

AMERICAN DICTIONARY of the ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Dictionary Search

Person

PERSON, *noun* per'sn. [Latin *persona*; said to be compounded of *per*, through or by, and *sonus*, sound; a Latin word signifying primarily a mask used by actors on the stage.]

1. An individual human being consisting of body and soul. We apply the word to living beings only, possessed of a rational nature; the body when dead is not called a *person*. It is applied alike to a man, woman or child.

A *person* is a thinking intelligent being.

2. A man, woman or child, considered as opposed to things, or distinct from them.

A zeal for persons is far more easy to be perverted, than a zeal for things.

3. A human being, considered with respect to the living body or corporeal existence only. The form of her *person* is elegant.

You'll find her *person* difficult to gain.

The rebels maintained the fight for a small time, and for their persons showed no want of courage.

4. A human being, indefinitely; one; a man. Let a person's attainments be never so great, he should remember he is frail and imperfect.

5. A human being represented in dialogue, fiction, or on the stage; character. A player appears in the *person* of king Lear.

These tables, Cicero pronounced under the *person* of Crassus, were of more use and authority than all the books of the philosophers.

6. Character of office.

How different is the same man from himself, as he sustains the *person* of a magistrate and that of a friend.

7. In grammar, the nominative to a verb; the agent that performs or the patient that suffers any thing affirmed by a verb; as, I write; he is smitten; she is beloved; the rain descends in torrents. I, thou or you, he, she or it, are called the first, second and third persons. Hence we apply the word *person* to the termination or modified form of the verb used in connection with the persons; as the first or the third *person* of the verb; the verb is in the second *person*

8. In law, an artificial *person* is a corporation or body politic.

In *person* by one's self; with bodily presence; not be representative.

The king in *person* visits all around.

PER'SON, *verb transitive* To represent as a person; to make to resemble; to image. [*Not in use.*]
