

Francis Bacon

OF STUDIES

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3 Studies serve for delight, for ornament, and for ability. Their
4 chief use for delight, is in privateness and retiring; for
5 ornament, is in discourse; and for ability, is in the judgment,
6 and disposition of business. For expert men can execute, and
7 perhaps judge of particulars, one by one; but the general
8 counsels, and the plots and marshalling of affairs, come best,
9 from those that are learned. To spend too much time in studies
10 is sloth; to use them too much for ornament, is affectation; to
11 make judgment wholly by their rules, is the humor of a scholar.
12 They perfect nature, and are perfected by experience: for
13 natural abilities are like natural plants, that need proyning, by
14 study; and studies themselves, do give forth directions too much
15 at large, except they be bounded in by experience. Crafty men
16 contemn studies, simple men admire them, and wise men use them;
17 for they teach not their own use; but that is a wisdom without
18 them, and above them, won by observation. Read not to contradict
19 and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find
20 talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider. Some books are to
21 be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and
22 digested; that is, some books are to be read only in parts;
23 others to be read, but not curiously; and some few to be read
24 wholly, and with diligence and attention. Some books also may be
25 read by deputy, and extracts made of them by others; but that
26 would be only in the less important arguments, and the meaner
27 sort of books, else distilled books are like common distilled
28 waters, flashy things. Reading maketh a full man; conference a
29 ready man; and writing an exact man. And therefore, if a man
30 write little, he had need have a great memory; if he confer
31 little, he had need have a present wit: and if he read little, he
32 had need have much cunning, to seem to know, that he doth not.
33 Histories make men wise; poets witty; the mathematics subtile;
34 natural philosophy deep; moral grave; logic and rhetoric able to
35 content. *Abeunt studia in mores*. Nay, there is no stond or
36 impediment in the wit, but may be wrought out by fit studies;
37 like as diseases of the body, may have appropriate exercises.
38 Bowling is good for the stone and reins; shooting for the lungs
39 and breast; gentle walking for the stomach; riding for the head;
40 and the like. So if a man's wit be wandering, let him study the
41 mathematics; for in demonstrations, if his wit be called away
42 never so little, he must begin again. If his wit be not apt to
43 distinguish or find differences, let him study the Schoolmen; for
44 they are *cymini sectores*. If he be not apt to beat over matters,
45 and to call up one thing to prove and illustrate another, let him
46 study the lawyers' cases. So every defect of the mind, may have
47 a special receipt.

Of Studies

<u>Studies</u>	<u>serve</u>	for <u>delight</u> .	for <u>ornament</u> .
Pursuits	renders	pleasure	eloquence
mental labor			beauty
aquisition of learning			honor
reading & reflection			grace

and <u>ability</u> .	<u>Their</u>	chief use for <u>delight</u> is in
aptitude	education's	same as
suitability		above
mental power		

<u>privateness</u>	and <u>retiring</u> ;	for <u>ornament</u> .	is in
withdrawal from society	withdrawal	same as	
aloneness	seclusion	above	
individual's privacy			

<u>discourse</u> ;	and for <u>ability</u> ,	is in the <u>judgement</u>	and
reason	same as	discernment	
discussion	above	opinion	
communication		decision	
		astuteness	

<u>disposition</u>	of <u>business</u> .	For <u>expert</u> men can
arrangement of affairs	activity	trained
	profession	educated
	occupation	specialized
	concerns	

execute, and perhaps judge of particulars, one by one; but the

<u>general counsels</u> ,	and the <u>plots</u> and <u>marshaling</u> of <u>affairs</u> ,	come
plans, advice	plans	business
	designs	to guide
		execution
		matters

best from those that are learned.

Definitions from the *Oxford English Dictionary* for Francis Bacon's "Of Studies"

delight, n.

1. a. The fact or condition of being delighted; pleasure, joy, or gratification felt in a high degree.
b. Phr. *to take or have delight (in a thing, in doing, to do)*.
2. Anything in which one takes delight, or which affords delight; an object of delight; a source of great pleasure or joy.
3. The quality (in objects) which causes delight; quality or faculty of delighting; charm, delightfulness. Now only *poet*.

ornament, n.

1. a. An accessory or adjunct, primarily functional, but often also fancy or decorative; (in *pl.*) equipment, trappings, furniture, attire. *Obs.*
b. In *pl.* The accessories or furnishings of a church or temple; the sacred vessels, vestments, etc., employed in religious worship, esp. in the celebration of the Eucharist.
2. a. Something used to adorn, beautify, or embellish, or that naturally does this; a decoration, embellishment.
b. *fig.* A quality, characteristic, or circumstance conferring beauty, grace, honour, etc.
c. A person who enhances or adds distinction to his or her sphere, time, etc.
d. *Music.* A grace note; a decorative note used to embellish a melody.
e. *Printing and Bookbinding.* A decoration used in conjunction with type on a page or cover of a manuscript or book.
f. *Cartogr.* A pattern used to distinguish an area on a geological map.
3. a. The action of adorning or fact of being adorned; adornment, embellishment, decoration (*lit.* and *fig.*).
b. Outward show or display. *Obs.*

ability, n.

1. Suitableness, fitness, aptitude. *Obs.*
2. a. The quality in an agent which makes an action possible; suitable or sufficient power (generally); faculty, capacity (*to do or of doing* something).
b. The action itself, a thing within one's ability.
c. Power to do a thing of legal validity; capacity in law.
3. Bodily power; strength. (Still common in Scotland.)
4. Pecuniary power; wealth, estate, means. *Obs.* exc. in a few phrases in which 'to give' is perhaps always mentally added.
5. Mental power or capacity; talent, cleverness.
6. A special power of the mind, a faculty. (Usually in *pl.*)

privateness, n.

The quality or condition of being private, in various senses; privacy, the opposite of publicity; withdrawal from society, seclusion; †secretcy; †the pursuit of private ends; †the quality of being a private person or of living privately; †confidential intercourse, intimacy.

discourse, n.

- †1. a. Onward course; process or succession of time, events, actions, etc.; = [COURSE](#). . *Obs.*
b. In the following the meaning is perhaps ‘course of arms or combat’ (cf. [COURSE](#) *n.* 5); though other explanations have been proposed.
- †2. a. ‘The act of the understanding, by which it passes from premises to consequences’ (J.); reasoning, thought, ratiocination; the faculty of reasoning, reason, rationality. *Obs.* or *arch.*
†b. Phr. *discourse of reason*: process or faculty of reasoning. *Obs.* or *arch.*
3. Communication of thought by speech; ‘mutual intercourse of language’ (J.); talk, conversation. *arch.*
†b. The faculty of conversing; conversational power. *Obs.*
c. (with *a* and *pl.*) A talk, a conversation. *arch.*
†d. A common talk, report, rumour. *Obs.*
- †4. Narration; a narrative, tale, account. *Obs.*
5. A spoken or written treatment of a subject, in which it is handled or discussed at length; a dissertation, treatise, homily, sermon, or the like. (Now the prevailing sense.)
- †6. a. Familiar intercourse, familiarity. b. Familiarity with a subject; conversancy (*in*). *Obs.*

judgment, n.

1. a. The action of trying a cause in a court of justice; trial. (Now *rare* or merged in 3.) Also applied to trial by battle (quot. 1377: see [BATTLE](#) *n.* 2) or ordeal (*Judgement of God*).
b. Phr. *to sit in judgement*: (*a*) *lit.* to sit as judge, to preside as a judge at a trial; (*b*) *fig.* to pass judgement upon (see 6), to judge, criticize (with an assumption of superiority).
2. The trial of moral beings by God (or Christ) as Judge; *spec.* (in full, *the Last Judgement*), the final trial of the subjects of God's moral government at the end of the world: = [DOOM](#) *n.* 6. Often in *day of judgement*: = [DOOMSDAY](#).
3. a. The sentence of a court of justice; a judicial decision or order in court.
b. *Law.* (*ellipt.*) An assignment of chattels or chattel-interests made by judgement or decree of court; the certificate of such judgement as a security or form of property. Cf. *judgement-debt* in 13. ‘A Judgment, in consequence of some suit or action in a court of justice, is frequently the means of vesting the right and property of chattel interests in the prevailing party’ (Blackstone *Comm.* (1767) II. 436).
4. Divine sentence or decision; *spec.* a misfortune or calamity regarded as a divine visitation or punishment, or as a token of divine displeasure.
5. a. Any formal or authoritative decision, as of an umpire or arbiter. (Now *rare*.)
†b. *Astrol.* A decision or conclusion as to a future event, deduced from the positions of the heavenly bodies: cf. *judicial astrology*. *Obs.*
6. The pronouncing of a deliberate opinion upon a person or thing, or the opinion pronounced; criticism; censure.
7. a. The formation of an opinion or notion concerning something by exercising the mind upon it; an opinion, estimate.
†b. A form of religious opinion or belief; a ‘persuasion’. *Obs.*
c. *private judgement*: the formation of personal or individual opinion (esp. in religious matters), as opposed to the acceptance of a statement or doctrine on authority.

8. a. The faculty of judging; ability to form an opinion; that function of the mind whereby it arrives at a notion of anything; the critical faculty; discernment.

b. Good or sound judgement; discernment, discretion, wisdom, understanding, good sense.

†**c.** *transf.* A person having good judgement; a competent critic; a 'judge'. (Cf. *genius, wit.*)

d. *Sc.* Reason, senses, wits.

9. *Logic.* †**a.** = [DISPOSITION](#) 1c. *Obs.*

b. The action of mentally apprehending the relation between two objects of thought; predication, as an act of the mind. With *pl.* A mental assertion or statement; a proposition, as formed in the mind.

10. In various biblical uses, chiefly as rendering of Heb. *mishpāṭ*, in its different uses. **a.** Justice, righteousness, equity. (= [DOOM](#) *n.* 8.)

b. A (divine) decree, ordinance, law, statute.

c. Sentence or decision in a person's favour; (one's) right.

†**11.** The function of a 'judge' or ruler (in the ancient Hebrew state: see [JUDGE](#) *n.* 3). *Obs. rare.*

†**12.** A district under a jurisdiction. *Obs. rare.*

13. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as **judgement bar, book, call, hour, house, -monger, peal, place, throne; judgement-cap** = [BLACK CAP](#) 1; **judgement creditor**, a creditor in whose favour a judgement has been given ordering the payment of the debt due to him; **judgement debt**, a debt for the payment of which a judgement has been given; so **judgement debtor**, a debtor against whom such a judgement has been given; **judgement-like** *a.* (*Sc.*), 'applied to what is supposed to be like a token of divine displeasure' (*Jam.*); **judgement note** (*U.S.*), a promissory note containing a power of attorney to appear and confess judgement for the sum therein named (*Bouvier*); **judgement sample** *Statistics* (see quot.); **judgement summons**, a summons issued in a County Court against a *judgement debtor*, to show cause why he should not be imprisoned for default in payment; **judgement weather** (*Sc.*) = 'judgement-like' weather (see above).

Hence **judgemented** *a.* [see [-ED](#)²], having judgement or discernment (of a specified kind). (In comb. or with preceding adv.)

business, n.

I. State or quality of being busy. (Cf. the adj.)

(These senses are all obs., but some of them occur as nonce-words with special spelling [BUSYNESS](#), and trisyllabic pronunciation.)

†**1.** **a.** The state of being busily engaged in anything. **b.** Industry, diligence. *Obs.*

†**2.** Activity, briskness. *Obs.*

†**3.** Mischievous or impertinent activity, officiousness. *Obs.*

†**4.** Eagerness, earnestness, importunity. *Obs.*

†**5.** Anxiety, solicitude, care; distress, uneasiness. (The earliest cited sense.) *Obs.*

†**6.** Care, attention, observance. *Obs.*

†**7.** **a.** Trouble, difficulty; ado. Cf. [BUSY](#) *a.* 3. *Obs.*

†**b.** Ado, disturbance, commotion. *Obs.*

†**8.** Diligent labour, exertion, pains. Phrases. *to do (one's) business, give business*: to take pains, do one's endeavour (L. *dare operam*).

†**II.** **9.** A company of flies, also of ferrets. *Obs.*

III. That about which one is busy.

†10. The object of anxiety or serious effort; a serious purpose or aim. *Obs.*

11. a. A task appointed or undertaken; a person's official duty, part or province; function, occupation. Phr. *to make it one's business*: to undertake as a self-appointed task (*to do something*).

b. That on which one is engaged, or with which one is concerned, at the time; often *spec.* the errand on which one comes.

12. a. A person's official or professional duties as a whole; stated occupation, profession, or trade.

†b. Official or public engagements generally, active life. *Obs.* See also *man of business*: 22a.

c. Phr. *business as usual*: things proceeding normally in spite of disturbing circumstances.

13. a. In general sense: action which occupies time, demands attention and labour; *esp.* serious occupation, work, as opposed to pleasure or recreation.

†b. Work done by beasts. *Obs. rare.*

c. Phrases. *to mean business*: to be in earnest (*colloq.*). *on business*: with an errand or purpose relating to business.

d. *a person's business*: work to be done or matters to be attended to in his service or on his behalf. *to do (a person's) business*: to 'do for', ruin, or kill him. Also *fig.*

14. a. (With *pl.*) A pursuit or occupation demanding time and attention; a serious employment as distinguished from a pastime.

b. *spec.* A particular occupation; a trade or profession.

15. a. A particular matter demanding attention; a piece of work, a job. (The plur. is now unusual.)

b. Elliptically for: A difficult matter (*colloq.*).

c. *to do one's business*: 'to ease oneself'.

d. *letters of business*: a royal letter authorizing Convocation to transact business.

16. a. A matter that concerns or relates to a particular person or thing; const. *of*, or genitive case.

b. Concern, the fact of being concerned *with*.

c. *colloq.* A matter with which one has the right to meddle. Also, justifying motive or right of action or interference, 'anything to do' (*with*). Almost always with negative expressed or implied. Const. usually *with*, or infinitive.

d. *to mind one's own business*: to attend to one's own affairs, to refrain from meddling with what does not concern one. Now *colloq.*

e. *to go about one's business*: to go and attend to one's own affairs, to go away; in *imp.* used as a formula of impatient dismissal. So *to send about one's business*: to dismiss unceremoniously, to 'send packing'.

f. *like nobody's business*, beyond the normal range (of a person's capacity); in no ordinary way; 'like anything'. Hence also *nobody's business*, an extraordinary affair. *colloq.*

†17. A subject or topic of consideration or discussion; the subject of a book, etc. *Obs.* (common in 17th c.)

18. a. *vaguely*, An affair, concern, matter. (Now usually indicating some degree of contempt or impatience, *esp.* when preceded by a n. in attrib. relation.) Frequent in colloquial phrases like 'a bad business', 'a queer business'.

†b. Affectedly used for an 'affair of honour', a duel. *Obs.*

c. *colloq.* Used with intentional indefiniteness of material objects. (Cf. *affair, concern.*)

19. a. Dealings, intercourse (*with*). *arch.*

†b. Euphemism for 'sexual intercourse'. *Obs.*

20. *Theatr.* Action as distinguished from dialogue. (Formerly used more widely.) Also in phr. *business of the stage*.

21. a. *spec.* (from 13 and 19): Trade, commercial transactions or engagements.

b. *place of business*: usually in *spec.* sense, a shop, office, warehouse, commercial establishment; so also *house of business*. *hours of business*, *business hours*: the hours in the day during which commercial or other business is transacted.

c. The audience or attendance at a theatre; a 'house'. Also, the total of box-office receipts.

d. *Bridge*. Calling for the purpose of gaining a penalty. Freq. *attrib.*

22. *man of business*. †a. One engaged in public affairs (*obs.*). b. One engaged in mercantile transactions. c. A man of business-like habits, one skilled in business. d. The professional agent who transacts a person's legal business, an attorney.

23. A commercial enterprise regarded as a 'going concern'; a commercial establishment with all its 'trade', liabilities, etc.

24. *attrib.* and in *Comb.*, as *business agent*, *centre*, *college*, *committee*, *efficiency*, *girl*, *habits*, *hours*, *house*, *letter*, *life*, *proposition*, *school*, *suit*, *transaction*, *woman*, etc.; also, **business card**, a card of a tradesman, manufacturer, commercial traveller, etc., with his address and various particulars as to the nature of his business, used for advertising purposes; **business doctor** (see quot. 1909); **business edge**, cf. *business end*; **business end** (used humorously, see quot.); *colloq.*, the operative part; **business-looking** *a.*, having an appearance suggestive of business; **business lunch(eon)**, a luncheon at which commercial transactions are discussed; **business man** = *man of business*; see 22b, c; **business manager**, a manager of the business or commercial side of an enterprise; hence *business-manage* vb. trans.; **business part**, the sphere of business (also *concr.* = *business end*).