancestor through succeeding children

**dispone**

to transfer land

**disposition**

a formal deed transferring land

**dispute or complication**

retour or service of heir

**distributor of stamps**

appointee in charge of a county stamp office, collecting stamp duties (taxes) on land, registrations, etc

**diurnas**

by day

**diviner**

one who finds water under the ground

**dns or dni, dominus or domini**

Lord

**do, dare, dedi, datum (1)**

to give

**docker**

worker at docks who loads and unloads ships cargo

**docker**

stevedore

**docket or docquet**

an authenticating endorsement on a deed or other document, for example by a clerk of court to certify a true copy

**dodrans**

a measure equal to three-fourths, or, three-quarters

**doffer**

removed and replaced bobbins of yarn from weaving loom spindles

**dom. serv.**

domestic servant, household worker

**domesday book**

[also Doomesday Book] ancient record of the Grand or Great Inquest or Survey of lands in England by the order of William the Conqueror, giving a census-like description of the realm, with the names of the proprietors and the nature, extent, value, liabilities, etc. of their properties

**domicile**

the place where a person is considered by law to have his permanent home

**domina, -e**

lady, Lady

**dominica, -e**

Sunday

**dominicus, -a, -um (adjective)**

demesne

**dominie**

school teacher

**dominus litis**

the master of the litigation: usually refers to a party controlling a court case which has been raised in the name of someone else

**domus, -us**

house

**dowager**

a widow with a title or rank the queen dowager; a jointure, or property from her husband

**dower**

provision made from a husband's estate for the support of his widow and family, usually one third of the value of the estate (real estate only)

**dower right**

the right of a wife to one-third of the land which her husband had at the time of their marriage or acquired during the marriage, after his death

**dowery**

[also DOWRY] any land, money, goods, or personal property brought by a bride to her husband in marriage

**dowser**

finds water under the ground

**draper**

dealer in fabrics and sewing materials

**draper**

dealer in cloth and dry goods

**drawer**

mine worker pushing or dragging coal carts

**drayman**

cart driver of a long cart without sides

**drayman**

drives a cart carrying heavy loads

**dresser**

1. surgeon's assistant 2. worker in quarry cutting rocks to shape egg slates or setts. 3. foundry worker cleaning metal after moulding

**dresser**

surgeon's assistant in a hospital

**drover**

cattle dealer who bought cattle from landlords and tenants and drove them to market

**drover**

drives animals to market; dealer in cattle

**drummer**

traveling salesman

**drysalter**

dealer in salted or dried meats, pickles and sauces

**ds., deus**

God

**ducenti, -ae, -a**

two hundred

**duffer**

peddler

**duo**

two

**duodecim**

twelve

**duodeviginti**  
eighteen

**durante termino vite sue**  
during the term of her life

**durante vita**  
during life

**durat usque**  
extends to, as in a description of property e.g. the land extends to the roadway.

**dustman**  
uplifted street litter and domestic rubbish ( see 'scavenger' )

**dv, deo volente**  
God willing

**dyker**  
builder of dry stone walls

**e (before a consonant)/ex (before a vowel) (preposition + ablative)**  
from, out of

**eadem persona cum defuncto**  
the same person as the deceased. An executor is deemed to stand in the shoes of the deceased and is liable for the debts of the deceased but only to the value of the assets he controls

**easement**  
a right to use another's land because of necessity or convenience

**easement appurtenant**  
an easement proper or one which passes with the dominant estate to all subsequent grantees and is inheritable

**easement in gross**  
a personal privilege to use another's land, which is not assignable and cannot be inherited

**easement of necessity**  
an easement necessary for the continued use of land when a large tract has been subdivided

**eboracum, -i**  
York

**ecclesia, -e**  
church

**edictal citation**  
the citation of a person subject to the court's jurisdiction but outside Scotland or whose whereabouts are unknown, by delivery to a court official who enters it into a special register

**edifico, edificare, edificavi, edificatum (1)**  
to build

**edwardus, -i**  
Edward

**ego**  
I

**eik (pronounced 'eek')**  
additional inventory of property not included in the original inventory of a deceased estate

**eius (pronoun, genitive of is, ea, id)**  
of him, of her, of it

**eiusdem generis**  
of the same kind or class

**elapso tempore**

the time having passed

**electrotyper**

printing plate maker of electrotype metal plants, including lead preparation. (see also stereotyper)

**elias**

Elias

**elizabetha, -e**

Elizabeth

**embosser**

person who moulded or pressed designs that were raised above the surface of the material .

**emigrant**

one who leaves one country or region to settle in another

**engine keeper**

operated and maintained an industrial steam-driven engine.

**enumeration**

the process by which persons are counted for purposes of a census

**eorum**

their

**eorum, earum, eorum (pronoun, genitive of is, ea, id, masculine, feminine, neuter plural)**

of them, theirs

**episcopi, episcopo**

a Bishop of a church

**episcopus, -i**

bishop

**epphiarius**

saddler

**equaliter**

equal, as in equal proportions

**equus/equites**

horses

**ernegis**

Ernegis

**errare humanum est**

to err is human

**escambium, -ii**

exchange

**esse**

to be (see sum)

**estate**

the whole of one's possessions; especially all the property left by a deceased person

**esto**

a technical terms used in written pleadings used to introduce a secondary line of defence which accepts, only for the sake of argument, facts which are still disputed in the primary defence, for example 'Esto there was a contract (which is denied) the work was defective...'

**et**

and

**et sequentes (sequentia)**

to those that follow

**et sic de ceteris**

and so of the rest

**etas, etatis**

age

**ex adverso**

opposite to; describing the position of land or buildings

**ex facie**

on the face of it. Something ex facie valid is presumed to be so unless contradicted by evidence

**ex facto**

[Latin] from or by the deed

**ex gratia**

out of goodwill; an ex gratia payment may be made to settle a claim without any admission of liability

**ex lege**

according to law. Interest on money lent may be due to the creditor ex lege even if there was no specific agreement between the parties as to interest

**ex officio**

[Latin] by virtue of office

**ex officio**

an office held by virtue of holding another office. Thus a Lord Provost may be ex officio a trustee of his city's Art Galleries Trust

**ex parte**

[Latin] judicial proceeding or judgment brought on behalf of one party without notifying the other party

**ex parte**

from one side; proceedings where only one party has had the opportunity of being heard

**ex post facto**

[Latin] after the act

**ex post facto**

after the event

**ex proprio motu**

of his own accord: a decision made by a judge without a party requesting it

**ex sursum redditione**

by the surrender

**excambion**

the exchange of one piece of land for another

**excipere**

to inherit

**exciseman**

collector of taxes

**execution**

(1) the carrying out or enforcement of an order or decree of court; (2) certificate by a court officer that the court's order has been carried out; (3) the act of authenticating a deed by signing it in accordance with the appropriate formalities

**executor**

the individual appointed by the one making the will to dispose of his or her property after death in accordance with the terms of the will

**executor**

a legal representative of a deceased person whose duty is to administer the deceased's estate and implement the terms of any will

**executor dative**

an executor appointed by the sheriff where there is no will or the executors nominated decline to act or may be deceased themselves

**executor nominate**

an executor appointed by the deceased in terms of a will

**executor, executoris**

executor

**executrix**

a female executor

**executry**

the process of winding up the estate of a deceased person in accordance with a will or with the law of intestate succession

**exheres**

[Latin] disinherited

**exitus, -us**

profits, exit, revenue

**exoner**

to release from further liability, for example to allow a trustee to resign

**expatriate**

one deported from one's native land, or one voluntarily absent from his homeland

**expede**

to sign, seal, and deliver a document

**expensum, -i**

money paid, payment, expense

**expositio, narratio**

an account or story

**exsequi**

to act upon

**extant**

in existence or not destroyed

**extract**

a formal copy of a decree or other judicial or legal document

**f.s.**

female servant

**faber**

craftsman

**faber ferrarius**

blacksmith

**faber lignarius**

wright

**faber muriarius**

builder, mason

**faber suae fortunae**

a self-made person

**faber, fabri**  
smith

**facio, facere, feci, factum (3)**  
to make, do

**factor**  
estate agent for landowner, collector of rents

**factor**  
a person who manages property on behalf of the owner;

**faculty**  
a person who did not own land and as a professional, and thus was taxed on income-faculty included lawyers, physicians, dentists, carpenters, merchants, bankers, etc.

**failure of issue**  
in a will or deed, indicates that in the event of there being no children born to or surviving the deceased person, the property will go to a third party; in common law, the condition continues with the children of the first taker

**falso (adverb)**  
falsely

**familiaritas**  
to be acquainted with a person

**family history center (fhc)**  
located in many towns throughout the United States and many cities throughout the world, these are local research centers where one may access the information of FHL through the use of microfilm, microfiche and computers

**family history library (fhl)**  
of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) located in Salt Lake City has the world's largest collection of genealogical information

**farm servant**  
farm worker under contracted period to work for farmer

**farrier**  
blacksmith who shoes horses

**farrier/ferrier**  
horse doctor, blacksmith who shoes horses

**fatal accident inquiry**  
an inquiry, conducted by the sheriff and initiated by the procurator fiscal, into any death which was sudden, suspicious or unexplained, or which occurred in circumstances giving rise to serious public concern

**faveo linguis**  
keep silence

**februarius**  
February

**februarius, -i**  
February

**fecit**  
made, executed, completed

**fee simple**  
an inheritance having no conditions or limitations in its use; a direct and complete inheritance

**feet of fines**  
documents, first kept during the reign of Richard I, that had the same function as deeds in transferring land; the bottom part of an indenture or deed kept by the recording office

**fencible**  
soldier recruited at times of war, a militiaman

**feodary**

one who holds land of an overlord on condition of homage

**feodo, pro feodo**

a fee, for the fee of

**feodum, -i**

fee, fief

**fera, -e**

beast of the chase

**fermorar**

farmer

**ferry-louper**

orkney name for incomer from mainland

**festum, -i**

feast

**fethelar**

a fiddler

**feu**

a piece of land held by a feuar or vassal. Feudal land has conditions attached in favour of the superior (or ultimate owner), for example payment of feu duty. This is soon to be abolished by the Scottish Parliament

**feuar**

landholder under feudal system paid a feu (fee) to the overlord

**fidei defensor**

defender of the faith

**fidelis, -e (adjective)**

faithful

**fides, fidei**

faith

**fiduciary**

(1) (n.) a person who holds something in trust (in contrast to a beneficiary), and who must not use his position to derive an unauthorised profit or advantage for himself; (2) (n.) property held in trust; (3) (adj.) of the nature of a trust; held or given in trust

**fieri**

be made

**filia**

[Latin] daughter; female off-spring

**filia fratris**

[Latin] brother's daughter (niece)

**filia sororis**

[Latin] sister's daughter (niece)

**filia, -e (dative and ablative plural filiabus)**

daughter

**filia/filio vinca et heres**

the only surviving child (daughter/son) and heir of ....

**fili avunculi**

son of the maternal uncle

**fili nobelium**

[Latin] sons of nobles

**filiola**

[Latin] little daughter

**filiolus**

[Latin] little son

**filiolus**

A godson

**filius**

[Latin] son; male offspring

**filius fratris**

[Latin] brother's son; nephew

**filius mulieratus**

The eldest legitimate son of a woman who was illicitly connected with that son's father before their marriage.

**filius nullius**

[Latin] an illegitimate person

**filius nullius**

Each of these expressions were used to represent an illegitimate child: filius populi being a son of the people; filius terrae being a son of the soil or earth; filius nullius being a son of no man.

**filius nullius**

a bastard; this status is now relevant to the hereditary aristocracy only

**filius populi**

[Latin] "a son of the people"; a bastard

**filius populi;**

Each of these expressions were used to represent an illegitimate child: filius populi being a son of the people; filius terrae being a son of the soil or earth; filius nullius being a son of no man.

**filius sororis**

[Latin] sister's son; nephew

**filius terrae**

Each of these expressions were used to represent an illegitimate child: filius populi being a son of the people; filius terrae being a son of the soil or earth; filius nullius being a son of no man.

**finalis, -e (adjective)**

final

**finis, finis (m. sometimes f.)**

fine, boundary, end, limit

**fireman**

1. person in charge of a furnace, eg. on a train or ship 2. a fire fighter

**fishcurer**

dried and salted fish for onward transport in barrels

**fishwife**

woman who carried and sold fresh fish from door to door.

**fitter**

assembled wooden or metal parts , or machinery

**flax dresser**

prepared the flax fibres ready for spinning. see also heckler and scutcher.

**flax heckler**

flax dresser who separated the coarse flax with a toothed hackle

**flax scutcher**

beat flax fibres by hand or through a machine as part of the flax dressing process.

**flaxman**  
dealer in flax

**flesher**  
butcher

**fletcher**  
maker of arrows, an arrowsmith

**fletcher**  
makes bows and arrows

**floater**  
man seasonally employed to guide and steer timber logs downstream

**flockmaster**  
person in charge of managing a flock of sheep

**foderator**  
furrier

**folio**  
[1] a large sheet of paper folded in half to form the pages of a book; [2] a book numbered only on one side; [3] a library designation for large oversized books

**foolscap**  
writing paper varying from 12 x 15 inches to 13 1/2 x 17 inches

**forbid the banns**  
public or formal objection to a marriage

**force majeure**  
something beyond the control of ordinary parties to a contract, preventing its performance, for example a change in government regulations

**forespeaker**  
advocate, a pleader in court

**forrester**  
employed to guard the forest and its game against poachers and trespassers.

**fortnight**  
two weeks

**forum non conveniens**  
a court or tribunal which is not appropriate, even though it may have jurisdiction, for example because all the witnesses may be in another area

**fossor**  
grave digger

**fossoris**  
a person who digs, a digger

**founder**  
maker of items from molten metal eg in a iron or brass foundry.

**framar**  
farmer

**franciplegius, -ii**  
frankpledge

**franklin**  
a state reorganized in 1784 in the western part of North Carolina and which ceased to exist in 1788, now a part of eastern Tennessee

**frater consanguineas**  
a person's step-brother sharing a common father

**frater or fratres**

a person's brother

**frater uterinus**

a person's step-brother sharing a common mother

**frater, fratris**

brother

**freehold**

an estate held outright with no other claims on it and which may be transferred to heirs or others

**freeholder**

a person who owns property rather than rents it; one in possession of a freehold

**freeman**

in general, a white male over 21 years of age holding full rights of citizenship who is free to ply a trade, own land, and to vote

**freeman**

medieval freemen were not owned by a feudal lord, but had privileges granted to own land and trade in a burgh

**french polisher**

brought wood cabinets to a fine finish with sandpaper and oils.

**fructuarius**

fruit seller

**fructus**

a tree crop

**fruitman**

man who sells fruit

**frumentum, frumentarius**

corn, corn dealer

**fuller/fullo/waulker**

cleans and thickens cloth

**fundatio, foundationis**

foundation

**fundi**

estate

**funus**

funeral

**furnaceman**

attended to furnace, often in metal works

**furthcoming**

an action to order a third party to pay arrested money to the creditor. See arrestment

**furtum facere**

commit a theft

**gaberlunzie**

a beggar

**gallearius**

sailor

**gallina**

a hen

**gamekeeper**

guard and breeder of wild game (pheasants etc) on an estate

**ganger**

gangsman leading a gang or squad of men

**gangrel**

vagrant or tramp

**gaoler**

jailer

**gardener**

gardener

**garderoba, -e**

wardrobe

**gas retortman**

in gas works, operated large oven in which coal was baked to manufacture coal gas.

**gasfitter**

fitted pipes to carry a gas supply, usually coal gas, to domestic or industrial premises.

**gedcom**

acronym for GENEalogical Data COMmunication; file format supported by most genealogy database programs for the exchange of genealogy information between different programs and computers

**gemmarius**

jeweller

**gen. lab**

general labourer

**gener**

a person's son-in-law

**General Register of Sasines**

a public register, maintained since 1672, in which all deeds relating to land must be recorded. The register is gradually being superseded by the Land Register of Scotland but both have the same basic function

**general service**

all property

**generosus**

used to denote a gentleman

**generosus, -i**

gentleman

**gentleman**

a member of the gentry, a descendant from an aristocratic family whose income came from the rental of his land

**gentlewoman**

a woman of good family or breeding; a woman who has the occupation of waiting on or caring for a person of high rank

**genu, -us**

knee

**georgius, -ii**

George

**germanus**

a term used to describe the fact that two people have the same parents - full brothers, full sisters - a true or full relationship

**ghida, -e**

Gytha

**ghillie**

highland guard of wild game, especially deer

**gilbertus, -i**  
Gilbert

**gilder**  
person who impressed gold leaf or gilt to overlay an item, such as furniture or an art frame

**ginerr**  
joiner

**girnalman**  
man in charge of meal store or granary

**glazier**  
window glassman

**gloria patri**  
Glory be to the Father

**glover**  
maker of gloves

**glover**  
dealer or maker of gloves

**goldbeater**  
artisan who hammered gold into gold leaf, thin plates of gold for gilding.

**goldsmith**  
goldsmith

**goodman**  
a man ranking below a gentleman but above a freeman

**goods and chattels**  
personal property goods meant inanimate objects; chattels were livestock

**goodwife**  
the wife or mistress of a household

**goody**  
a woman or housewife, especially an old woman

**gowcher**  
a grandfather

**gracia, -e**  
grace

**grandfather clause**  
an exception to a law, such as the right for blacks to vote, which gave only those blacks whose parents had voted before 1867 the right to vote

**grange**  
a farmhouse or small hamlet; a center of cultivation owned by a monastery, but too far away for the monks to work it

**granger**  
keeper of grain store (granary)

**grant**  
to transfer property by a deed

**grant**  
(1) (n.) a deed transferring property; (2) (verb) to convey or transfer property to another

**grantee**  
the buyer, purchaser, or receiver of real or personal property rights from the seller or grantor, usually by a deed or through a trust document

**grantee**

one to whom a grant is made

**granter**

one who makes a grant

**grantor**

the seller or person who sells, grants, transfers, or conveys real or personal property or property rights to the purchaser, buyer, or receiver, usually by a deed or through a trust document

**grass widow**

an unmarried woman with a child; a divorced or separated woman; a discarded mistress

**grasskeeper**

herdsman who watched unfenced marches of a farm to prevent trespass from adjacent grazings

**gratefitter**

fitted metal grates to hold fires in domestic fireplaces.

**gratia, -e**

grace

**gratuitous**

without payment or other consideration, as opposed to onerous

**gratuitous alienation**

a transfer of property for no, or an inadequate, price, usually to the prejudice of someone's creditors

**grecher**

grocer

**gregorian calendar**

named after Pope Gregory, but referred to as the "New Style" calendar which replaced the Julian calendar in 1582 in some countries; in Great Britain, her colonies (America) and other protestant countries, it was not adopted until 1752

**grieve**

responsible for a group of farm workers

**groom**

responsible for horses on an estate

**ground officer**

employed by large landed estate to supervise the activities of tenants

**guager**

excise officer

**guardian**

a person appointed by the court to take care of someone unable to care for himself, such as a minor, an incompetent, an invalid, an idiot, etc.

**gudger**

a grandfather. corruption of gudsyr

**guild**

a medieval association of merchants and craftsmen which regulated price, quality, and decided who could make and sell the merchandise under its supervision

**guilder**

makes gold or silver coins

**gulielmus, -i**

William

**h.l.w.**

hand loom weaver- weaver of cloth on a home-based loom

**habendum et tenendum**

[Latin] "to have and to hold to the grantee (buyer or donee) his heirs and assigns"; a clause in a deed that specifies the type of property or estate that the buyer will receive

**habeo, habere, habui, habitum (2)**

to have

**haberdasher**

seller of small clothing wares and sewing materials

**habile**

admissible; valid; competent for a legal purpose

**habili modo**

in the manner competent. Thus a proof habili modo is a hearing where evidence will be heard in a manner appropriate to the circumstances

**hac voce**

under this word/phrase, hereunder

**hac, haec**

this

**hackler**

lint dresser who separated the coarse flax with a toothed hackle

**haec aetas**

this day, the present day

**hammerman**

metal worker, a smith

**handana**

a day's work

**hansard**

weapon maker or seller

**hatcheler**

combed or carded flax

**hatter**

maker of hats, a milliner

**hawker**

pedlar, seller of small goods from door to door

**hawker**

peddler

**headborough**

constable

**heatherer**

thatched roofs of houses and crofts with heather divots or stems (esp. in highlands and islands)

**hecklemaker**

maker of flax combs for use by heckler/hackler

**heckler**

see hackler

**heddler**

weaving loom operator in textile mill

**hedger**

laid and repaired hedges enclosing fields making them stock-proof

**heir**

[1] a person who inherits or is entitled by law or by the terms of a will to inherit the estate of another; [2] a person who succeeds or is in line to succeed to a hereditary rank, title, or office

**heir apparent**

heir if you out live present heir

**heir brothers older and younger**

next younger brother

**heir of conquest**

succeed by purchase or gift not inheritance

**heir of destination**

succeeds according to provisions in will which could have been laid down in a tailzie/entail

**heir oldest son**

usually 1st in line to inherit

**heir only older brothers**

next oldest brother

**heir or heir of line**

succeed under law of intestate succession

**heir portioner**

only daughters

**heir sisters as**

heir portioners

**henricus, -i**

Henry

**heraldry**

the art or office of a herald; the art, practice, or science of recording genealogies and blazoning arms or ensigns  
armorial

**heraldus, -i**

Harold

**herbagium**

pasture, right of pasture

**herd**

shepherd

**heredes**

heirs

**heredipeta**

the next heir

**hereditaria**

heiress

**hereditarie**

by inheritance

**hereditarius**

hereditary heir

**hereditarius, -ii**

heir

**hereditas, hereditatio**

inheritance

**heres**

heirs

**heres ex triente**

an heir to one-third (of an estate)

**heres, heredis (m., f.)**

heir

**heritable property**

property consisting of land or buildings

**heritor**

landholder in a parish

**hetheder**

person who cut and sold heather as a source of fuel.

**hewer**

miner underground working the coal face

**hibernia, -e**

Ireland

**hic (adverb)**

here

**hic iacet (jacet)**

here lies dead

**hic, hec, hoc (adjective and pronoun)**

this, he, she, it

**hida, -e**

hide (The amount of land which could support a household, often supposed to be 120 acres)

**hieme**

winter

**high sheriff**

the highest ranking sheriff, as opposed to deputy sheriffs

**hillard/hiller**

one who covers houses with slate

**hinc**

hence

**hinc inde**

hereupon

**hind**

farm servant

**hind**

farm laborer

**holder-on**

assisted a skilled rivetter, usually in the ship-building industry

**holographic will**

a will written entirely by hand and bearing the date and having the signature of the testator

**homestead**

the house and adjoining land where the head of the family lives, which passes to the widow when her husband dies and is exempt from the claims of his creditors; this is similar to a widow's dower, the difference being that the homestead includes the dwelling

**homestead act**

any of several legislative acts authorizing the sale of public land

**homo, hominis**

man

**honorarium**

a form of financial gift as an acknowledgement for services, for example the secretary of a golf club

**hooper**

maker of hoops for barrels

**hooper**

made hoops for casks

**hora**

the hour, the time of day, a season

**hornus**

this year, or, this year's

**horse setter**

owned horses and hired them out

**hortulanus**

gardener

**hosier**

seller of long wool or silk stockings

**hostler**

person looking after horses at an inn

**hostler**

takes care of horses at an inn

**hostler (or ostler)**

groomed horses

**houghman**

a farm worker, but doing what ? (anyone know ?)

**howdywife**

midwife

**hsi or hse, hic sepultus, hic est**

here is buried, here is

**huckster**

sells small articles

**hugo, hugonis**

Hugh

**hui eccli'e, huius ecclesiae**

of this Church

**huiusmodi**

this

**humatio**

burying

**husbandman**

a cultivator of soil, a farmer. later including animal husbandry

**husbandman**

a person whose occupation is in husbandry; a farmer

**hypothec**

a form of security over the property of a debtor but where the property is still in use by the debtor. This differs from pledge (as with a pawnbroker) where the goods are held and only given back if the debt is repaid. Thus a landlord has a hypothec for rent over his tenant's goods in the rented property

**iaceo, iacere, iacui, iacitum (2)**

to lie, to be situated

**iam adero**

I'll be back soon

**ianuarius**

January

**ibi**

there

**ibidem (adverb)**

at the same place, in the same place

**id., idus**

the 13th day of mosty months, but the 15th of March, May, July, October

**idem tenet**

the same holds, as in '...the same holds true for...'

**idem, eadem, idem (pronoun)**

the same

**ideo (adverb)**

therefore

**ignobilitas**

of low-standing birth

**ihs (jhs)or ihu (jhu), ihesus (jhesus)**

Jesus

**ille, illa, ilud (pronoun and adjective)**

that, he, she, it

**illicitus**

illegal

**imbrodinstier**

embroiderer

**immigrant**

one who settles in a country having emigrated from another

**imperator, imperatoris**

emperor

**imperpetuum (adverb)**

forever, in perpetuity

**impressment**

the act of seizing people and forcing them into labor

**imprimis**

especially, or firstly/primary when used in a Will e.g. "Imprimis, I recommend my soul...".

**impubes**

under age

**in (preposition + accusative)**

into, onto (preposition + ablative) in, on

**in absentia**

in absence; undefended

**in annum**

for one year

**in antea**

henceforth, for the future

**in articulo mortis**

at the point of death

**in camera**

proceedings heard in private, as distinct from in open court

**in causa**

in the case

**in continuatione**

in consideration

**in curiam domini**

in the Lord's (of the manor) Court

**in dies**

daily

**in facie ecclesiae**

before the Church

**in flagrante delicto or in flagrante crimine**

in the very act of committing a wrong or crime

**in foro**

where an appearance or a defence has been entered; the opposite of in absentia

**in futuro**

henceforth

**in gremio**

in the body of; for example, any clause or words contained in a deed or document

**in hoc statu**

in this position, a phrase which makes it clear that something is being decided only in the light of the facts as known at the time, and can be re-opened

**in loco parentis**

in the place of a parent

**in manifesto**

publicly

**in meditatione fugae**

about to flee; usually describes a debtor: the term is used to justify a court order to freeze his assets

**in memoriam**

in memory of

**in nomen dei**

in the name of God

**in nomine domini**

in the name of the Lord

**in patria**

in one's home town or native land

**in perpetuum**

forever

**in rixa**

in the course of a quarrel. Objectionable words so spoken may not be actionable

**in saecula saeculorum**

for ever and ever

**in solidum**

for the whole. Joint debtors bound in solidum are each liable to the creditor for full payment or performance, and the creditor may choose which debtor to sue

**in toto**

wholly; entirely

**incapax**

(1) (adj.) not capable; having legal, mental or physical incapacity; (2) (n.) a person who is incapax

**incerti cognominis**

of uncertain surname

**incorporeal**

describes property or rights which have no physical existence, for example an annuity or copyright

**indenture**

an agreement or deed between two or more parties conveying real estate, originally made in two parts so that it could be separated by tearing in a jagged line and matched later; a contract in which a person is bound over for service

**indentured servant**

a servant who sold himself to a master for a period of time (usually 4 to 7 years) in order to pay for passage to another country; the contract was transferrable, saleable, and was passed on to heirs if the master died

**indidem**

[Latin] from the same place or thing

**indirect tax**

tax from sources other than property or income, such as businesses, professions, entertainment, and animals

**induciae**

a period of time allowed in legal proceedings for a person to perform some act, for example for a defender to lodge notice of his intention to defend

**indweller**

inhabitant of a particular town or place

**infans**

a child or infant

**infelix**

ill-fated

**ingens, ingentis (adjective)**

huge

**ingenus, ingenuus**

freeholder, freeborn

**ingressus, -us**

entry, right of entry

**inhibition**

an order by the Court of Session, forbidding a debtor to sell or borrow money on security of his land, to the prejudice of a creditor

**injuria**

damage or loss

**in-law**

colonists used this term for any familial relationship that occurred from a marriage; a woman's father-in-law could be her husband's father or her stepfather; her son-in-law could be her daughter's husband or her own stepson

**in primis**

[Latin] in the first place

**inquillinus**

tenant or inhabitant

**inspeximus**

inspeximus (A kind of charter which testifies to the fact that an earlier charter has been inspected and confirmed)

**institor**

peddler, cramer

**instrument**

a formal document such as a deed or a will

**inter (preposition + accusative)**

among, between

**inter diu**

during the day

**inter partes**

between parties; each party is present or represented. Compare ex parte

**inter se**

between two or more persons or things

**inter sicarios accusare**

to be charged with the crime of murder

**inter vivos**

between living persons: describes deeds or legal acts intended to take effect during the grantor's lifetime. Compare mortis causa

**interdict**

an order prohibiting an act or course of action (in England, an injunction);

**interfectrix**

murderess

**interficere**

put to death

**interlocutor**

an order or judgement pronounced by the court in the course of a civil action. The final interlocutor is the decree

**intestate**

condition of a person who dies without leaving a valid will

**intestate**

(1) (n.) a person who dies without having left a valid will; (2) (adj.) describes such a person or his estate

**invecta et illata**

the furniture, etc. of a tenant brought on to leased premises which are subject to the landlord's hypothec as security for rent

**inventory**

a list of goods in the estate of a deceased person

**ipse, ipsa, ipsum (pronoun and adjective)**

self, he himself, she herself, itself, aforesaid

**ipso facto**

by the fact itself

**ipso jure**

by operation of law

**iron dresser**

foundry worker who cleaned sand and impurities from cast metal from the mould.

**iron miner**

miner of ironstone rock used in the production of pig iron

**iron moulder**

iron foundry worker who poured molten iron from furnace into moulds

**iron planer**

used a machine to put flat surfaces (planing) onto cast iron structures

**iron shingler**

iron worker who operated a steam hammer on wrought iron from the furnace

**iron weigher**

weighed iron products from foundry for selling by the ton.

**ironmonger**

dealer in iron goods

**is, ea, id (pronoun and adjective)**

he, she, it, this, that

**isabella, -e**

Isabella

**ish**

the date of termination or expiry of a lease

**issue**

lineal descendants of a common ancestor

**ita distinguitur**

is thus described

**item**

a term marking the beginning of a paragraph in a will

**item (adverb)**

likewise, moreover, also

**iugam terrae**

a yoke of land, containing half a plough-land

**iugerum**

an acre of land, (240 feet by 120 feet)

**iulius**

July

**iunius**

June

**iuvencae (juvencae)**

heifers

**iuvenci (juvenci)**

young bulls

**iuxta (juxta)**

next to or beside

**iuxta (preposition + accusative)**

next to, near, according to

**iuxta ecclesiam de**

next to or beside the Church of

**j.p.**  
justice of the peace

**jackman**  
attendant or man-at-arms, for a nobleman or landowner

**januarius, -i**  
January

**japanner**  
applied black gloss lacquer to furniture

**javelor**  
jailor

**jobbing man**  
employed for a variety of small jobs or tasks

**johanna, -e**  
Joanna

**johannes, johannis**  
John

**joiner**  
a wood worker, a carpenter

**joint and several obligation**  
an obligation resting upon more than one person in which each obligant is liable for performance jointly or collectively with the others but also severally or individually. The creditor in such an obligation may sue all, or alternatively any one, of his debtors

**joint tenancy**  
the condition of two or more persons owning a piece of property this type of ownership allows all persons to use the property and share in it equally

**journeyman**  
qualified tradesman, apprenticeship served

**journeyman**  
craftsman hired day by day or weaver

**judgement**  
the final determination in a litigation in which the judge sets forth his decision and, usually, his reasons for reaching it. See decree and interlocutor

**judicial factor**  
a person appointed by a court to hold or administer property in Scotland where it is in dispute or where there is no one who could properly control or administer it. A judicial factor must have indemnity insurance and his work is supervised by the Accountant of Court

**judicial review**  
procedure in the Court of Session to review grievances by persons who allege that (i) that decisions of inferior courts, public bodies, tribunals or other authorities (where no other form of appeal is provided ) were outwith their powers or not in accordance with proper procedures or (ii) that such parties have failed to perform their duties in a proper manner. The Child Support Agency is an example of an organisation subject to judicial review

**julian calendar**  
a calendar named for Julius Caesar, it is referred to as the "Old Style" calendar, which was used from 45 BC until 1582, when it was replaced by the Gregorian calendar

**julius, -i**  
July

**JUNIOR, SENIOR**  
these terms did not necessarily indicate father and son; they were used within a small community to distinguish between two persons of the same name; sometimes "the elder" and "the younger" were used in the same fashion

**junius, -i**  
June

**jurat**  
[Latin] certification that a document was written by the person who signed it

**jurator, juratoris**  
juror

**jure uxoris**  
[Latin] in right of his wife

**jurisdiction**  
(1) the authority of a court to hear and decide a particular case, an authority which may be restricted by territorial boundaries, the value or type of case or considerations, and which, in civil proceedings, is now determined primarily by European rules set out in the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgements Act 1982; (2) the territorial area within which a particular court may exercise that authority

**jus relictæ**  
the right of the widow to claim against her husband's estate even if she was left out of his will. A widower has a similar right, the jus relictii

**jus, juris**  
right, law

**jute winder**  
jute mill worker who wound the thread on weaving looms .

**kal., kalendis**  
the first day of any month

**kellogg**  
slaughter man

**kindred**  
a group of blood-related persons

**kirk-master**  
deacon in a church

**kish maker**  
maker of woven willow baskets

**kith and kin**  
friends and neighbors

**laboro, laborare, laboravi, laboratum (1)**  
to work

**lac mulgere**  
milk

**lacuna**  
(1) an omission or blank space in a document; (2) a situation not covered by rules or regulations when it should have been

**laird**  
rural estate landowner, usually in the highlands

**lamplighter**  
employed to light the gas street lamps in victorian cities

**lampman**  
the lampman or lamp trimmer maintained the paraffin oil lamps in a colliery, and checked the miners' safety lamps.

**lanio**  
flesher

**lappit weaver**

lappit or lappet is a light muslin cloth with figuring woven in a zigzag pattern on a special loom. also lappit clipper, and ripper.

**lardner**

official in charge of pig food

**lathamus/lathomus/latopmus**

quarryman, mason

**lathsplitter**

prepared thin strips of wood (laths) for nailing to walls and ceilings as a base to spread plaster over

**laundress**

washerwoman for clothes

**lawman**

officer with magisterial powers

**lawrightman**

determined local weights & measures, and land tax

**leech or sawbones**

physician

**leerie**

another name for a lamplighter (qv)

**legacy**

similar to a bequest, although it often has the meaning of money, whereas bequest usually means personal property

**legalis, -e (adjective)**

lawful

**legatee**

the person to whom a gift is given or left to in a will; any person receiving real or personal property by will

**legator**

a person who makes a will and leaves property to others

**legem doctore**

doctor of laws

**leges violare**

break the law

**legitim**

a child's right to claim against a deceased parent's estate even if they were left out of the parent's will

**lego, legare, legavi, legatum (1)**

to leave, bequeath

**lengthsman**

railway worker responsible for maintaining a length of rail track

**lessee**

the person leasing the property

**lessor**

the owner of property that is leased to another

**letter carrier**

carried and delivered letters by hand . later known as postman.

**letters testamentary**

a document from the court allowing the executor named in the will to carry out his duties; he has no authority until this document is issued

**lex contractus**

the law to be applied to a contract. This may not be the same as the law of the place where the contract was performed, because the parties may have agreed otherwise

**lex domicilii**

the law of the domicile. The law of someone's domicile or the law of his nationality. See also domicile

**lex fori**

the law of the court; the law of the country in which litigation takes place, and which regulates matters such as evidence and court procedure

**lex loci actus**

the law of the place where the act was performed

**lex loci contractus**

the law of the place where the contract was made or concluded. This law may be the same as the law of the contract itself but where different governs formal matters such as capacity, for example what age parties have to be to enter into a contract

**lex loci delicti**

the law of the place where a negligent act was committed

**lex loci rei sitae**

the law of the place where the subject of the action (usually land) is situated

**liber**

[Latin] a book of public records

**liber rusticus**

free peasant

**liber, -era, -erum (adjective)**

free

**libere (adverb)**

freely

**liberi**

[Latin] children; grandchildren

**liberi, baro, franchilanus**

freeman

**liberum animum testandi**

[Latin] free will in bequeathing

**libra, -e**

pound (currency)

**lichnopeus**

candlemaker

**lien**

a claim held by a person upon the property of another until a debt has been paid; a form of security for unpaid debts

**lien (pronounced 'lee-en')**

a right to retain a debtor's moveable property until he has paid his debt

**life estate**

an interest in property that lasts as long as a person lives

**liferent**

property which the owner can hold for a lifetime but cannot be passed on

**liferenter**

one who has a tenancy for life

**ligna**

a piece of wood

**lignum**  
firewood

**lime-burner**  
rock lime was burned in stone kilns, then crushed and spread on farm fields.

**limitation period**  
the period within which an action or claim must be raised in court. If an action is raised out of time the claim will usually be barred from proceedings

**limmer**  
1. thief or scoundrel 2. artist who decorates manuscripts

**lineal consanguinity**  
being descended in a direct line from another such as son, father, and grandfather

**lineal descendant**  
being descended in a direct line from another such as son, father and grandfather

**lineator**  
surveyor or measurer

**lint dresser**  
prepared flax (lint) fibres ready for spinning.

**liquid debt**  
a debt or claim of an known amount which is legally overdue

**liquidate damages**  
damages stipulated in a contract without proof of actual loss, for example £500 per week for delay beyond the completion date for building a house

**liquidation**  
the procedure for winding up a limited company; the equivalent of an individual's bankruptcy

**lis alibi pendens**  
a case pending elsewhere: a defence that the same question as that raised in the present action is already the subject of litigation in another court

**lis pendens**  
notice of suits pending litigation, sometimes called equity notices; these usually involve actions concerning real property such as mortgage foreclosures

**list**  
official description of property assessed for the purpose of taxation

**lithographer**  
makes printing press plates from type-set paper or film

**litigant**  
a person who is involved in a lawsuit

**litiscontestation**  
the stage at which a court action becomes contested

**litster**  
dyer of cloth

**litster/littister**  
dyer

**littera, -e**  
letter

**lock keeper**  
operated the locks across canals allowing boats to pass through

**loco**  
[Latin] to place; to let for hire

**loco citato**

[Latin] in the place cited

**loco parentis**

in the place of parents

**locum tenens**

a person who acts as substitute or depute for another, for example a doctor

**locus**

[Latin] in the place (of the parent)

**locus delicti**

the place where the delict or crime was committed

**locus sigilli**

[Latin] "the place of the seal"; the place where the seal is affixed on written documents

**locus standi**

a place to stand: the right to be heard by a court or tribunal

**londinia, -e londinium-ii (n)**

London

**longeavus**

[Latin] of great age; ancient

**looper**

fitted yarn onto knitting machine, for example in hosiery making

**lorimer**

maker of metal horse harnesses

**lorimer/lormer**

maker of horse gear

**lotman**

a corn thresher who was paid an allowance of corn as part of his fee

**lotter**

1. made up odd lots of wool and batched them for sale 2. croft or small farm divided into lots, usually worked by sons of the crofter

**loun**

a boy

**lozenge cutter**

cut and prepared sweets (candy) or preserve. lozenge pinner ?

**lucrum**

profit

**m.s.**

male servant -merchant service (seaman)

**magister, magistri**

master

**magnus, -a, -um (adjective)**

great, big

**mailler**

a mailler, or mealler, paid farm rent in money or kind, not in labour.

**maius, -i**

May

**majority**

the age at which one is legally no longer a minor

**mala fide(s)**

in bad faith; lacking good faith

**maleficium**

misdeed, a wrong, mischief

**maleficus**

criminal

**malevolus**

malicious

**malignus**

unkind, ill-natured, spiteful

**malster**

brewer of malted beverages (beer)

**maltster**

maltster, or maltman, prepared malt from fermented barley for brewing or distilling

**man of skill**

an expert to whom a court may remit a technical matter before it for investigation and report

**manciple**

steward

**manerium, -ii**

manor

**manf.**

manufacturer

**mangler**

washerwoman who passed clothes through the rollers of a mangle

**mantle maker**

1. cut and prepared the mantles for incandescent gas lamps 2. maker of ladies cloaks worn over a dress

**mantua maker**

ladies dressmaker or bonnet maker. (mantua was a woman's loose gown in 17th-18th century)

**manumission**

a formal written act to free slaves

**manus, -us**

hand

**marca, -e**

mark (unit of currency)

**marchant/merchant**

merchant

**mare, maris**

sea [genitive plural marium]

**maria, -e**

Mary

**marikin maker**

maker of dressed goat's skin or spanish leather

**mariner**

seaman, usually in merchant navy

**mariner**

sailor

**maritus**  
husband

**marriage bond**  
a document executed to guarantee that no legal or moral impediments existed to an intended marriage

**martir, martiris**  
martyr

**martius, -i**  
March

**mason**  
stone cutter and layer

**mason**  
bricklayer

**masser**  
macer

**master**  
head school teacher skilled and self-employed craftsman or tradesman

**master**  
today would be known as the captain

**master mariner**  
ship's captain

**mater, matris**  
mother

**matertera, matertera magna, matertera maior, matertera maxima**  
a person's aunt, grand-aunt, great-grandaunt, great-great-grandaunt on the female side of the family

**mathildis, mathildis**  
Matilda (note Matilda can also be Mathilda, - e (f)).

**matre orbus**  
a child that is without a mother

**matrimonium**  
a marriage

**mayer**  
physician

**mealler**  
a mealler, or mailler, paid farm rent in money or kind, not in labour provided.

**medietas, medietatis**  
moiety, half

**mendicant**  
one who made a living by begging, or living on alms. eg mendicant friars

**mens rea**  
guilty purpose or criminal intent

**mensis**  
the month of; of or for a month

**mensis, -is**  
month

**menstruus**  
monthly

**mente captus**  
imbecile, insane

**mercator**  
merchant

**mercatores**  
merchant or dealer in goods

**mercatum, -i (n) -**  
market

**meridies, meridiei**  
midday, south

**messenger-at-arms**  
a law-enforcement officer of the scottish court of session, responsible for serving documents and enforcing court orders.

**messuage**  
dwellinghouse

**messus**  
harvest

**metes and bounds**  
(also Courses and Distances) a method of surveying property which made use of the natural physical and topographical features in conjunction with measurements and artificially designated objects or places metes refers to the measuring of direction and distance while bounds refers to natural or man-made features on the land

**metreta, metretae**  
a liquid measure of about 9 gallons

**metstar**  
official measurer

**meus, mea, meum (pronoun)**  
my

**michael, michaelis**  
Michael

**michi, mihi (pronoun, dative case)**  
to me

**midwife**  
a woman experienced in the birthing process who helps other women in the birth of a child

**miles**  
used to denote a knight

**miles, militis**  
knight

**mille**  
one thousand

**miller**  
in charge of a corn mill usually powered by a water wheel, grinding grain such as oats and wheat into meal or flour.

**milliner**  
maker of hats and female headgear

**millwright**  
installed and maintained heavy machinery in mills. a mechanic.

**millwright**  
one who designs or builds mills

**min.**  
minister (or miner)

**miner**  
worker at mineral mines, usually coal, ironstone or shale in central scotland

**minister**  
minister

**mintmaster**  
issued local currency

**misfeasance**  
the wrongful or unlawful performance of official duty

**misnomer**  
mistake in a person's name for identification purposes

**missa, -e**  
mass

**missives**  
the letters exchanged by the parties which constitute a binding contract to buy and sell land, setting forth the terms and conditions in detail

**mitto, mittere, misi, missum (3)**  
to send

**modo (adverb)**  
now

**modo ad hanc curiam**  
now to this court

**modo venit**  
now comes

**modus, -i**  
manner, method

**molecatcher**  
trapped and killed moles on farms, the molehills thrown up from their underground tunnelling caused crop losses.

**monachus, -i**  
monk

**monasterium, -ii**  
monastery

**moneo, monere, monui, monitum (2)**  
to warn, advise

**moneyer**  
mintmaster, maker of coin money

**monger**  
seller of goods, eg fish-monger, iron-monger

**morens posuit**  
sadly placed

**moribundus, moriens**  
on one's death bed

**mors, mortis**  
death

**mortality schedules**  
schedules which counted the number of deaths that occurred in the year before the census was taken, and exist for

the 1850 through 1880 censuses, listing the individual's name, age, sex, occupation, cause of death, date of death, and place of death by county

**mortem sibi consciscere**

commit suicide

**mortis**

[Latin] death; corpse

**mortis causa**

[Latin] in view of death

**mortis causa**

in contemplation of death

**moulder**

poured molten metal into moulds. see iron moulder

**mourning article**

funeral gift

**mourning piece**

a pictorial representation of a tomb, intended as a memorial of the dead

**mouterer**

miller receiving a fee for grinding corn

**moveables**

personal property such as furniture, animals, food, clothing, etc. which can be carried from place to place and is in the possession and use of the owner

**moveo, movere, movi, motum (2)**

to move

**mr.**

a title that could only precede the names of gentlemen, clergymen, or government officials or magister, a teacher or employer, or one who has a college degree equivalent to a m.a.

**MR. pronounced "Master"**

a title that could only precede the names of gentlemen, clergymen, or government officials; identified in the records with the abbreviation "gent."

**mrs.**

a feminine equivalent of mr., it did not denote marital status, but social position (women of the aristocracy); did not pertain to a college degree

**mrs. or mistress**

a feminine equivalent of Mr., it did not denote marital status, but social position; a young girl coming from a higher class family would also be called "Mrs.", even though unmarried

**ms or ms, memoriae sacrum**

sacred to the memory of

**mulatto**

the offspring of one white and one black parent sometimes used, especially on census schedules, for Indians

**multiplepinding (pronounced 'multiplepinding')**

an action in which the court is asked to adjudicate upon conflicting claims made to property or money held by a third party, for example the police holding stolen property with more than one person claiming to be the rightful owner

**multo die**

late in the day

**muniment**

documents showing that a person has legal rights to land, possessions, or other privileges

**muniment of title**

all written evidence of title which can show proof of ownership

**muster out**

a discharge from military service

**mutatis mutandis**

making the necessary alterations. An existing document used for another purpose is read as altered to meet the different circumstances, for example trout could be bought using a salmon contract if it were to be read mutatis mutandis

**nailer**

blacksmith who made nails by cutting and shaping metal

**nathale**

Christmas

**natu minimus, also, pullus**

youngest child

**natu minor**

to be younger than another but not to be the youngest

**naturalization**

the process of becoming a citizen of the U.S.

**naturalize**

to grant full citizenship to one of foreign birth

**natus est**

was born

**navem conscendere**

to go abroad

**navis, navis**

ship [genitive plural navium]

**navvie**

a "navigator", a worker digging out canal beds, later roads.

**necrology**

a listing of obituaries, as in a newspaper; records of death

**née**

born; usually refers to a woman's maiden name

**nephew**

son of one's brother or sister; also an illegitimate son of an ecclesiastic, a niece, or a male or female grandchild

**nepos/neptis**

grandson/granddaughter

**neuter, neutra, neutrum (adjective)**

neither (of two things)

**nex interitus**

violent death

**nexus**

bond, or relationship by legal acts, for example a contract creates a nexus between the parties

**niece**

daughter of one's brother or sister; sometimes, granddaughter; (pre-seventeenth century England) any descendant, male or female, and occasionally, any younger relative

**night soil carrier**

person employed to remove and dispose of toilet waste

**nimious**

excessive

**nobilitas**

of high-standing birth

**nomen juris**

legal term: any word having a particular technical legal meaning, for example 'delict'

**nomen, nominis**

name

**nomina baptisatorum**

the names of those baptised

**nomina defunctorum**

the names of those who have died

**nomina nuptorum**

the names of those married

**nomina sepulorum**

the names of those buried

**nomine**

in the name of, in respect of, or, under the heading of

**non (adverb)**

not

**non compos mentis**

[Latin] incompetent, or not mentally capable of handling one's affairs

**non compos mentis**

of unsound mind

**non sequitur**

an illogical conclusion

**non., nonae**

the 5th day of most months but the 7th of March, May, July, October

**nonaginta**

ninety

**nongenti**

nine hundred

**nos**

we

**noster, nostra, nostrum (pronoun)**

our, ours

**notary**

solicitor, lawyer

**notary**

a person officially authorized to draw up or attest to contracts, wills, deeds, or similar documents

**notary public**

an official before whom affidavits and other documents may be sworn

**novation**

holding an obligation (e.g. a debt) to be at an end by replacing it with a new one, with the consent of all the parties concerned

**novem**

nine (does not decline)

**november, novembris**

November

**noverca**  
step-mother

**novus, -a, -um (adjective)**  
new

**now wife**  
exclusively found in wills, this term implied that there was a former wife

**now wife**  
exclusively found in wills, this term implied that there was a former (or ex-) wife

**nudius; nudius tertius**  
days since, days ago; day before yesterday

**nullus tunc venit**  
no one came

**nullus, -a, -um (adjective)**  
no, none

**nunc (adverb)**  
now

**nuncupative will**  
oral will which, to be valid, must be given by a person in their last hours, witnessed by two or more witnesses, and written within a period of six to twelve days

**nuper (adverb)**  
former, lately

**nuptiae**  
the marriage ceremony

**nurus**  
a person's daughter-in-law

**nutruis**  
foster child

**o!**  
Oh!

**oakum worker**  
took old ropes apart for the hemp fibre (oakum ) to be used for caulking (qv)

**obeo, obire, obii, obitum**  
to die

**obiit**  
[Latin] he/she died

**obiit sine prole**  
[Latin] died without issue

**obit**  
died

**obiter dictum**  
an opinion expressed by a judge on a point which is not essential to the decision of the case before him. Such opinions are not binding on other judges

**obituary**  
published notice of a death, sometimes with a brief biography of the deceased

**obitus**  
natural death

**obitus, -us**

death, anniversary of a death

**obtemper**

to obey, comply with or fulfil, used especially of a court order

**octava, -e (f. and plural)**

octave

**octingenti**

eight hundred

**octo**

eight (does not decline)

**october, octobris**

October

**octoginta**

eighty

**olim**

at times, or, at one time; once, or, once upon a time; one day in the future

**omnia et singla premissa predictus**

all and singular of the said premises

**omnis, -e (adjective)**

all

**onerous**

given for value, payment or services, as opposed to gratuitous

**onus of proof (onus probandi)**

the burden of proving each disputed issue of fact arising in a litigation

**opifices**

craftsman, artisan or maker of things

**orbus**

childless; but, when used in relation to a child it indicates that the child is without a father

**ordino, ordinare, ordinavi, ordinatum (1)**

to order, appoint

**oro, orare, oravi, oratum (1)**

to pray

**orraman**

spare man or odd-job man around the farm

**osler**

bird catcher

**ostendo, ostendere, ostendi, ostentum (3)**

to show

**ostensible**

usually seen in the phrase 'ostensible authority'; reliance placed by others on the authority of someone to enter into contracts on behalf of another person he certainly appears to represent

**ostler**

hostler, person looking after horses at an inn

**oua**

eggs

**ourman**

overseer

**outrider**

mounted attendant riding before or behind a carriage

**outworker**

person employed in outdoor work

**oval turner**

lathe operator who produced oval shaped wooden legs of tables, chairs, stair balusters. etc.

**overman**

supervisor in colliery checking mine and coal quality

**ovis**

sheep

**packman**

itinerant peddler

**paction**

an agreement or contract

**palingwright**

maker of wooden fencing (paling) for use on rural estates

**panis, -is**

bread

**panton heel maker**

maker of heels for slippers

**papa, -e**

pope

**parca, -e**

park

**parcus, -i**

park

**parens, parentis (m. and f.)**

parent

**pari passu**

equally; taking the same share or priority, usually when dividing up a debtor's assets

**parochialis, -e (adjective)**

parochial, parish

**parochus**

rector, pastor

**pars, partis (genitive plural partium)**

part

**parsona, -e**

parson

**parts and pertinents**

everything which passes with the actual land on its transfer or disposition, for example minerals or fishing rights

**pascha**

Easter

**passenger lists**

names and information of passengers who arrived by ship, often including their age, sex, occupation, place of origin

**passing off**

the misrepresentation of a business or goods with the purpose or effect of misleading the public into thinking that the business or the goods are those of another

**pastura, -e**  
pasture

**patent**  
a grant made by a government to an individual, conveying fee-simple title to public lands; the official document of such a grant; the land so granted

**pater**  
father

**pater, patris**  
father

**patronymic**  
in strict usage, a name formed by the addition of a prefix or suffix indicating sonship or other relationship to the name of one's father or paternal ancestors, as Johnson (son of John), MacDonald (son of Donald), etc.

**patruelis**  
a person's first cousin on the male side of the family

**patrui**  
uncle

**patruus, patruus magnus, patruus maior, patruus maximus**  
a person's uncle, grand-uncle, great-granduncle, great-great-granduncle on the male side of the family

**pattern maker**  
metal pattern makers made forms and moulds for casting iron products

**pattiesier**  
pastry cook

**pauper**  
person without money and means of earning a livelihood

**pavior**  
layer of masonry slabs and flag-stones, eg making a pavement

**pecora**  
livestock

**pecunia, -e**  
livestock

**pecus**  
cows, can also imply a flock of sheep

**pedigree**  
a list of ancestors; a lineage

**pedigree chart**  
graphic document that begins with one person and moves backward in time, showing the parents of each person in the tree

**pedlar**  
seller of small goods from door to door

**peever**  
pepper seller

**pellio**  
bonnet maker

**pelliparius**  
furrier

**pendente lite**  
so long as an action is pending before a court

**pendicler**

sub-tenant with some grass and arable land

**pensioner**

originally meant someone receiving an army pension after active service

**per (preposition + accusative)**

by, through, during

**per annum**

[Latin] by the year

**per eadum**

by the same, as in 'by the same terms the tenancy is held'

**per incuriam**

through mistake or error, for example something omitted from a deed

**per stirpes**

[Latin] distribution of an inheritance by giving equal shares to family groups rather than an equal percentage to each descendant

**peregrinator**

itinerant wanderer

**perendie**

day after tomorrow

**periculo petentis**

at the risk of the perpetrator. Thus if a bank account were arrested in error, the creditor would be liable in damages

**periwig-maker**

maker of wigs for gentlemen

**persona, -e (f.),**

parson

**personal bar**

the rule precluding a person from raising in court issues which his opponent believes were already resolved, provided that the opponent has done something to his disadvantage in relying on the previous arrangement, for example accepting a cheque in full and final settlement

**personal property**

property other than real estate

**pertinentia, -e**

appurtenance

**peruker**

wigmaker

**peto, petere, petivi, petitum (3)**

to petition, require, seek

**petrus, -i**

Peter

**pettifogger**

shyster lawyer

**peuterer**

worker in pewter

**philosophical instrument maker**

maker of scientific, mathematical and astronomical instruments

**pickermaker**

mill worker who made the "pickers" - leather attachments which drove a shuttle across a weaving loom

**piecer**

mill worker who joined threads broken by spinning

**pikar**

a petty thief

**pilearius/pileator**

hat maker

**pirn winder**

mill worker who threaded yarn on weaving looms

**piscaria, pisceriis**

fishery, fisheries

**piscarius**

fishmonger

**piscatores**

a fisher

**pistor**

baxter, baker

**pit brusher**

coal miner who repaired mine passage roofs and sides

**pit roadman**

mine worker preparing and repairing underground passageways

**pit sinker**

man contracted to sink new mine shafts

**pitheadman**

over-ground worker at a coal mine (pit)

**placing out**

[also PUTTING OUT] the placement of children outside the home as apprentices or servants to other people, usually in exchange for payment to the parents

**placitum, -i**

plea

**platelayer**

railway worker laying and repairing rails

**pleadings**

the formal written presentation of a party's case in court in a civil action

**plegius, -ii**

pledge

**plenishing**

furniture, equipment, stock or gear

**plewman**

ploughman

**ploughman**

farm servant with working horse, or team of horses, ploughing the fields

**plumber**

worked with lead on roofs and stained glass windows, as well as with lead water pipes . later copper pipes

**plw**

power-loom weaver- weaver working a powered loom in a textile mill

**point (pronounced 'pind')**

to seize a debtor's goods in his possession and inventory them prior to their public sale or handing over to the creditor in satisfaction of a decree

**pointsman**

railway worker who operates rail points

**polentarius**

malt maker

**police weigher**

at the docks he weighed goods and cargo as it came ashore

**pomarium**

an orchard

**pons, pontis**

bridge [genitive plural pontium]

**pony driver**

leading pony underground pulling coal hutches

**porcher**

pig keeper

**porcus, -i**

pig

**porter**

baggage carrier; or gate keeper

**porter**

gate-keeper or door-keeper

**portioner**

owner of land, previously divided amongst co-heirs

**portmanteau maker**

maker of leather trunk bags which opened into two equal parts

**pos., posuit**

placed

**post (preposition + accusative)**

after

**post boy**

guard travelling on a mail coach

**post litem motam**

after an action has been raised

**postea crescentibus**

otherwise due

**Posthumous**

after death

**posthumous child**

a child born after the death of the father

**postman**

delivers mail letters and parcels to residential and business addresses.

**postridie**

the next day, or, the day after

**potticar/pottefar**

apothecary

**ppict', propitius**  
favourable, gracious

**praeut**  
compared with

**prata**  
meadow or grassland

**pre (preposition + ablative)**  
before

**precognition**  
a preliminary statement of the evidence which a witness may be expected to give, taken down in writing. It is not signed and cannot usually be produced in court

**predictam**  
aforesaid

**predictus, -a, -um (adjective)**  
aforesaid

**prescription**  
rules of law by which rights are gained or lost by lapse of time, for example establishing a right of way or failing to sue for damages

**presens, presentis (adjective)**  
present

**presolvo**  
paid for previously

**preterea**  
moreover

**preventive officer**  
customs officer on boat in coastal waters

**prid., pridie**  
the day immediately before a specific day of any month

**prima facie**  
at first appearance or sight. A prima facie case is one which, at first sight, appears compelling and calls for an answer

**primary record**  
a record created at the time of the event (birth, marriage, death, etc.) as opposed to records written years later

**primo loco**  
in the first place. Secundo loco means in the second place, and so forth

**primogenitor**  
the earliest ancestor or forefather

**primogeniture**  
an old common-law system of inheritance whereby the oldest son inherited the father's property

**print compositor**  
person who sets up type for printing

**print cutter**  
person who makes the printing blocks

**printfield worker**  
mill worker who printed cloth with dyes and inks.

**prior, prioris**  
prior

**priscus**  
aboriginal

**prius (adverb)**  
before

**privigna, privignus**  
a person's step-daughter, step-son

**pro (preposition + ablative)**  
for, during, as far as, in accordance with, in return for

**pro bono publico**  
for the public good; for the advantage of the public generally

**pro defalta tenentie**  
by default of the tenancy

**pro indiviso**  
in common; in an undivided manner; as of one person's right in property owned in common by two or more persons

**pro non scripto**  
as if not written; matters in a deed that are ignored, for example illegal or impossible conditions in a will

**pro rata**  
proportionately

**proavia/proavus**  
a person's great-grandmother/great-grandfather

**probabilis causa litigandi**  
a probable or plausible ground of action, for example an applicant for legal aid must demonstrate that he has such grounds for taking or defending the proceedings in question

**probate**  
originally the proving of a will; now describes the process of legally establishing the validity of a will of a deceased person and settling an estate before a judicial authority

**probation**  
proof of facts in civil proceedings

**probatum**  
proved see probare

**probatum**  
approved, such as the case of a Will having been probated or proved in Court

**probo, probare, probavi, probatum (1)**  
to prove (a will)

**procurator**  
lawyer or advocate

**procurator-fiscal**  
principal public prosecutor in district

**production**  
a document or article produced as evidence in court (in English law, an exhibit)

**progenitor**  
an originator of a line of descent, frequently used in reference to the immigrant ancestor

**progeny**  
the issue or descendants of a common ancestor

**proles**  
offspring

**pronepos/proneptis**

great-grandson/great-granddaughter

**prorogate**

(1) to confer on a court, by consent of the parties, jurisdiction to hear a case it could not otherwise allow to proceed;  
(2) to extend a time limit for procedure in the course of a litigation

**prout**

according as

**proved**

documents such as wills, deeds, bills of sale, etc., having their accuracy and honesty attested to through legal proceedings in a court of law

**proving the tenor**

an action in which the pursuer seeks to prove, from drafts, copies or otherwise, the contents of a lost or destroyed document

**provost**

elected head of town burgh council

**pruneta**

plum trees

**publican**

keeper of a public house or "pub" offering ales and spirits to the public.

**puddler**

iron worker operating a puddling or ball furnace where cast iron turned into wrought iron

**puella**

girl or young wife

**puellula**

little girl

**puellus**

little boy

**puer**

boy, child, son also a term for a slave

**puer, pueri**

boy

**pueritia (puertia)**

childhood, youth

**pulcher, pulchra, pulchrum (adjective)**

beautiful

**pultreman**

poultryman

**pumbum worker**

plumber

**quadregesima**

representing the 40 days of Lent and therefor, taken as meaning Lent

**quadraginta**

forty

**quadrans**

a measure equal to one-fourth, or, one-quarter

**quadriennium**

four years

**quadringenti**  
four hundred

**quadroon**  
a child of a mulatto and a white; a child with one black grandparent

**quaestio inter sicarios**  
to stand trial for the crime of murder

**quaestores**  
money lender or treasury official

**quando dominus uoluerit (voluerit)**  
when the Lord (of the manor) shall wish

**quantum**  
how much, for example damages payable

**quantum lucratus**  
how much gained; where work has been done with no agreement at all (say a garage built on a neighbour's driveway instead of yours) the person who has gained will have to pay the builder but only by the amount his house has increased in value, which may not be the same as the cost of the works themselves. Compare quantum meruit

**quantum meruit**  
what it is worth. Where parties agreed that work was to be done but did not agree a price then the contractor is entitled to the going rate, as opposed to quantum lucratus

**quantum valeat**  
for what it is worth; a court may allow what appears to be irrelevant evidence to be led, just in case it sheds light on the case later

**quarrier**  
worker in stone quarry

**quarrier**  
quarry worker

**quarryman**  
stonecutter

**quattuor**  
four

**quattuordecim**  
fourteen

**que fuit filia/fil et heres**  
who was the daughter/son and heir

**quedam**  
a certain, as in referring to a certain piece of land or property

**quemlibet terminum**  
each term, such as in calling for the dates of payment of monies due at certain times of the year

**quheilwright**  
wheelwright

**qui, que, quod (pronoun)**  
who, whom, which

**quicumque legerit hunc titulum**  
whoever reads this inscription

**quid pro quo**  
[Latin] "value for value"; that which is received in consideration for something that is requested, done, or given

**quid pro quo**  
something given in return for something else; the price paid for goods

**quiete (adverb)**

peacefully

**quietus, -a, -um (adjective)**

freely, quit

**quinctilis**

the term used to describe the fifth month of the Roman calendar, which month we know as July

**quincunx**

a measure equal to five-twelfths

**quindecim**

fifteen

**quine**

a young woman (queen) - aberdeenshire

**quingenti**

five hundred

**quinguaginta**

fifty

**quinque**

five

**quinquennium**

five years

**quit rent fee**

in early Virginia, an annual fee (1 shilling for 50 acres of land) paid to the king in exchange for the right to live on and farm the property

**quit-claim deed**

a deed releasing claim to an estate or property by an individual to another person

**quit-rent**

a fee paid to a feudal lord so that the tenant could farm the land without being obligated to serve the lord in other capacities

**quoad ultra**

all the rest; in civil actions some of the facts may be admitted and quoad ultra denied

**quod**

because, that (after 'to know', 'to say')

**quolibet**

each

**quondam**

formerly

**quorum**

the legal number of persons required to be present to conduct business

**quotannis**

every year

**r.c.c**

roman catholic clergyman

**r.i.p., requiescat in pace**

may he/she rest in peace

**radulphus, -i**

Ralph

**rafter**

assembled floating logs into rafts for towing to timber mill

**ragman's-roll**

a register, compiled by a representative of the pope, of the beneficiaries in Scotland

**railway lengthsman**

railway worker responsible for maintaining a length of rail track

**railway waggoner**

railway worker responsible for coupling and decoupling railway wagons

**range**

the area between range lines (north-south running lines) as a part of the Rectangular Survey System together with the township lines (east-west running lines) range lines form areas of six miles square or 36 square miles, called townships

**ranselman**

was empowered by court to search houses for stolen property

**ratio decidendi**

the judge's legal reason or ground on which a case is decided

**rattlewatch**

town watchman

**reader**

a student in law, medicine, or other classical subject

**rebut**

to counter an opponent's case with evidence or arguments

**reclaim**

to appeal in a defended action

**recognosco, recognoscere, recognovi, recognitum (3)**

to acknowledge

**rectangular survey system**

a method of surveying property provided for under the Land Ordinance of 1785 passed by the Continental Congress which divided the public land states into thirty-seven separate survey systems, each separate survey consisting of a starting point, an east-west running base line, and a north-south running principal meridian

**red leader**

painting a red lead oxide paint onto metal surfaces to protect them, eg ship metal

**reddit**

renders, as in renders service to another individual

**redditionum et servicii**

rights and services

**redditus, -us**

rent

**reddo, reddere, reddidi, redditum (3)**

to give back, pay, surrender, yield

**redemption**

the regaining of property once lost to forfeiture or foreclosure

**reeler**

mill worker who put the yarns onto reels before weaving

**regent**

schoolmaster or professor

**regina, -e**

queen

**registrar**

an official who registers/records events such as land transactions, probates, births, deaths, etc.

**reidare**

minor clergyman in early church, a reader

**relict**

a widow or widower; the surviving spouse

**relict**

widow

**reliquam**

remainder

**remainder**

the part of the estate that is left after a prior interest ends

**removed**

moved; left

**repetition**

the repayment of money which has been paid in error

**repone**

to appeal in an undefended action

**repudiate**

to indicate by actions or words that a party does not intend to perform an obligation

**res judicata**

a case or issue decided finally, so that it may not be raised again in a litigation between the same parties

**res nullius**

something which belongs to nobody

**res sua**

one's own property

**res, rei**

a thing

**rescind**

to terminate or cancel a contract for lawful reasons, as opposed to merely breaking it

**resetter**

receiver or concealer of stolen goods

**residuary bequest**

a bequest which consists of anything left over after the fees and debts have been paid in an estate

**residuary clause**

a clause in a will which conveys any and everything left of a residuary legacy to the beneficiary

**residuary devisee**

beneficiary in a will who is to take all real property remaining after other legacies have been satisfied

**residuary estate**

all the rest and residue; everything that has not been disposed of other than what remains in the residuary clause

**residue**

the surplus of a testator's estate when all other obligations have been legally taken care of

**residuum**

[Latin] the remainder of an estate after all debts and legacies have been dispersed

**restitutio in integrum**

entire restoration: putting someone back in the position in which they would have been had the transaction or event in question not taken place

**retortman**

in gas works, operated large oven in which coal was baked to manufacture coal gas.

**retrocession**

the opposite of assignation; giving back a right conveyed to another, most commonly an insurance policy assigned as additional security for a house loan

**revenue stamp**

a stamp placed on goods and documents to show that the tax had been collected

**revenuer**

federal officer enforcing the law against illegal manufacturing of whiskey

**reverse index**

in probate, an index listing those involved in the probate process, not the deceased

**rex, regis**

king

**ricardus, -i**

Richard

**riddler**

maker or user of coarse sieves (riddles) for grain, soil, etc.

**riever**

robber, originally of cattle

**rivetter**

shipyard worker joining metal plates with hammered rivets

**robertus, -i**

Robert

**roda, rode**

a rod (land measurement)

**rogerus, -i**

Roger

**rope spinner**

maker of rope by braiding yarns of cotton or flax

**rotulus, -i**

roll, record

**rove carrier**

moved fibres of heckled flax (rove) before spinning as linen thread.

**rover**

operator of mill machine which prepared the carded fibres of wool, cotton, etc.

**rower**

builder of small wagon wheels

**sacerdos**

a priest

**sacramentum, -i**

oath, sacrament

**saddler**

maker and repairer of horse saddles and leathers

**salinator**

one who added salt as a preservative

**saltare**

salter, maker of salt

**sanctus, -a, -um (adjective)**

saint

**sandpaperer**

see french polisher

**sapiens, sapientis (adjective)**

wise

**sarcinator**

patcher, sackmaker

**sartor**

tailor

**sawbones**

surgeon or physician

**sawyer**

worker in sawmill or timber pit

**sawyer**

sawer of wood

**scallag**

poor male or female farm servant of a tacksman

**scavenger**

1. the 'scaffie' was a dustman or street sweeper 2. worker in a jute mill picking up loose bits of material from the floor

**scholar**

a child attending school

**schoolmaster**

head school teacher

**sciant omnes**

know all men

**sciant presentes et futuri**

know all [men] present and future

**sciendum quod omne**

let it be know that all....

**scilicet (adverb)**

namely

**scilicet or "scilt"**

that is

**scio, scire, scivi, scitum (4)**

to know

**scissor**

tailor

**sclater**

slater, a roof tiler with slates

**scourer**

washed raw wool by hand with soap or urine before processing,

**scriptum, -i**

writing

**scrivener**

scribe employed to draft contracts, prepare accounts, etc

**scrivener**

scribe or clerk

**scrofa**

sows

**scrutineer**

election judge

**scullery maid**

girl employed to scour pots, scrub stairs, empty and clean chamber pots etc

**se**

himself

**se defendo, defendere, defendi, defensum (3)**

to be assessed at

**seafarer**

one who found employment on ships - a seaman.

**seamstress**

woman who sewed, made and mended clothes

**seceder**

member of secession church which broke away in 1733.

**secondary record**

or secondary source; a record created some time after the event or copied from other sources

**secundum (preposition + accusative)**

according to

**secundum consuetudem**

according to custom

**sed (set)**

but

**sedecim**

sixteen

**sedeo, sedere, sedi, sessum (2)**

to sit

**seges**

cornfield, or crops in general

**seised/seized**

to be the legal fee simple possessor

**seisin/seizin**

a freehold (held in fee or for life) estate at one time land could only be held in seisen, because all land was owned by the reigning sovereign

**seit fuit**

was seized

**selectman**

in New England, one of 3 to 7 men chosen annually to manage to affairs of a small town

**semestre spatium**

half of a year

**semis**

a measure equal to one-half

**semper (adverb)**

always

**senectus**

old age

**senex**

a man or woman 45 years of age or older, old man, old woman

**separatim**

separately; a technical term of written pleadings introducing a secondary line of defence which is unrelated to the principal defence, for example a counterclaim

**separatists**

[also Independents] those who withdrew from the Church of England in the sixteenth century

**sepe (adverb)**

often

**septem**

seven (does not decline)

**september, septembris**

September

**septemdecim**

seventeen

**septingenti**

seven hundred

**septuaginta**

seventy

**sepulcralis**

a funeral

**sepulcretum**

cemetery

**sepulcrum**

a grave or tomb

**sepultura**

burial

**sequens, sequentis**

following

**sequentia**

[Latin] the following

**sequor (3)**

to follow

**seriand**

a constable or bailiff

**seruicium (servicium) militare**

military service

**servant/servitor/**

servant/servants

**servi**

maid servants

**servicium, -ii**

service

**servitor**

household servant (male) ; or a lawyer's clerk or secretary

**servitrix**

household servant (female)

**servitrix/servus/**

servant/servants

**sescenti**

six hundred

**settmaker**

cutter of stones, often granite, to make cobbled streets.

**sewer**

tailor or shoemaker

**sex**

six

**sexaginta**

sixty

**sextans**

a measure equal to one-sixth

**sextilis**

the term used to describe the sixth month of the Roman calendar, which month we know as August

**sexton**

layman guarding church building and vestments

**sharecropper**

a person who would farm ground owned by another, and divide the crops or the profits with the owner

**sheriff**

chief officer of crown in county

**sheriff/shrieve**

sheriff

**shilling**

an English coin equivalent to twelve pennies or one twentieth of a pound

**shingler**

roof tiler with wooden shingles (cf slater) (but see also iron shingler)

**ship master**

owner or captain of a ship

**ship stager**

stagers in a shipyard erected wooden scaffolding and platforms around a ship being built.

**shipwright**

constructor and repairer of ships. a ship carpenter.

**shire**

a county in Great Britain

**sho.**

shopman, person employed in retail trade

**shopa, -e**

shop

**sibling**

a brother or sister

**sicut (adverb)**

just as

**sigillum, -i**  
seal

**silva, -e**  
wood

**silvae, sylvae**  
woodlands or forests

**silvaticus, -a, -um (adjective)**  
wild

**simo, simonis**  
Simon

**sine**  
[Latin] without

**sine (preposition + ablative)**  
without

**sine die**  
[Latin] "without a day"; dismissing a proceeding, such as a court term, without determining a day for it to begin again

**sine die**  
indefinitely; without a day being fixed, for example for a resumption of adjourned proceedings

**sine loco**  
[Latin] without place

**sine prole**  
[Latin] without issue; without children

**sine prole supersite**  
[Latin] without surviving issue (children)

**sine qua non**  
an essential condition or factor

**sine, sine die**  
without, without a date

**skinner**  
flayer of animal hides for leather

**slater**  
roof tiler with slates

**sledder**  
driver of a sled or sledge, much used over soft ground in preference to wheeled carts

**smith**  
metal worker, usually a blacksmith

**snobscat**  
repaired shoes

**soca, -e**  
soc

**socer**  
mother's father, a man's father-in-law

**social security death index**  
an index of records containing names of deceased Social Security recipients whose relatives applied for Social Security Death Benefits after their passing which includes the individual's name and Soundex code, birth date, death date, Social Security number and state where it was issued

**socrus**

mother's mother, a man's mother-in-law

**solatium**

compensation or damages given for the injury to feelings, reputation, pain, suffering and loss of expectation of life, as opposed to, say, loss of earnings

**solicitor**

lawyer

**solidis**

an English shilling

**solidus, -i**

shilling

**solummodo**

only

**solus, -a, -um (adjective)**

alone, only

**solutio, solutionis**

a payment made or to be made

**solvere, solvi, solvo, solutum**

to pay

**solvitur**

released, set free

**solvo, solvere, solvi, solutum (3)**

to pay

**soror**

sister

**soror consanguinea**

step-sister sharing a common father

**soror uterina**

step-sister sharing a common mother

**soror, sororis**

sister

**sororis maritus**

a wife's husband's brother, a woman's brother-in-law

**sortor**

tailor

**soundex**

a card index system prepared by the Works Progress Administration for the federal censuses; names are arranged by letter and number codes according to the sounds of their consonants; thus, even if a name is misspelled or spelled in an unexpected way, it can often be located in the Soundex index

**souter**

shoemaker

**spargener**

plasterer

**special service**

specific property

**spectioner**

third mate on a whaling ship, who checked all was correctly stowed in the hold.

**spinster**

woman who spins textiles (also term for an unmarried woman)

**spirit merchant**

dealer in spirits, wines and ale

**sponsiones ludicrae**

a promise in jest; an agreement unenforceable because the parties did not seriously intend to be bound in law, for example a bet

**spouse**

a husband or wife

**sprigger**

embroiderer of fine lace and muslin; see also boot sprigger

**squarewright**

worker in fine furniture

**stabler**

one who stables horses

**stallarius**

stabler

**stampmaster**

official inspector who had powers to impose fines or penalties on faulty or fraudulent manufacturing.

**state of franklin**

a state reorganized in 1784 in the western part of North Carolina and which ceased to exist in 1788, now a part of eastern Tennessee

**station master**

railway employee in charge of station

**steerage**

a section in a passenger ship for those paying the lowest fare

**stereotyper**

printing plate maker of stereotype metal plates. (see also electrotyper)

**stevedore**

dock worker loading and unloading ships cargo

**steward**

chief servant of household of royal or noble family

**stillman**

worker in whisky distillery in charge of operating the copper still

**stillroom maid**

female servant who worked in the still room, preparing wines, jams, pickles.

**stirpes**

[Latin] [1] a family or branch of family; [2] in law, the person from whom everyone in a family is descended

**stoker**

stoked fuel into a furnace or boiler, eg on a ship

**stone hewer**

1. a miner who drilled holes in the coal face prior to dynamiting. 2. a sculptor or mason in stone.

**stravaiger**

a wanderer, a vagrant

**stuffgownsmen**

junior barrister

**sub (preposition + accusative) up to, (preposition + ablative)**

under

**sub iudice**

in the hands of the law; a matter or dispute pending before a court: this usually means that it cannot be discussed or commented upon until the case is over

**subinquillinus**

sub-tenant

**subito**

suddenly

**subject superior**

precept of clare constat clearly known who is to inherit -sasine

**subrogation**

the legal principle under which a person who has paid money to someone is entitled to take up any right to recover what he paid from a third party, for example a motor insurance company, having paid out to its policyholder, can still sue the other driver if they caused the accident

**subsequens, subsequentis**

the following (adjective)

**sugar baker**

one who owned or worked in a sugar factory, refining raw sugar from the west indies

**sui iuris est**

he is of age

**suillus, sus**

pigs

**sum, esse, fui**

to be

**sumlier**

butler (sommelier)

**summa, -e**

sum

**suo periculo**

at one's own risk

**super (preposition + accusative)**

over, (preposition + ablative) upon

**superannato**

a livestock yearling

**suprasupra scriptum**

[Latin] as written above

**surety**

a guarantee or a person who assumes the responsibility for another such as one who promises to pay someone else's debts if he defaults

**surfaceman**

laid and repaired surface of road or railway, or mine passage

**surname**

the last or family name that a person bears in common with others in his/her famil

**surrender**

a land record which involves giving up land before the lease has expired with the mutual consent of both parties

**surveyor of taxes**

responsible for calculating and levying taxes on property and possessions

**survivorship clause**

a clause in a will or conveyance which provides that should one of the several beneficiaries or grantees die before they inherit, their interest is to pass to the survivor or those who survive

**sutler**

accompanies troops in the field or garrison and sells food, drink, and supplies

**sutor**

cordiner, shoemaker

**suus, sua, suum (pronoun)**

his, her, its, their (own)

**swerde-slipper**

sword sharpener

**sword slipper**

maker of sword sheaths

**taciturnity**

a presumption that the inactivity of a creditor means that the obligation is no longer due

**tacksman**

superior farm tenant with a lease or tack on one or more farms.

**tacksman/taxman**

tenant, holding the lease or "tack"

**tail**

an estate which does not descend to heirs generally, but to the heirs of the donee's body in a direct line if the posterity continues in a regular order and upon the death of the first owner without issue the estate is terminated

**tailor**

one who makes, repairs, or alters clothes

**tailzeor**

tailor

**tambourer**

embroiderer using hoops to hold the cloth

**tandem (adverb)**

at length

**tanner**

curer of animal hides to make leather

**tanner/tannator**

one who tans/cures animal hides into leather

**tantum et tale**

something accepted by a buyer just as it is, without warranty

**taper**

candlewick maker or seller

**tapsman**

head servant in charge

**taxation**

the assessment of a solicitor's account for legal expenses or charges in litigation by the Auditor of Court to establish a fair fee

**tearer**

assisted a cloth printer in a print mill . usually a youngster.

**tegularius**

tiler, slater

**teignus, -i**  
thane

**tempus fugit**  
time flies

**tempus, temporis**  
time, period

**tenancy**  
residence on, and use of land, without owning it

**tenancy by the entirety**  
the ownership of property by a husband and wife together in which on the death of one the entire interest in the property diverts to the other

**tenancy in common**  
property that is held by two persons in tenancy in common the right of survivorship does not apply in this case the property automatically becomes part of the estate and is taken care of according to the terms of the will

**tenant**  
a name used for indentured servants who were settled on farms, supplied with tools, and engaged to remain on the land seven years; one who holds property by ownership or temporarily by leasing or renting

**tenant farmer**  
a renter or one who is allowed to farm a particular piece of land in trade for services given; farmer who did not own the land worked

**tenant in common**  
a possession of the land as a whole by several persons, each having a separate title, although the land is not divided

**tenants-in-capite**  
a person holding feudal land directly from the king, usually several manors, who would in turn sub-infeud to other tenants

**tenement**  
any property that can be held, but most often refers to houses and land

**tenementer**  
tenant of dwelling in large town building (tenement)

**tenementum, -i**  
tenement

**tenens**  
a tenant

**teneo, tenere, tenui, tentum (2)**  
to hold

**tenet**  
to hold, such as in holding a piece of property

**tenor**  
the exact wording in a legal document or an exact copy

**tenter**  
mechanic who tended and repaired apparatus, for example a weaver's power loom ,

**terce**  
a life-rent given by law to a widow, which consists of a third of her husband's estate on the condition that the marriage has lasted one year and a day, or that there is a living child of the marriage

**terce land**  
the rent from land given to a widow as her terce

**terminus**  
a term as in the length of time of a lease

**terminus a quo**

the point from which a time limit begins to run

**terminus, -i**

term, period, end, boundary, limit

**terra ista iacet (jacet) in**

this land lies in, as in, this land lies in the parish of Melksham

**terra vocat**

land called

**terra, -e**

land

**terrere**

COWS

**terrier**

book or scroll used to record land description, usage, etc.

**tertio quoque anno**

every other year

**testable**

something that can be given by will; capable of making or witnessing a will

**testament**

the disposition of one's personal property by will

**testamentary**

referring to, given by, or appointed by a will

**testamentary bond**

security posted with the court by the executor of an estate to insure that the wishes of the deceased be followed

**testamentary guardian**

a guardian appointed to be responsible for the inheritance of a minor child

**testamentum**

[Latin] will; testament

**testamentum, -i**

will, testament

**testate**

having a valid will upon death

**testate**

having died leaving a valid will

**testator**

the person who makes a will

**testatrix**

a female who leaves a valid will

**teste**

the concluding and witnessing clause of a writ or other legal document which expresses the date of its issue and the name of the judge

**testim et ultime voluntatis**

last Will and Testament

**testimonium, -ii**

witness, testimony

**testing clause**

the clause at the end of a deed identifying the parties signing and specifying the date and place of execution and the witnesses' details

**testis**

[Latin] a witness

**testis, testis (m., f.)**

witness

**textor**

weaver

**thatcher**

roofer working with natural cut reeds or heather thatch

**thirdborough**

tithing man or deputy constable

**thomas, -e**

Thomas

**thong maker**

(no not those thongs!). a maker of leather whips and thongs.

**tick maker**

upholsterer

**tick manufacturer**

a weaver of various fabrics

**tide waiter**

customs inspector

**tidewaiter**

customhouse officer who secured payment of duty from merchant vessels coming in to port

**time bar**

the effect of lapse of time on a person's rights, preventing them from taking steps to enforce those rights or extinguishing them entirely. See also prescription

**timeous**

within the period allowed by law

**tincter**

lister, dyer

**tinker**

travelling repairman, or tinsmith, seller of pots and pans

**tinker**

itinerant mender of kettles and pans

**tipstaff**

policeman

**tithe**

associated with the payment of offerings (in kind or money) to a church or the government as tax

**title to sue**

legal right to raise an action

**todman**

man employed to kill foxes (tods) on an estate

**tofta, -e**

house, toft, house and outbuildings

**tonsor**

barber

**topper**

a seamstress, for example, of shirts

**totalis, -e (adjective)**

total

**toties quoties**

as often as; for each time

**totus, -a, -um (adjective)**

all, whole

**towsman**

man in charge of the halyards on a fishing boat

**trecenti**

three hundred

**tredecim**

thirteen

**trencherman**

cook

**tres, tria**

three (does not decline)

**triduum**

three days

**triennium**

for a period of three years

**triens**

a measure equal to one-third

**triginta**

thirty

**tripper**

dancer

**tritavia, tritavus**

a person's great-great-great-great-grandmother or great-great-great-great-grandfather

**trustee**

one who holds legal title to property in order to administer it for a beneficiary

**tubinnator**

trumpeter

**tunc (adverb)**

then

**turkey red dyer**

turkey red from madder root was used to dye cotton cloth ( united turkey red co.ltd. alexandria )

**turner**

a lathe operator, shaping wood or metal

**turris, turris**

tower

**tuus, tua, tuum (pronoun)**

your, yours (one person)

**type-founder**

printer who set out individual letters on printing blocks

**uberrimae fidei**

in utmost good faith; having concealed nothing

**ubi (adverb)**

where, when

**ubi supra**

where above mentioned

**uirgatam (virgatam)**

a virgate (land measurement)

**ullus, -a, -um (adjective)**

any

**ultimo**

[Latin] in the month immediately preceding

**ultimo**

often found in early English parish registers to indicate the last day of a month rather than the more formal prid. Kal., or pridie Kalendis ...

**ultimo die**

[Latin] final day

**ultimus**

[Latin] last, end, furthest

**ultimus haeres**

the ultimate heir. The Crown is ultimus haeres if there are no other heirs

**ultra vires**

beyond the powers. The term is used especially in the context of local government, trustees and companies who purport to have the authority to do something but legally they do not

**unamaliam**

another

**uncia**

one-twelfth, or, one ounce

**undecim**

eleven

**underground railroad**

the system which took slaves to freedom in fourteen Northern states by 1830, and about 50,000 between 1840 and 1860

**undeviginti**

nineteen

**unigena**

[Latin] only-begotten; only; of one family

**unigenitus**

[Latin] the only son

**unjust enrichment**

the principle that a person who receives an unmerited and unjustifiable benefit to another person's loss should recompense that other person. See quantum lucratus

**unlaw**

any transgression of the law, act of injustice, a fine, or a law that has no real authority

**unofficial will**

a will made without any regard as to natural obligations of inheritance

**unprobated will**

a will which was never submitted for probate, which may have been lost for a time

**unregistered will**

will that has been proved but not entered into a volume of copy or registered wills at the probate court, either because an executor was not disposed to pay fees for registering, or because the probate court did not maintain registered copies at that period of time

**unseated**

persons who were taxed for land that they owned but did not live on

**unseated land**

unsettled area

**unsolemn will**

a will where no executor is named

**unum quid**

one thing; where several things are for some purpose or reason considered and treated together as one

**unus, -a, -um (adjective)**

one

**usufruct**

the right to enjoy property and the benefits thereof as long as the property itself is not harmed nor depleted

**usury**

the practice of lending money at a rate of interest that is excessive or unlawfully high

**ut**

[Latin] in what manner; in the manner that

**ut infra**

[Latin] as below

**ut supra**

[Latin] as above

**uter, utra, utrum (adjective)**

which (of two things)

**uterine**

having the same mother but different fathers

**uxor**

[Latin] wife; spouse; consort

**uxor**

wife

**uxor, uxoris**

wife

**uxoris frater**

a man's wife's brother, a man's brother-in-law

**vabster**

a weaver

**vacancy**

[1] an opening referring to land or housing; [2] a pause or break in the workings of a probate court because of the death or resignation of the main official; [3] in Texas, an area of unsurveyed school land, not listed in land office records, between two or more recorded surveys

**vacant land**

unappropriated public land, including land that has been occupied but on which no binding title had been given and the land thus reverted to the state

**vacant possession**

no obstruction and no person (such as a tenant) in occupation to prevent a purchaser enjoying actual possession of a property

**vacca**

cows

**vaccae fetal (foetal)**

breeding cows

**vaccae steriles**

barren cows

**valetudo**

ill-health

**valid**

that which is legally binding, legitimate or good

**vanity book**

a county (any local) history book for which people subscribed before the book was written on the condition their families would be included in its pages

**vanman**

driver of a light commercial or delivery vehicle, such as a bread van

**vassal**

in the Middle Ages, a person who held land under the feudal system by pledging loyalty to a lord and performing services, military or otherwise, in return for his protection

**vendue**

a public auction or sale

**venerabilis, -e, (adjective)**

venerable

**venia**

absolution

**venio, venire, veni, ventum (4)**

to come

**verba jacantia**

empty, vain words; words spoken in jest

**verbatim**

[Latin] word for word

**verbum, -i**

word

**vergens ad inopiam**

on the brink of becoming insolvent

**vermin trapper**

employed to trap and kill rats, mice, foxes, moles, as pests.

**versus (preposition + accusative)**

against

**vester, vestra, vestrum (pronoun)**

your

**vestiarius**

clothier

**vestiarus**

keeper of the wardrobe

**vetitus**

illicit

**vetus, veteris (adjective)**

old

**vexatious litigant**

a person who brings proceedings primarily for the purpose of annoying or embarrassing the defender. The Court of Session may prohibit a vexatious litigant from raising court actions unless the court's approval has first been obtained

**vi clam aut precario**

to hold by force, or otherwise without legal right, for example a squatter

**via, -e**

road, street

**vicarius, -ii**

vicar

**victualler**

supplier of food and provisions

**viculus**

[Latin] village; hamlet

**videlicet**

[Latin] namely; to wit; that is to say

**videlicet (adverb)**

namely, to wit, that is

**video, videre, vidi, visum (2)**

to see

**videus**

[Latin] living; true to life; vigorous

**vidua**

[Latin] widow

**vidua, -e**

widow

**viduus**

[Latin] widower; widow

**vigilia, -e**

eve

**viginti**

twenty

**viginti duo**

twenty two

**viginti novem**

twenty nine

**viginti octo**

twenty eight

**viginti quattuor**

twenty four

**viginti quinque**

twenty five

**viginti septem**

twenty seven

**viginti sex**  
twenty six

**viginti tres**  
twenty three

**viginti unus**  
twenty one

**villa, -e**  
vill, town

**villanage**  
base servitude; tenure on condition of doing the lowest kind of services for the lord

**villein**  
serf

**villeinage**  
base servitude; tenure on condition of doing the lowest kind of services for the lord

**vinea, vinetum**  
grape vines, vineyard

**vintner**  
wine merchant

**vir**  
[Latin] man; boy; male; husband; soldier

**vir**  
grown man, also, a husband

**vir, viri**  
man, husband

**virgata, -e**  
virgate

**virgin**  
in bonds or licences of England, an unmarried woman

**virgo, virginis**  
virgin

**visus, -us**  
view

**vita brevis**  
life is short

**vita, -e**  
life

**vital records**  
civil records of birth, marriage and death

**vitious intromission**  
the unwarranted dealing with the movable estate of a deceased person

**vitious intromitter**  
a person who takes possession of the property of a deceased person without lawful authority

**vitner**  
wine merchant

**vitri compositor**  
glass wright, glazier

**vitricus**  
step-father

**vitulus/vitula**  
male/female calf

**vivus**  
[Latin] alive; living

**vixit annos**  
[Latin] he or she lived (a certain number) years

**vixit bene plenis**  
lived to be a good old age

**vixor**  
[Latin] wife

**voco, vocare, vocavi, vocatum (1)**  
to call

**void**  
null; having no legal effect whatsoever, for example a marriage by a person under age

**voidable**  
apparently valid, but tainted in some way, so that a contract, deed or obligation may be declared invalid at a later date but remains in force until then

**vulcan**  
blacksmith

**vulcanite comb maker**  
rubber worker making hard (vulcanite) combs for the textile industry, for combing wool etc.

**w.s.**  
writer to the signet (solicitor)

**wadsetter**  
creditor or holder of land or property under mortgage

**wainwright**  
wagon maker

**waiver**  
an intentional and voluntary giving up of one's rights

**waiver**  
an express or implied voluntary renunciation of a right. A superior may expressly renounce or modify conditions in a feu charter by a minute of waiver

**walkster**  
cloth worker cleaning and thickening cloth by wetting and walking over it

**walterus, -i**  
Walter

**wampum**  
small cylindrical beads made from polished shells and fashioned into strings or belts, formerly used by certain Native American peoples as currency and jewelry or for ceremonial exchanges between groups; also called peag

**warning out**  
the practice of ordering poor or indigent persons or families to leave a community if they are looked upon as potentially becoming dependent upon the town, township, city, etc. for support

**warper**  
mill loom operator who set the warp thread (yarn) on the looms before weaving.

**warrant**  
a written judicial authority, for example for service of a writ, sale, search or eviction

**warrant sale**

the public sale of articles which have been pointed

**warranty**

an express or implied material guarantee in a contract

**wasta, -e**

waste

**weaver**

maker of cloth from yarns of wool, cotton, silk etc. operator of hand loom or textile mill power loom .

**weaver**

weaver

**webster/wobster**

operated looms / weaver

**weigher**

weighed goods prior to sale or approval . see iron weigher and police weigher .

**westmonasterium, -ii**

Westminster

**wharfinger**

owner of a wharf

**wheelwright**

maker or repairer of wheels

**wheelwright**

a person who builds wagon wheels

**wheelwright**

one who constructs or repairs wheels

**whitcher**

maker of chests

**white seam sewer**

seamstress who sewed white material such as sheets, pillows cases, etc

**whitesmith**

worker in tin and light metals (cf. blacksmith)

**whitewing**

street sweeper

**wilhelmus, -i**

William

**will**

the legal document containing the statement of a person's wishes regarding the disposal of his or her property after death

**willelmus, -i**

William

**wincey weaver**

weaver using string cotton thread

**winder**

textile mill worker who wound the thread on weaving looms. see cotton winder

**winding up**

the process of liquidation or bringing to a close the affairs of a limited company which has become insolvent

**wire weaver**

operated power loom to weave wire into industrial cloths, sieves, etc.

**without prejudice**

(1) in statutes or documents, this phrase introduces a saving clause, creating an exception to the provision in which the phrase is used; (2) in negotiations for the settlement of a dispute, indicates correspondence which, if the negotiations fail, is not to be founded on in later litigation

**wobster**

a weaver

**wobster**

weaver

**wrecker**

plunderer of a shipwreck, sometimes luring ships to destruction.

**wright**

joiner or carpenter

**wright**

one who constructs or repairs things

**writ of arrest**

a formal arrest document; warrant

**writ of attachment**

a court order to a court official to seize and hold property enough to cover debts and court costs for not appearing in court

**writ of capias**

a formal arrest document; warrant

**writ of capias ad satisfaciendum**

a document which required the loser (debtor) to be imprisoned until the debt was paid

**writ of fieri facias**

a court order to seize (attach) and sell goods belonging to the loser in a court case to pay debts owed

**writ of summons**

a document commanding a person to appear in court

**writ of venire facias**

a document issued to call men to be jurors

**writer**

solicitor

**writer**

writer

**wrongous**

wrongful, for example 'wrongous imprisonment'

**wryt**

writer

**yankee man**

man who operated the yankee cloth-cropping machine introduced from america, used in wool manufacture in the borders.

**yard land**

land area which varies from fifteen to forty acres, depending on the locality

**yarn bleacher**

bleacher of textile fibres, such as flax

**yarn dresser**

preparer of fibres . see also flax dresser

**yarn twister**

twisted fibres, such as silk, into thread or yarn

**yarn warper**

set up the warp (thread) on looms ready for weaving

**yauger**

pedlar who traded in local fish and produce (shetland islands).

**year's provisions**

a widow is entitled to a twelve months supply of goods and money or provisions out of her husband's estate this specified amount cannot be used or given to creditors to clear her husband's debts.