Pronunciation: /ˈkloʊzɪt/

Etymology: < close n.

1.

a. *trans.* To shut up or detain in a ‘closet’ (see close n. 1, 2), as for private conference, or secret treaty.

1687 Tramallier in Magd. Coll. (O.H.S.) 166 They had closeted the Dr. for about an hour.

?1690 Consid. Raising Money 1 Our Constitution was overthrown..by closeting and corrupting Members of Parliament.

1748 T. Smollett Roderick Random II. lv. 210 She closeted her,...and..gave her to know that she had seen me.

1849 T. B. Macaulay Hist. Eng. II. 217 The king asserted that some of the Churchmen whom he had closeted had offered to make large concessions to the Catholics, on condition that the persecution of the Puritans might go on.

b. esp. in pass., *to be closeted with or together.*

1749 H. Fielding Tom Jones VI. xviii. v. 200 No Wonder they have been closeted so close lately.

1847 Tennyson Princess III. 40 Very like men indeed—And with that woman closeted for hours!

1866 Trollope Belton Estate III. iii. 82 Captain Aylmer and Miss Amedroz were to be closeted together in the little back drawing-room.

1884 Pall Mall Gaz. 5 Sept. 1/1 The Austrian Minister was recently closeted with the German Chancellor.

†c. To discuss or arrange in the closet, to scheme in secret (*to do something*). Obs.

1624 W. Yonge Diary (1848) 78 He coming out of Spain, they having closeted to detain him.

2. *fig.* To shut up in any private repository.

1595 T. Edwards Cephalus & Procris (1878) 54 Oh why doth Neptune closet vp my deere?

1633 G. Herbert Decay in Temple iv, The heat Of thy great love once spread, as in an urn Doth closet up it self.