

## closet, *v.*

**Pronunciation:** /'kloʊzɪt/

**Etymology:** < CLOSET *n.*

### 1.

**a. trans.** To shut up or detain in a 'closet' (see CLOSET *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 closetting 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 closetted 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.

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