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teachers at an institution or in society 2: the office, duties, or position of a professor
proffer \ˈprə-fər\ *vt* **prof-er-ed**; **prof-er-ing** \-f(ə-)rɪŋ\ [ME *profren*, fr. AF *profer*, fr. OF *poroffrir*, fr. *por-* forth (fr. L *pro-*) + *offrir* to offer — more at **PRO-**] (14c): to present for acceptance: TENDER, OFFER — more at **PRO-**] (14c): OFFER, SUGGESTION
proficiency \prə-ˈfɪ-shən(t)-sē\ *n* (1544) 1: advancement in knowledge or skill — **PROGRESS** 2: the quality or state of being proficient
proficient \ˈʃənt\ *adj* [L *proficient-*, *proficiens*, prp. of *proficere* to go forward, accomplish, fr. *pro-* forward + *facere* to make — more at **PRO-**] (ca. 1590): well advanced in an art, occupation, or branch of knowledge — **PROFICIENT** *n* — **PRO-FICIENT-LY** *adv*
proficiency \prə-ˈfɪ-shən(t)-sē\ *n* (1544) 1: advancement in knowledge and experience in a trade or profession. **PROFICIENT** implies a thorough competence derived from training and practice (*proficient* in translating foreign languages). **ADEPT** implies special aptitude as well as proficiency (*adept* at doing long division). **SKILLED** stresses mastery of technique (*a skilled surgeon*). **SKILLFUL** implies individual dexterity in execution or performance (*skillful drivers*). **EXPERT** implies extraordinary proficiency and often connotes knowledge as well as technical skill (*expert* in the evaluation of wines).
profile \ˈprə-fɪl\ *n* [It *profilo*, fr. *profilare* to draw in outline, fr. *pro-* forward (fr. L) + *filare* to spin, fr. LL — more at **FILE**] (ca. 1656) 1: a representation of something in outline; *esp*: a human head or face as represented or seen in a side view 2: an outline seen or represented in sharp relief: CONTOUR 3: a side or sectional elevation: as a: a drawing showing a vertical section of the ground b: a vertical section of a solid from the ground surface to the underlying unweathered material 4: a set of data often in graphic form portraying the significant features of something (a corporation's earnings ~); *esp*: a graph representing the extent to which an individual exhibits traits or abilities as determined by tests or ratings 5: a concise biographical sketch 6: a degree or level of public exposure (trying to keep a low ~) (a job with a high ~) *syn* see **OUTLINE**
profile *vt* **pro-filed**; **pro-fil-ing** (1715) 1: to represent in profile or by a profile: produce (as by drawing, writing, or graphing) a profile of 2: to shape the outline of by passing a cutter around — **PRO-FIL-ER** *n*
profit \ˈprɒ-fɪt\ *n*, *often attrib* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *profitus* advance, profit, fr. *proficere*] (14c) 1: a valuable return: GAIN 2: the excess of returns over expenditure in a transaction or series of transactions; *esp*: the excess of the selling price of goods over their cost 3: net income usu. for a given period of time 4: the ratio of profit for a given year to the amount of capital invested or to the value of sales 5: the compensation accruing to entrepreneurs for the assumption of risk in business enterprise as distinguished from wages or rent — **PROF-IT-LESS** \-ləs\ *adj* — **PROF-IT-WISE** \-,wɪz\ *adv*
profit *v* (14c) 1: to be of service or advantage: AVAIL 2: to derive benefit: GAIN 3: to make a profit ~ *v*: to be of service to: BENEFIT
profitable \ˈprɒ-fɪ-tə-bəl, ˈprɒ-fɪ-tə-bəl\ *adj* (14c): affording profits or yielding advantageous returns or results — **PROF-IT-ABIL-IT-Y** \ˈprɒ-fɪ-tə-bɪ-l-ə-ti\ *n* — **PROF-IT-ABLE-NESS** \ˈprɒ-fɪ-tə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **PROF-IT-ABLY** \-bəl\ *adv*
profit and loss *n* (1588): a summary account used at the end of an accounting period to collect the balances of the nominal accounts so that the net profit or loss may be shown
profiteer \ˈprɒ-fɪ-ˈtɪr\ *n* (1912): one who makes what is considered an unreasonable profit *esp*. on the sale of essential goods during times of emergency — **PROFITEER** *v*
profiteer-ole \prə-ˈfɪ-tə-rōl\ *n* [F, perh. fr. *profit* profit] (1884): a miniature cream puff with a sweet or savory filling
profit sharing *n* (1881): a system or process under which employees receive a part of the profits of an industrial or commercial enterprise
profit system *n* (1945): FREE ENTERPRISE
profundity \ˈprɒ-fɪ-ˈɡɔ-sē\ *n* (1738): the quality or state of being profound
profundate \ˈprɒ-fɪ-ˈɡət-, -gət\ *adj* [L *profundatus*, fr. pp. of *profundare* to strike down, fr. *pro-* forward, down + *fundare* (akin to *fundere* to sink); akin to Gk *phlthein* to squeeze] (1647) 1: completely given up to dissipation and licentiousness 2: wildly extravagant: PRODIGAL — **PROFUNDATE-LY** *adv*
profundate *n* (1709): a person given to wildly extravagant and usually self-indulgent expenditure
profundus \ˈprɒ-fɪ-ˈjuː-nt-, ˈprɒ-fɪ-ˈjuː\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *profundus*, prp. of *profundere* to flow forth, fr. *pro-* forth + *fundere* to flow — more at **PRO-**] (15c): flowing copiously or smoothly
pro forma \(ˈprɒ-ˈfɔr-mə)\ *adj* [L, for form] (ca. 1580) 1: made or carried out in a perfunctory manner or as a formality 2: provided in advance to prescribe form or describe items (*pro forma* invoice)
profound \ˈprɒ-ˈfaʊnd, ˈprɒ-ˈv\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF *profond* deep, fr. L *profundus*, fr. *pro-* before + *fundus* bottom — more at **PRO-**] (14c) 1: a: having intellectual depth and insight b: difficult to fathom or understand 2: a: extending far below the surface b: coming from, reaching to, or situated at a depth: DEEP-SEATED (a ~ sigh) 3: a: characterized by intensity of feeling or quality b: all encompassing COMPLETE (~ sleep) — **PRO-FOUND-LY** \-ˈfaʊnd(d)-lɪ\ *adv* — **PRO-FOUND-NESS** \-ˈfaʊnd(d)-nəs\ *n*
profound *n* (1621) *archaic*: something that is very deep; *specif*: the depths of the sea
profundity \ˈprɒ-fɪ-ˈn-də-ti\ *n*, *pl* -ties [ME *profundite*, fr. MF *profundité*, fr. L *profunditas*, *profunditas* depth, fr. *profundus*] (15c) 1: a: intellectual depth b: something profound or abstruse 2: the quality or state of being profound or deep
profuse \ˈprɒ-ˈfjuːs, ˈprɒ-ˈv\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *profusus*, pp. of *profundere* to pour forth, fr. *pro-* forth + *fundere* to pour — more at **FOUND**] (15c) 1: pouring forth liberally: EXTRAVAGANT (~ in their thanks) 2: exhibiting great abundance

rich, soft luxuriance (a lush green lawn). **EXUBERANT** implies marked vitality or vigor in what produces abundantly (an exuberant imagination).
pro-fu-sion \-ˈfyü-zhən\ *n* (1545) 1: lavish expenditure: EXTRAVAGANCE 2: the quality or state of being profuse 3: great quantity: lavish display or supply (snow falling in ~)
prog \ˈpræg\ *vi* **progged**; **prog-ging** [origin unknown] (1624) *chiefly dial*: to search about; *esp*: FORAGE
prog *n* (1655) *chiefly dial*: FOOD, VICTUALS
progen-i-tor \ˈprɒ-ˈje-nə-tər, ˈprə-ˈn\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *progeniteur*, fr. L *progenitor*, fr. *progignere* to beget, fr. *pro-* forth + *gignere* to beget — more at **KIN**] (14c) 1: a: an ancestor in the direct line: FOREFATHER b: a biologically ancestral form 2: PRECURSOR, ORIGINATOR (~s of socialist ideas — *Times Lit. Supp.*)
prog-e-ny \ˈprə-ˈjɪ-n-ē\ *n*, *pl* -nies [ME *progenie*, fr. MF, fr. L *progenies*, fr. *progignere*] (14c) 1: DESCENDANTS, CHILDREN b: offspring of animals or plants 2: OUTCOME, PRODUCT 3: a body of followers, disciples, or successors
pro-ges-ta-tion-al \ˈprɒ-ˈjes-tā-shənəl-, -shə-nəl\ *adj* (1923): preceding pregnancy or gestation; *esp*: of, relating to, inducing, or constituting the modifications of the female mammalian system associated *esp*. with ovulation and corpus luteum formation (~ hormones)
pro-ges-ter-one \ˈprɒ-ˈjes-tə-rōn\ *n* [*progesterin* + *-sterone*] (1935): a female steroid sex hormone C₂₁H₃₀O₂ that is secreted by the corpus luteum to prepare the endometrium for implantation and later by the placenta during pregnancy to prevent rejection of the developing embryo or fetus
pro-ges-tin \-ˈjes-tən\ *n* [*pro-* + *gestation* + *-in*] (1930): a progestational hormone; *esp*: PROGESTERONE
pro-ges-to-gen \-ˈjes-tə-jən\ *n* [*progestational* + *-ogen* (as in *estrogen*)] (1942): any of several progestational steroids (as progesterone) — **PRO-GES-TO-GEN-IC** \-ˈjes-tə-ˈje-nɪk\ *adj*
pro-glot-tid \(ˌ)prɒ-ˈglā-təd\ *n* [NL *proglottis*] (1878): a segment of a tapeworm containing both male and female reproductive organs
pro-glot-tis \(ˌ)prɒ-ˈglā-təs\ *n*, *pl* -glot-ti-des \-ˈglā-tə-, -dēz\ [NL *proglottid*, *proglottis*, fr. Gk *proglōtīs* tip of the tongue, fr. *pro-* + *glōtta* tongue — more at **GLOSS**] (1855): PROGLOTTID
prog-na-thism \ˈpræg-nə-,thi-zəm, ˈpræg-ˈnə-\ *n* (ca. 1864): prognathous condition
prog-na-thous \-thəs\ *adj* (1836): having the jaws projecting beyond the upper part of the face
prog-no-sis \ˈpræg-nō-səs\ *n*, *pl* -no-ses \-sēz\ [LL, fr. Gk *prognōsis*, lit., foreknowledge, fr. *prognōskein* to know before, fr. *pro-* + *gignōskein* to know — more at **KNOW**] (1655) 1: the prospect of recovery as anticipated from the usual course of disease or peculiarities of the case 2: FORECAST, PROGNOSTICATION
prog-nos-tic \ˈpræg-nəs-tɪk\ *n* [ME *pronostique*, fr. MF, fr. L *prognosticum*, fr. Gk *prognōstikon*, fr. neut. of *prognōstikos* foretelling, fr. *prognōskein*] (14c) 1: something that foretells: PORTENT 2: PROGNOSTICATION, PROPHECY
prognostic *adj* (1603): of, relating to, or serving as ground for prognostication or a prognosis (~ weather charts) (favorable ~ signs)
prog-nos-ti-cate \ˈpræg-nəs-tə-,kət\ *vt* -cat-ed; -cat-ing (15c) 1: to foretell from signs or symptoms: PREDICT 2: PRESAGE *syn* see **FORETELL** — **PROG-NOS-TI-CA-TIVE** \-,kə-tɪv\ *adj* — **PROG-NOS-TI-CA-TOR** \-,kə-tər\ *n*
prog-nos-ti-ca-tion \(ˌ)præg-nəs-tə-ˈkə-shən\ *n* (15c) 1: an indication in advance: FORETOLDEN 2: a: an act, the fact, or the power of prognosticating: FORECAST b: FOREBODING
pro-grade \ˈprɒ-ˈgrād\ *adj* [L *pro-* forward + E *-grade* (as in *retrograde*)] (1967): having or being a direction of rotation or revolution that is counterclockwise as viewed from the north pole of the sky or a planet
pro-gram \ˈprɒ-,gram, -grəm\ *n* [F *programme* agenda, public notice, fr. Gk *programma*, fr. *prographēin* to write before, fr. *pro-* before + *graphein* to write — more at **CARVE**] (1633) 1 [LL *programma*, fr. Gk] a: a public notice 2: a: a brief usu. printed outline of the order to be followed, of the features to be presented, and the persons participating (as in a public performance) b: the performance of a program; *esp*: a performance broadcast on radio or television 3: a plan or system under which action may be taken toward a goal 4: CURRICULUM 5: PROSPECTUS, SYLLABUS 6: a: a plan for the programming of a mechanism (as a computer) b: a sequence of coded instructions that can be inserted into a mechanism (as a computer); *also*: such a sequence that is part of an organism's genotype or behavioral repertoire
program *also* **programme** *vt* -grammed or -gramed; -gram-ming or -gram-ing (1896) 1: a: to arrange or furnish a program of or for: BILL b: to enter in a program 2: to work out a sequence of operations to be performed by (a mechanism): provide with a program 3: a: to insert a program for (a particular action) into or as if into a mechanism b: to control by or as if by a program c (1): to code in an organism's program (2): to provide with a biological program (cells programmed to synthesize hemoglobin) 4: to predetermine the thinking, behavior, or operations of as if by computer programming (children are programmed into violence — Lisa A. Richette) — **PROGRAM-MA-BIL-IT-Y** \(ˌ)prɒ-grə-mə-ˈbi-lə-ti\ *n* — **PROGRAM-MA-BLE** \ˈprɒ-grə-mə-bəl\ *adj* or *n*
program director *n* (1953): one in charge of planning and scheduling program material for a radio or television station or network
pro-gram-mat-ic \ˈprɒ-grə-ˈma-tɪk\ *adj* (1896) 1: relating to program music 2: of, relating to, resembling, or having a program — **PRO-GRAM-MAT-I-CAL-LY** \-tɪ-k(ə)-lɪ\ *adv*
programme *chiefly Brit var* of **PROGRAM**
programmed cell death *n* (1982): APOPTOSIS
programmed instruction *n* (1962): instruction through information