

1828 Webster

PERSON, n. per'sn. [L. *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.

1844 Webster

PERSON, n. [per'sn; L. *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. – Locke.
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. – Sprat.
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. – Dryden. The rebels maintained the fight for a small time, and for their *persons* showed no want of courage. – Bacon.
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. – Baker.
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. – South.
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 third *person* of the verb; the verb is in the second *person*.
8. In law, an artificial person, is a corporation or body politic. – Blackstone. *In person*, by one's self; with bodily presence; not by representative. The king *in person* visits all around. – Dryden.

PER'SON, v. t.

To represent as a person; to make to resemble; to image. [Not in use.] – Milton.

1913 Webster

Per'son

1. A character or part, as in a play; a specific kind or manifestation of individual character, whether in real life, or in literary or dramatic representation; an assumed character. [Archaic]
His first appearance upon the stage in his new *person* of a sycophant or juggler. *Bacon*.
No man can long put on a *person* and act a part. *Jer. Taylor*.
To bear rule, which was thy part
And *person*, hadst thou known thyself aright. *Milton*.
How different is the same man from himself, as he sustains the *person* of a magistrate and that of a friend! *South*.
2. To represent as a person; to personify; to impersonate.
[Obs.] *Milton*.
3. The bodily form of a human being; body; outward appearance; as, of comely *person*.
A fair *person*, and strong, and young of age. *Chaucer*.
If it assume my noble
father's *person*. *Shak*.
Love, sweetness, goodness, in
her *person* shined. *Milton*.
4. A living, self-conscious being, as distinct from an animal or a thing; a moral agent; a human being; a man, woman, or child. Consider what *person* stands for; which, I think, is a thinking, intelligent being, that has reason and reflection. *Locke*.
5. A human being spoken of indefinitely; one; a man; as, any *person* present.
6. A parson; the parish priest.
[Obs.] *Chaucer*.
7. Among Trinitarians, one of the three subdivisions of the Godhead (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost); an hypostasis.
"Three *persons* and one God." *Bk. of Com. Prayer*.
8. One of three relations or conditions (that of speaking, that of being spoken to, and that of being spoken of) pertaining to a noun or a pronoun, and thence also to the verb of which it may be the subject.
* A noun or pronoun, when representing the speaker, is said to be in the first *person*; when representing what is spoken to, in the second *person*; when representing what is spoken of, in the third *person*.
9. A shoot or bud of a plant; a polyp or zooid of the compound Hydrozoa Anthozoa, etc.; also, an individual, in the narrowest sense, among the higher animals.
Haeckel.
True corals, composed of united personæ . . . usually arise by gemmation, . . . yet in sponges and corals occasionally by fusion of several originally distinct *persons*. *Encyc. Brit.*

Artificial, or **Fictitious person** (*Law*), a corporation or body politic. *blackstone*.

Natural person (*Law*), a man, woman, or child, in distinction from a corporation.

In person, by one's self; with bodily presence; not by representative. "The king himself *in person* is set forth." *Shak*. -- **In the person of**, in the place of; acting for. *Shak*.