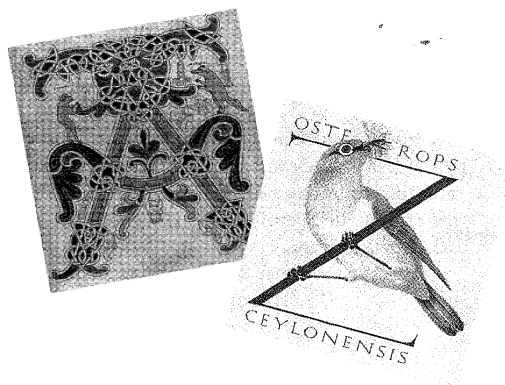


# *The* American Heritage<sup>®</sup> Dictionary *of the English Language*

FOURTH EDITION



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common or frequent; be predominant: a region where snow and ice prevail. 4. To be in force, use, or effect; be current: an ancient tradition that still prevails. 5. To use persuasion or inducement successfully. Often used with *on*, *upon*, or *with*. See synonyms at **persuade**. [Middle English *prevailen*, from Old French *prevaloire*, *prevail-*, from Latin *praevalēre*, to be stronger: *prae-*, *pre-* + *valēre*, to be strong; see **wal-** in Appendix I.] —**pre·vail·er** *n.*

**pre·vail·ing** (prī-vā/ling) *adj.* 1. Most frequent or common; predominant. 2. Generally current; widespread. —**pre·vail·ing·ly** *adv.* —**pre·vail·ing·ness** *n.*

**Synonyms** *prevailing, prevalent, current* These adjectives denote what exists or is encountered generally at a particular time. *Prevailing* applies to what is most frequent or common at a certain time or in a certain place: took a poll to find the prevailing opinion. *Prevalent* suggests widespread existence or occurrence but does not imply predominance: a belief that was prevalent in the Middle Ages. *Current* often stresses the present time and is frequently applied to what is subject to frequent change: current psychoanalytic theories.

**Pré·val** (prā-vāl/), **René García** Born 1942. Haitian politician who served as prime minister (1991–1995) and president (1996–2001). His election marked Haiti's first peaceful transition from one democratically elected president to another since gaining independence in 1804.

**pre·val·ence** (prēv/ə-ləns) *n.* 1. The condition of being prevalent. 2. *Medicine* The total number of cases of a disease in a given population at a specific time.

**pre·val·ent** (prēv/ə-lənt) *adj.* Widely or commonly occurring, existing, accepted, or practiced. See synonyms at **prevailing**. [Middle English, very strong, from Latin *praevalēns*, *praevalens*-, present participle of *praevalēre*, to be stronger. See **PREVAIL**.] —**pre·val·ent·ly** *adv.*

**pre·var·i·cate** (prī-vār/i-kāt/) *intr.v.* -cat·ed, -cat·ing, -cates To stray from or evade the truth; equivocate. See synonyms at **lie**. [Latin *praevaricārī*, *praevaricāt-*: *prae-*, *pre-* + *varicārī*, to straddle (from *varīcus*, straddling, from *varūs*, bent).] —**pre·var·i·ca·tion** *n.* —**pre·var·i·ca·tor** *n.*

**pre·ven·ience** (prī-vēn/yan) *n.* 1. The act or state of being antecedent or preventive. 2. Attention to another's needs.

**pre·ven·ient** (prī-vēn/yənt) *adj.* 1. Coming before; preceding. 2. Expectant; anticipatory. [Latin *praeveniens*, *praeveniens*-, present participle of *praevenire*, to precede: *prae-*, *pre-* + *venire*, to come; see **g<sup>wa</sup>** in Appendix I.] —**pre·ven·ient·ly** *adv.*

**pre·vent** (prī-vēnt/) *v.* -vent·ed, -vent·ing, -vents —*tr.* 1. To keep from happening: took steps to prevent the strike. 2. To keep (someone) from doing something; impede: prevented us from winning. 3. *Archaic* To anticipate or counter in advance. 4. *Archaic* To come before; precede. —*intr.* To present an obstacle: There will be a picnic if nothing prevents. [Middle English *preventen*, to anticipate, from Latin *praevenire*, *praeven-*: *prae-*, *pre-* + *venire*, to come; see **g<sup>wa</sup>** in Appendix I.] —**pre·vent·a·bil·i·ty**, **pre·vent·i·bil·i·ty** *n.* —**pre·vent·a·ble**, **pre·vent·i·ble** *adj.* —**pre·vent·er** *n.*

**Synonyms** *prevent, preclude, avert, obviate, forestall* These verbs mean to stop or hinder something from happening, especially by advance planning or action. *Prevent* implies anticipatory counteraction: "The surest way to prevent war is not to fear it" (John Randolph). To *preclude* is to exclude the possibility of an event or action: "a tranquillity which . . . his wife's presence would have precluded" (John Henry Newman). To *avert* is to ward off something about to happen: The pilot's quick thinking averted an accident. *Obviate* implies that something, such as a difficulty, has been anticipated and disposed of effectively: "the objections . . . having . . . been obviated in the preceding chapter" (Joseph Butler). *Forestall* usually suggests anticipatory measures taken to counteract, neutralize, or nullify the effects of something: We installed an alarm system to forestall break-ins.

**pre·ven·ta·tive** (prī-vēnt/ə-tiv) *adj.* & *n.* Variant of **preventive**. **pre·vent de·fense** (prēv/ēnt' dēfēns/) *n.* Football A defensive formation or strategy that employs an additional pass defender in an attempt to prevent long gains by the offense, usually near the end of the game.

**pre·ven·tion** (prī-vēn/shən) *n.* 1. The act of preventing or impeding. 2. A hindrance; an obstacle. **pre·ven·tive** (prī-vēntiv) *adj.* & *n.* 1. Antecedent or used to prevent or hinder; acting as an obstacle: preventive

-**vu·ing**, -**vues** 1. To view or exhibit in advance. 2. To provide a preliminary sample or overview of: The professor previewed the course for us.

**pre·vi·ous** (prēv/ē-əs) *adj.* 1. Existing or occurring before something else in time or order; prior: children by a previous marriage. 2. *Informal* Acting, occurring, or done too soon; premature. [From Latin *praevious*, going before: *prae-*, *pre-* + *via*, way; see **wegh-** in Appendix I.] —**pre·vi·ous·ly** *adv.* —**pre·vi·ous·ness** *n.*

**previous question** *n.* The motion in parliamentary procedure to take an immediate vote on the main question being considered or on any other questions so designated.

**previous to** *prep.* Prior to; before.

**pre·vise** (prī-viz/) *tr.v.* -vised, -vis·ing, -vis·es 1. To know in advance; foresee. 2. To notify in advance; forewarn. [Middle English *previsen*, from Latin *praevidēre*, *praevis-*: *prae-*, *pre-* + *vidēre*, to see; see **weid-** in Appendix I.] —**pre·vi·sor** *n.*

**pre·vi·sion** (prī-vizh/ən) *n.* 1. A knowing in advance; foresight. 2. A prediction; a forecast. —*tr.v.* -sioned, -sion·ing, -sions To foresee. —**pre·vi·sion·al**, **pre·vi·sion·ar·y** (-vizh/ə-nēr/ē) *adj.*

**pre·vo·cal·ic** (prēv/ō-kāl/ik) *adj.* 1. Preceding a vowel. 2. Of or relating to a form of a linguistic element, such as a suffix, prefix, or word, that occurs only before a vowel.

**pre·vo·ca·tion·al** (prēv/ō-kā/shə-nəl) *adj.* Of or relating to instruction given in preparation for vocational school.

**Pré·vost d'Ex·iles** (prā-vō' dēg-zēl/), **Antoine François** Known as "Abbé Prévost." 1697–1763. French writer and cleric who left the religious life to pursue worldly interests. His literary reputation lies on the novel *Manon Lescaut* (1731).

**pre·vue** (prēv/yō/) *n.* & *v.* Variant of **preview**.

**pre·war** (prēw/ōr/) *adj.* Existing or occurring before a war.

**pre·washed** (prēwōsh/ē, -wōsh/ē) *adj.* Washed by the manufacturer so as to impart a softer texture or faded appearance. Used of textiles or clothing: prewashed denim; prewashed jeans.

**pre·writ·ing** (prē'rī/tīng) *n.* The creation and arrangement of ideas preliminary to writing.

**pre·xy** (prēk/sē) *n.*, *pl.* -ies *Slang* A president, especially of a college or university. [Shortening and alteration of **PRESIDENT**.]

**prey** (prā) *n.* 1. An animal hunted or caught for food; quarry. 2. One that is defenseless, especially in the face of attack; a victim. 3. The act or practice of preying. —*intr.v.* preyed, prey·ing, preys 1. To hunt, catch, or eat as prey: Owls prey on mice. 2. To victimize or make a profit at someone else's expense. 3. To plunder or pillage. 4. To exert a baneful or injurious effect: Remorse preyed on his mind. [Middle English *preie*, from Old French, from Latin *praeda*, booty, prey. See **ghend-** in Appendix I.] —**prey·er** *n.*

**prez** or **Prez** (prēz) *n.*, *pl.* prez·es or Prez·es *Informal* President. Often used with *the*.

**PRF** *abbr.* 1. pulse recurrence frequency 2. pulse repetition frequency

**Pri·am** (prī/əm) *n.* Greek Mythology The father of Paris, Hector, and Cassandra and king of Troy, who was killed when his city fell to the Greeks.

**pri·a·pic** (prī-ā/pik, -āp/ik) also **pri·a·pe·an** (prī-ā-pē/ən) *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or resembling a phallus; phallic. 2. Relating to or overly concerned with masculinity. [From **PRIAPUS**.]

**pri·a·pism** (prī-ā-piz/əm) *n.* Persistent, usually painful erection of the penis, especially as a consequence of disease and not related to sexual arousal. [French *priapisme*, from Late Latin *priāpismus*, from Greek *priāpismos*, from *priāpizein*, to have an erection, from *Priāpos*, Priapus.]

**pri·a·pus** (prī-ā/pəs) *n.* 1. **Priapus** Greek & Roman Mythology The god of procreation, guardian of gardens and vineyards, and personification of the erect phallus. 2. An image of this god, often used as a scarecrow in ancient gardens. 3. A representation of a phallus. [Latin *Priāpus*, from Greek *Priāpos*.]

**Prib·i·lof Islands** (prīb/ə-lōf/) A group of islands off southwest Alaska in the Bering Sea. First visited and named by a Russian explorer in 1786, they are noted as a breeding ground for seals.

**price** (pris) *n.* 1. The amount as of money or goods, asked for or given in exchange for something else. 2. The cost at which something is obtained: believes that the price of success is hard work. 3. The cost of bribing someone: maintained that every person has a price. 4. A reward offered for the capture or killing of a person: a felon with a price on his head. 5. *Archaic* Value or worth. —*tr.v.* priced, price·ing, prices 1. To fix or establish a price for: shoes that are priced at sixty dollars. 2. To find out

à pat	oi boy
à pay	ou out
à care	oo took
à father	oo boot
è pet	u cut
è be	ur urge
ì pit	th thin
ì pie	hw which
ò pier	zh vision
ò pot	à about, item
ò paw	♦ regionalism

Stress marks: / (primary); ' (secondary), as in dictionary (dik/shə-nēr/ē)



## Price | primal therapy

the price of: *spent the day pricing dresses.* —**idiom:** **price out of the market** To eliminate the demand for (goods or services) by setting prices too high. [Middle English *pris*, from Old French, from Latin *pretium*. See *per-* in Appendix I.] —**price/a•ble** *adj.* —**pric'er** *n.*

**Price** (pris), (Mary) **Leontyne** Born 1927. American operatic soprano who performed with the New York Metropolitan Opera (1961–1985), earning greatest praise for her roles in Verdi's operas.

**price-cut•ting** (pris'kút'ing) *n.* Reduction of retail prices to a level low enough to eliminate competition. —**price/-cut'ter** *n.*

**price-earn•ings ratio** (pris'úr'ningz) *n.* The ratio of the market price of a common stock to its earnings per share.

**price fix•ing** also **price-fix•ing** (pris'fik'sing) *n.* 1. The setting of commodity prices artificially by a government. 2. The result of an unlawful agreement between manufacturers or dealers to set and maintain specified prices on typically competing products.

**price index** *n.* A number relating prices of a group of commodities to their prices during an arbitrarily chosen base period.

**price•less** (pris'lis) *adj.* 1. Of inestimable worth; invaluable. 2. Highly amusing, absurd, or odd: *a priceless remark.* —**price/less•ly** *adv.*

**price point** *n.* The retail price of a product, usually when viewed as one of a series of possible competitive prices: *expected to release the software below the \$50 price point.*

**price support** *n.* Maintenance of prices, as of a raw material or commodity, at a certain level usually through public subsidy or government intervention.

**price tag** *n.* 1. A label attached to a piece of merchandise indicating its price. 2. The cost of something.

**price war** *n.* A period of intense competition among businesses in which each competitor tries to cut retail prices below those of the others.

**pric•ey** also **pric•y** (pri'sē) *adj.* —**ier**, —**iest** Informal Expensive: *a pricey restaurant.* —**pric•ey•ness** *n.* —**pric'ily** *adv.*

**prick** (prík) *n.* 1a. The act of piercing or pricking. b. The sensation of being pierced or pricked. 2a. A persistent or sharply painful feeling of sorrow or remorse. b. A small, sharp, local pain, such as that made by a needle or bee sting. 3. A small mark or puncture made by a pointed object. 4. A pointed object, such as an ice pick, goad, or thorn. 5. A hare's track or footprint. 6. *Vulgar Slang* A penis. 7. *Vulgar Slang* A person regarded as highly unpleasant, especially a male. ♦ *v.* **pricked**, **prick•ing**, **pricks** —*tr.* 1. To puncture lightly. 2. To affect with a mental or emotional pang, as of remorse: *His conscience began to prick him.* 3. To impel as if with a spur; urge on. 4. To mark or delineate on a surface by means of small punctures: *prick a pattern on a board.* 5. To pierce the quick of (a horse's hoof) while shoeing. 6. To transplant (seedlings, for example) before final planting. 7. To cause to stand erect or point upward: *The dogs pricked their ears.* —*intr.* 1. To pierce or puncture something or cause a pricking feeling. 2. To feel a pang or twinge from or as if from being pricked. 3a. To spur a horse on. b. To ride at a gallop. 4. To stand erect; point upward: *The dog's ears pricked at the noise.* —**phrasal verb:** **prick off** *Nautical* To measure with dividers on a chart. —**idiom:** **prick up (one's) ears** To listen with attentive interest. [Middle English, from Old English *prica*, puncture.]

**prick•er** (prík'ər) *n.* 1. One, such as a pricking tool, that pierces or pricks. 2. A prickle or thorn.

**prick•et** (prík'it) *n.* 1a. A small point or spike for holding a candle upright. b. A candlestick having such a spike. 2. A buck in its second year, before the antlers branch. [Middle English *priket*, diminutive of *prik*, *prick*, *prick*. See *PRICK*.]

**prick•le** (prík'lē) *n.* 1. A small sharp point, spine, or thorn. 2. A tingling or pricking sensation. ♦ *v.* —**led**, —**ling**, —**les** —*tr.* 1. To prick as if with a thorn. 2. To cause a tingling or pricking sensation in. —*intr.* 1. To feel a tingling or pricking sensation. 2. To rise or stand up like prickles. [Middle English *prikel*, from Old English *pricel*.]

**prick•ly** (prík'lē) *adj.* —**li•er**, —**li•est** 1. Having prickles. 2. Prickling or tingling or smarting: *a prickly sensation in my foot.* 3a. Causing trouble or vexation; thorny: *a prickly situation.* b. Bristling or irritable: *"In consequence, he became rebarbative, prickly, spiteful"* (Robert Craft). —**prick/li•ness** *n.*

**prickly ash** *n.* 1. Any of numerous cosmopolitan, deciduous or evergreen shrubs or trees of the genus *Zanthoxylum*, having aromatic bark and alternate, mostly pinnate leaves. 2. See *Hercules' club* (sense 1).

**prickly heat** *n.* See *heat rash*.

**prickly juniper** *n.* See *cade*.

**prickly pear** *n.* 1. Any of various cacti of the genus *Opuntia*, having bristly, flattened or cylindrical joints, showy, usually yellow flowers, and ovoid, often prickly fruit. 2. The often edible fruit of such a cactus.

**prickly poppy** *n.* Any of various plants of the genus *Argemone*, chiefly of tropical America, having large yellow, lavender, or white flowers and prickly leaves, stems, and pods.

**prick•y** (prík'yē) *adj.* —**ier**, —**iest** Prickly.

**pric•y** (pri'sē) *adj.* Variant of *pricey*.

**pride** (prid) *n.* 1. A sense of one's own proper dignity or value; self-respect. 2. Pleasure or satisfaction taken in an achievement, possession, or association: *parental pride.* 3. Arrogant or disdainful conduct or treatment; haughtiness. 4a. A cause or source of pleasure or satisfaction; the best of a group or class: *These soldiers were their country's pride.* b. The most successful or thriving condition; prime: *the pride of youth.* 5. An excessively high opinion of oneself; conceit. 6. Mettle or spirit in horses. 7. A company of lions. See synonyms at *flock*. 8. A flamboyant or impressive group: *a pride of acrobats.* ♦ *tr.v.* **prid•ed**, **prid•ing**, **prides** To indulge (oneself) in a feeling of pleasure or satisfaction: *I pride myself on this beautiful garden.* [Middle English, from Old English *prȳde*, from

**Pride** (prid), **Thomas** Died 1658. English Parliamentarian who led regiment to Parliament and expelled Presbyterian and Royalist members who opposed the condemnation of Charles I (1648). He was a signer of Charles's death warrant.

**pride•ful** (prid'fəl) *adj.* 1. Arrogant; disdainful. 2. Highly pleased. —**pride/ful•ly** *adv.* —**pride/ful•ness** *n.*

**pride of place** *n.* The highest or most important position: *The tall vase enjoyed pride of place on the grand piano.*

**pried**<sup>1</sup> (prid) *v.* Past tense and past participle of *pry*<sup>1</sup>.

**pried**<sup>2</sup> (prid) *v.* Past tense and past participle of *pry*<sup>2</sup>.

**prie•dieu** (prē-dyē') *n., pl. -dieux or -dieux (-dycez')* 1. A narrow desklike kneeling bench with space above for a book or the elbow use by a person at prayer. 2. An armless, upholstered chair with a straight back and a low seat. [French *prie-Dieu*: *prie*, to pray (from French, from Latin *precāri*; see *PRAY*) + *Dieu*, God (from Old French *ADIEU*).]

**prier** also **pryer** (pri'ər) *n.* One who pries, especially a person who is unduly interested in the affairs of others.

**pries**<sup>1</sup> (priz) *v.* Third person singular present tense of *pry*<sup>1</sup>. Plural of *pry*<sup>1</sup>.

**pries**<sup>2</sup> (priz) *v.* Third person singular present tense of *pry*<sup>2</sup>. Plural of *pry*<sup>2</sup>.

**priest** (prēst) *n.* 1. In many Christian churches, a member of second grade of clergy ranking below a bishop but above a deacon having authority to administer the sacraments. 2. A person having authority to perform and administer religious rites. ♦ *tr.v.* **pries**, **priest•ing**, **priests** To ordain or admit to the priesthood. [Middle English *preost*, from Old English *prēost*, perhaps from Vulgar Latin \* (from Late Latin *presbyter*; see *PRESBYTER*) or from West Germanic *vost* (from Latin *praepositus*, superintendent; see *PROVOST*).]

**priest•ess** (prēst'is) *n.* A woman who presides over religious especially in pagan religions.

**priest•hood** (prēst'hōod') *n.* 1. The character, office, or vocation of a priest. 2. The clergy.

**Priest•ley** (prēst'lē), **J(ohn) B(oynton)** 1894–1984. British of more than 100 novels, most notably *The Good Companions* (1929) merous dramas, and critical works on literature and social issues.

**Priestley, Joseph** 1733–1804. British chemist noted for work isolation of gases and his discovery of oxygen (1774).

**priest•ly** (prēst'lē) *adj.* —**li•er**, —**li•est** 1. Of or relating to a priest. 2. Characteristic of or suitable for a priest. —**priest•ly** *n.*

**prig** (prig) *n.* 1. A person who demonstrates an exaggerated civility or propriety, especially in an irritatingly arrogant or smug manner. Chiefly British A petty thief or pickpocket. 3. *Archaic* A conceited a fop. ♦ *tr.v.* **prigged**, **prig•ing**, **prigs** Chiefly British To steal. [Origin unknown.] —**prig•ger•y** *n.* —**prig/gish** *adj.* —**prig•ish** *adv.* —**prig/gish•ness** *n.*

**Pri•go•gine** (pri-gō'zhən, -gō-zhēn'), **Ilya** 1917–2003. Russian-born Belgian chemist. He won a 1977 Nobel Prize for his contribution to nonequilibrium thermodynamics.

**Pri•lo•sec** (pri'lō-sēk') A trademark used for the drug omeprazole.

**prim**<sup>1</sup> (prim) *adj.* **prim•er**, **prim•mest** 1a. Precise or precise in the point of affection; excessively decorous. b. Strait-laced; prudish. Neat and trim: *a prim hedgerow.* ♦ *v.* **primmed**, **prim•ing**, —*tr.* 1. To fix (the face or mouth) in a prim expression. 2. To assume a prim expression. —*intr.* 1. To assume a prim expression. [Possibly from obsolete *prim*, formal or demure person, perhaps Old French *prim*, first, delicate. See *PRIME*.] —**prim/ly** *adv.* —**ness** *n.*

**prim**<sup>2</sup> (prim) *n.* A privet. [Short for obsolete *primprint*, of unknown origin.]

**prí•ma ballerina** (prē'mə) *n.* The leading woman dancer in a company. [Italian: *prima*, feminine of *primo*, first + *ballerina*, ballerina.]

**prí•ma•cy** (prē'mə-sē) *n., pl. -cies* 1. The state of being first most. 2. Ecclesiastical The office, rank, or province of primate. English *primacy*, from Old French, from Medieval Latin *primātus* of church primate, from Latin *primās*, *primāt-*, of first rank. *MATE*.]

**prí•ma donna** (prē'mə, prim'ə) *n.* 1. The leading woman in an opera company. 2. A temperamental, conceited person. *prima*, feminine of *primo*, first + *donna*, lady.]

**prí•ma fa•cie** (prē'mə fā'shē -shə, -shē-ē) *adv.* At first sight closer inspection: *They had, prima facie, a legitimate complaint.*

1. True, authentic, or adequate at first sight; ostensible: *prima facie* ability. 2. Evident without proof or reasoning obvious: *a prima facie* case. [Middle English, manifestly, from Latin *prīma*, feminine ablative of *primus*, first + *faciē*, ablative of *faciē*.]

**prima facie case** *n.* Law A case in which the evidence is prima facie sufficient for a judgment to be made unless the evidence is contrary.

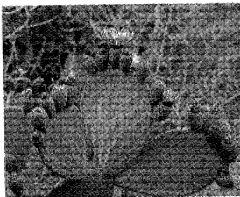
**prima facie evidence** *n.* Law Evidence that would, if uncontradicted, establish a fact or raise a presumption of a fact.

**prí•mal** (prī'məl) *adj.* 1. Being first in time; original; primary. [Medieval Latin *primālis*, from *primus*, first. See *per* in Appendix I.] —**prí•mal/ity** (-māl'i-ti) *n.*

**prí•mal therapy** *n.* Psychology A method of therapy through which emotional problems by encouraging patients to relive traumatic events and to express feelings through screaming and other physical acts of aggression. Also called *primal scream therapy*.



pricket



prickly pear