

CANVAS, or CANVASS, in *Commerce*, a coarse sort of linen or hempen cloth, usually woven open, and regularly, in little squares; serving for divers domestic purposes, and especially for the ground of tapestry work and painting.

We have divers sorts and denominations of canvas, most of them imported from abroad; as Dutch, Barras, and Hessian canvas; packing canvas; guttings and spruce canvas; poledavics, ebbing, or Queensbrough canvas; working canvas, for botts or cushions, narrow, broad, and broadest.

CANVAS also is the cloth on which painters usually draw their pictures; the canvas being smoothed over with a slick-stone, then sized, and afterwards whited over, makes what the painters call their *primed cloth*, on which they draw their first sketches with a coal or chalk, and afterwards finish with colours.

CANVAS is also a name sometimes given to sail cloth.