



# Merriam- Webster's Collegiate<sup>®</sup> Dictionary

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provision of protection **2 a**: resistance to a disease due to the existence of its causative agent in a state of physiological equilibrium in the host **b**: immunity to a particular infection due to previous presence of the causative agent  
**pre-name** \pre-'nām/ *n* (1894): FORENAME  
**pre-na-tal** \pre-'nā-'tāl/ *adj* (1826) **1**: occurring, existing, or performed before birth (<~ care) (<the ~ period) **2**: providing or receiving prenatal medical care (<~ clinic) (<~ patients) — **pre-na-tal-ly** \-tāl-ē/ *adv*  
**pre-nom-i-nate** \pre-'nā-'mō-'nēt/ *adj* [LL *praenominatus*, pp. of *praenominare* to name before, fr. L *prae-* + *nominare* to name — more at NOMINATE] (1513) *obs*: previously mentioned  
**pre-nom-i-nate** \-nāt/ *v* (1547) *obs*: to mention previously — **pre-nom-i-nation** \pre-'nā-'mō-'nā-'shən/ *n, obs*  
**pre-no-tion** \pre-'nō-'shən, 'prē-' / *n* [L *praenotio*-, *praenotio* preconception, fr. *prae-* + *notio* idea, conception — more at NOTION] (1588) **1**: PRESENTIMENT, PREMONITION **2**: PRECONCEPTION  
**pre-nu-mer-ic** \pre-'nū-'mer-ē-shən/ *n* [ME *prenik*, short for *apprentis*] (14c): APPRENTICE **1**: LEARNER — **pre-nu-mer-ic-ally** *adv*  
**pre-nu-mer-ic** *v* **pre-nu-mer-ic-ally** (1598): APPRENTICE  
**pre-nup-tial** \pre-'nup-'shəl, -chəl, -chō-'wəl/ *adj* (1899): made or occurring before marriage (<~ agreement)  
**pre-oc-cu-pan-cy** \pre-'ā-'kyā-'pən-'(t)-sē/ *n* (ca. 1755) **1**: an act or the right of taking possession before another **2**: the condition of being completely busied or preoccupied  
**pre-oc-cu-pa-tion** \pre-'ā-'kyā-'pā-'shən/ *n* (1603) **1**: an act of preoccupying the state of being preoccupied **2 a**: extreme or excessive concern with something **b**: something that preoccupies one  
**pre-oc-cu-pied** \pre-'ā-'kyā-'pid/ *adj* (1842) **1**: previously applied to another group and unavailable for use in a new sense — used of a biological genetic or specific name **2 a**: lost in thought; *also*: absorbed in some preoccupation **b**: already occupied  
**pre-oc-cu-py** \-pi/ *v* [L *praecupare*, lit. to seize in advance, fr. *prae-* + *cupare* to seize, occupy] (1567) **1**: to engage or engross the interest or attention of beforehand or preferentially **2**: to take possession of or fill beforehand or before another  
**pre-op-er-a-tive** \pre-'ā-'p(ə)-'rā-'tīv, -pə-'rā-' / *adj* (1904): occurring before a surgical operation — **pre-op-er-a-tive-ly** *adv*  
**pre-or-dain** \pre-'ōr-'dān/ *v* (1533) **1**: to decree or ordain in advance : FORORDAIN — **pre-or-dain-ment** \-mənt/ *n* — **pre-or-di-na-tion** \-tō-'nā-'shən/ *n*  
**pre-ovu-la-to-ry** \pre-'ōv-'yū-'lō-'tōr-ē, -tōr-, -'bō-' / *adj* (1935): occurring or existing in or typical of the period immediately preceding ovulation (<~ oocytes) (<~ surge of luteinizing hormone)  
**pre-owned** \pre-'ōund, 'prē-' / *adj* (1964): SECONDHAND  
**prep** \prep/ *n* (1862) **1**: PREPARATION **2**: PREPARATORY SCHOOL **3**: a preliminary trial for a racehorse  
**prep** *v* **prepped**; **pre-ping** *v* (1915) **1**: to attend preparatory school **2** [short for *prepare*]: to get ready ~ *v*: PREPARE, *esp*: to prepare for operation or examination  
**pre-pack-age** \pre-'pāk-'kij/ *v* (1945): to package (as food or a manufactured article) before offering for sale to the consumer  
**pre-pa-ra-tion** \pre-'pā-'rā-'shən/ *n* [ME *preparatio*, fr. MF *preparatio*, fr. L *praeparatio*-, *praeparatio*, fr. *praeparare* to prepare] (14c) **1**: the action or process of making something ready for use or service or of getting ready for some occasion, test, or duty **2**: a state of being prepared: READINESS **3**: a preparatory act or measure **4**: something that is prepared; *specif*: a medicinal substance made ready for use (<~ for colds)  
**pre-pa-r-a-tive** \pre-'pā-'rā-'tīv/ *n* (14c): something that prepares the way for or serves as a preliminary to something else: PREPARATION  
**preparative** *adj* (ca. 1530): PREPARATORY — **pre-pa-r-a-tive-ly** *adv*  
**pre-pa-r-a-tor** \pre-'pā-'rā-'tōr/ *n* (1762): one that prepares; *specif*: a person who prepares scientific specimens or museum displays  
**pre-pa-r-a-tory** \pre-'pā-'rā-'tōr-ē, -tōr- / *adj* **also** \pre-'p(ə)-'rā-' / *adj* (15c): preparing or serving to prepare for something: INTRODUCTORY — **pre-pa-r-a-tor-ily** \pre-'pā-'rā-'tōr-ē-'lē, -tōr- / *adv*  
**preparatory school** *n* (1822) **1**: a usu. private school preparing students primarily for college **2 Brit**: a private elementary school preparing students primarily for British public schools  
**preparatory to prep** (1649): in preparation for  
**pre-para** \pre-'pā-, -pə/ *v* **pre-para**; **pre-para-ing** [ME, fr. MF *preparare*, fr. L *praeparare*, fr. *prae-* + *parare* to procure, prepare — more at PARE] *v* (15c) **1 a**: to make ready beforehand for some purpose, use, or activity (<~ food for dinner) **b**: to put in a proper state of mind (<~ prepared to listen) **2**: to work out the details of: plan in advance (<~ preparing strategy for the coming campaign) **3 a**: to put together: COMPOUND (<~ a prescription) **b**: to put into written form (<~ a report) ~ *v*: to get ready (<~ preparing for a career) — **pre-para-er** *n*  
**prepared** *adj* (1663): subjected to a special process or treatment — **pre-para-ed-ly** \-pārd-'lē, -'pərd-, 'pārd-, -'pərd-/ *adv*  
**pre-para-ment** \pre-'pārd-'mənt, -'pərd-' / *n* (1590): the quality or state of being prepared; *esp*: a state of adequate preparation in case of war  
**pre-pay** \pre-'pā-' / *v* **paid** \-pād-, 'pā-' / *v* (1839): to pay or pay the charge on in advance — **pre-pay-ment** \-pā-'mənt/ *n*  
**pre-pense** \pre-'pens/ *adj* [by shortening & alter, fr. earlier *purpens*, fr. ME, pp. of *purpens* to deliberate, premeditate, fr. MF *purpens*, fr. OF, fr. *pur-* for + *pens*er to think — more at PURCHASE, PENSIVE] (1702): planned beforehand: PREMEDITATED — usu. used postpositively (<~ malice ~) — **pre-pense-ly** *adv*  
**pre-plant** \pre-'plānt, 'prē-' / *v* **also** **pre-plant-ing** \-plānt-'tīŋ/ *adj* (1961): occurring or used before planting a crop (<~ soil fertilization)  
**pre-pon-der-ance** \pre-'pān-'d(ə)-'rən-'(t)s/ *n* (1681) **1**: a superiority in weight, power, importance, or strength **2 a**: a superiority or excess in number or quantity **b**: MAJORITY  
**pre-pon-der-ant** \pre-'pān-'d(ə)-'rən-' / *adj* (15c) **1**: having superior weight, force, or influence **2**: having greater prevalence. *syn* see DOMINANT — **pre-pon-der-ant-ly** *adv*  
**pre-pon-der-ate** \pre-'pān-'d(ə)-'rāt/ *v* **at-ed**; **at-ing** [L *praeponderatus*, pp. of *praeponderare*, fr. *prae-* + *ponder*, *pondus* weight — more at PENDANT] *v* (1623) **1**: to exceed in weight **2**: to exceed in influence,

power, or importance **3**: to exceed in numbers ~ *v* **1** *archaic*: to WEIGH **2** *archaic*: to weigh down — **pre-pon-der-a-tion** \-pān-'d(ə)-'rā-'shən, 'prē-' / *n*  
**pre-pon-der-ate** \-pān-'d(ə)-'rāt/ *adj* (1802): PREPONDERANT — **pre-pon-der-ate-ly** *adv*  
**pre-po-si-tion** \pre-'pō-'zī-'shən/ *n* [ME *praepositio*, fr. L *praepositio*-, *praepositio*, fr. *praepone* to put in front, fr. *prae-* + *ponere* to put — more at POSITION] (14c): a function word that typically combines with a noun phrase to form a phrase which usu. expresses a modification or predication — **pre-po-si-tion-al** \-zī-'shən-' / *adj*  
**pre-po-si-tion-ally** *adv*  
**pre-po-si-tive** \pre-'pō-'zī-' / *adj* [LL *praepositivus*, fr. L *prae-* + *positus*, pp. of *praepone*] (1583): put before: PREFIXED — **pre-po-si-tive-ly** *adv*  
**pre-poss-ess** \pre-'pō-'zēs / *also* \-'sēs/ *v* (1614) **1** *obs*: to take previous possession of **2**: to cause to be preoccupied **3**: to influence before-hand esp. favorably  
**pre-poss-ess-ing** *adj* (1642) *1* *archaic*: creating prejudice **2**: tending to create a favorable impression: ATTRACTIVE  
**pre-poss-ess-ion** \pre-'pō-'zē-'shən / *n* (1648) **1 *archaic* **1**: possession **2**: an attitude, belief, or impression formed beforehand: PREJUDICE **3**: an exclusive concern with one idea or object: FRODOLOP  
**pre-poss-ess-ion** *syn* see FRODOLOP  
**pre-poster-ous** \pre-'pō-'st(ə)-'rəs/ *adj* [L *praeposterus*, lit., in the wrong order, fr. *prae-* + *posterus* hinder, following — more at POSTERIOR] (1542): contrary to nature, reason, or common sense: ABSURD — **pre-poster-ous-ly** *adv* — **pre-post-er-ous-ness** *n*  
**pre-po-ten-cy** \pre-'pō-'t(ə)-'sē/ *n* (1646) **1**: the quality or state of being prepotent: PREDOMINANCE **2**: unusual ability of an individual or strain to transmit its characters to offspring because of homozygosity for numerous dominant genes  
**pre-po-tent** \-'t(ə)-' / *adj* [ME, fr. L *praepotent*-, *praepotens*, fr. *prae-* + *potens* powerful — more at POTENT] (15c) **1 a**: having exceptional power, authority, or influence **b**: exceeding others in power **2**: exhibiting genetic prepotency — **pre-po-tent-ly** *adv*  
**preppy** or **preppie** *adj* \pre-'pē-' / *n, pl* **preppies** \pre-'pē-' / *n* (1967) **1**: a student at or a graduate of a preparatory school **2**: a person deemed to dress or behave like a prep  
**preppy** or **preppie** *adj* (1967) **1**: relating to, characteristic of, or being a prep **2**: relating to or being a style of dress characterized esp. by classic clothing and neat appearance — **pre-pi-ly** \pre-'pē-' / *adv*  
**pre-pi-ness** \pre-'pē-' / *n*  
**pre-pran-di-al** \pre-'prān-'dē-' / *adj* (1822): of, relating to, or suitable for the time just before dinner (<~ drink)  
**pre-preg** \pre-'preg, 'prē-' / *n* [pre- + impregnated] (1954): a reinforcing or insulating material (as paper or glass cloth) already impregnated with a synthetic resin  
**pre-press** \pre-'pres/ *adj* (1965): of or relating to the processing of copy preparatory to printing (<~ costs) (<~ equipment)  
**pre-print** \pre-'print, 'prē-' / *n* (1889) **1**: an issue of a technical paper often in preliminary form before its publication in a journal **2**: something (as an advertisement) printed before the rest of the publication in which it is to appear  
**pre-print** \pre-'print/ *v* (1926): to print in advance for later use  
**pre-pro-cess** \pre-'prō-'ses, -'prō-, -sēs/ *v* (1942): to do preliminary processing of (as data) — **pre-pro-cess-er** \-'sē-'sōr-, -sōr-, -sōr-/ *n*  
**pre-pro-fes-sion-al** \pre-'prō-'fesh-'nəl, -'fē-'shən-' / *adj* (1926): of or relating to the period preceding specific study for or practice of a profession  
**prep school** *n* (1895): PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
**pre-pu-ber-al** \pre-'pyū-'b(ə)-'rəl/ *adj* (ca. 1935): PREPUBERTAL  
**pre-pu-ber-ty** \-b(ə)-'rē-' / *n* (1859): of or relating to prepuberty  
**pre-pu-ber-ty** \-b(ə)-'rē-' / *n* (1922): the period immediately preceding puberty  
**pre-pu-bes-cent** \pre-'pyū-'b(ə)-'sē-' / *n* (1916): PREPUBERTY  
**pre-pu-bes-cent** \-sē-' / *adj* (1904): PREPUBERTAL — **pre-pu-bes-cent-ly** *adv*  
**pre-puce** \pre-'pyūs/ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *praepucium*] (15c): FORESKIN; *also*: a similar fold investing the clitoris — **pre-pu-cial** \pre-'pyū-' / *adj*  
**pre-quel** \pre-'kwəl/ *n* [pre- + *quel* (as in *segue*)] (1972): a literary or dramatic work whose story precedes that of an earlier work  
**Pre-Ra-pha-el-ite** \pre-'rā-'fē-' / *adj* (1830) **1 a**: a member of a brotherhood of artists formed in England in 1848 to restore the artistic principles and practices regarded as characteristic of Italian art before Raphael **b**: an artist or writer influenced by this brotherhood **2**: a modern artist dedicated to restoring early Renaissance ideals or methods — **Pre-Raphaelite** *adj* — **Pre-Ra-pha-el-ite-ism** \-'l-ē-' / *n*  
**pre-reg-is-tra-tion** \pre-'rē-'jā-'strā-'shən/ *n* (1967): a special registration (as for returning students) prior to an official registration period — **pre-reg-is-trar** \pre-'rē-'jā-'stər-/ *n*  
**pre-re-qui-site** \pre-'rē-'kwī-'zīt/ *n* (1633): something that is necessary to an end or to the carrying out of a function — **pre-requi-site-ly** *adv*  
**pre-rog-a-tive** \pre-'rō-'gā-'tīv/ *n* [ME, fr. MF & L, MF, fr. L *praerogativa*, Roman century voting first in the comitia, privilege, fr. *fer*, of *praerogativa* voting first, fr. *praerogatus*, pp. of *praerogare* to ask for an opinion before another, fr. *prae-* + *rogare* to ask — more at RIGHT] (15c) **1 a**: an exclusive or special right, power, or privilege; as (1): one belonging to an office or an official body (2): one belonging to a person, group, or class of individuals (3): one possessed by a nation as an attribute of sovereignty **b**: the discretionary power inhering in the British Crown **2**: a distinctive excellence — **pre-rog-a-tive-ly** \-tīv-' / *adv*  
**pre-sage** \pre-'sāj, 'prī-'sāj/ *n* [ME, fr. L *praesagium*, fr. *praesagium* having a foreboding, fr. *prae-* + *sagus* prophetic — more at SEEK] (14c) **1**: something that foreshadows or portends a future event: OMEN **2**: an intuition or feeling of what is going to happen in the future **3** *archaic*: PROGNOSTICATION **4**: warning or indication of the future — **pre-sage-ful** \pre-'sāj-'fəl/ *adj*  
**pre-sage** \pre-'sāj, 'prī-'sāj/ *v* **pre-saged**; **pre-sag-ing** *v* (1562) **1**: to give an omen or warning of: FORESHADOW **2**: FORETELL, PREDICT ~ *v*: to make or utter a prediction — **pre-sag-er** *n, obs*  
**pre-sanc-tified** \pre-'sāŋ-'k(ə)-'tī-' / *adj* (1758): consecrated at a previous service — used of eucharistic elements**

preshyope \prez-bē-ōp; \prez-bē-, -pē- \ n [prob. fr. F, fr. Gk presbyōidman + ōps eye — more at EYE] (ca. 1857): one affected with presbyopia

presbyopia \prez-bē-ō-pē-ō, -pres- \ n [NL] (1793): a visual condition which becomes apparent esp. in middle age and in which loss of elasticity of the lens of the eye causes defective accommodation and inability to focus sharply for near vision — pres-by-ō-pīc \-ō-pīk, -'i-

presbyter \prez-ba-ter, 'pres- \ n [LL, elder, priest, fr. Gk presbyteros, compar. of presbys old man, elder; akin to Gk pro before and GK presbites to go — more at FOR, COME] (1597) 1: a member of the governing body of an early Christian church 2: a member of the order of presbyters in churches having episcopal hierarchies that include bishops, priests, and deacons 3: ELDER 4b — pres-byt-er-ate \prez-'bi-ta-rat, -rāt \ n

presbyterial \prez-ba-'tir-ē-ol, -pres- \ adj (ca. 1600): of or relating to presbyters or a presbytery — pres-byt-er-i-ally \-ē-ō-lē \ adv

presbyterial n, often cap (1928): an organization of Presbyterian worshippers associated with a presbytery

presbyterian \-ē-ō-n \ n (1640): a member of a Presbyterian church

Presbyterian adj (1641) 1 often not cap: characterized by a graded system of representative ecclesiastical bodies (as presbyteries) exercising legislative and judicial powers 2: of, relating to, or constituting a Protestant Christian church that is Presbyterian in government and traditionally Calvinistic in doctrine — Pres-byt-er-i-an-ism \-ē-ō-'ni-zən \ n

presbytery \prez-ba-ter-ē, -pres-, -bā-trē \ n, pl -ter-ies [ME & LL; ME presbytery part of church reserved for clergy, fr. LL presbyterium group of presbyters, part of church reserved for clergy, fr. Gk presbyteros elder, priest] (15c) 1: the part of a church reserved for the officiating clergy 2: a ruling body in Presbyterian churches consisting of the ministers and representative elders from congregations within a district 3: the jurisdiction of a presbytery 4: the house of a Roman Catholic parish priest

preschool \prez-'skul (pre-'skul) adj (1914): of, relating to, or constituting the period in a child's life from infancy to the age of five or six that ordinarily precedes attendance at elementary school

preschool \prez-'skul \ n (ca. 1925): NURSERY SCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN

preschooler \prez-'skul-ə \ n (1946) 1: a child not yet old enough for school 2: a child attending a preschool

prescience \prez-'sh(-)ən(t)s, 'pr-, -(s)ē-ən(t)s \ n [ME, fr. LL praescientia, fr. L praescient-, praesciens, prp. of praescire to know beforehand, fr. prae- + scire to know — more at SCIENCE] (14c): foreknowledge of events: a: divine omniscience b: human anticipation of the course of events: FORESIGHT — pres-ci-ent \-sh(-)ə-nt, -(s)ē-ənt \ adj — pres-ci-ent-ly \adv

presciently \adv (pre-'sī-ən-'ti-fik) adj (1858): of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a period before the rise of modern science or a date prior to the application of the scientific method

prescind \pri-'sind \ v [L praescindere to cut off in front, fr. prae- + scindere to cut — more at SHED] vt (1650): to withdraw one's attention ~ vt: to detach for purposes of thought

prescore \(p)rez-'skōr, 'skōr \ vt (1937): to record (as sound) in advance for use when the corresponding scenes are photographed in making movies

prescribe \pri-'skrib \ v pre-scribēd; pre-scrib-ing [ME, fr. L praescribere to write at the beginning, dictate, order, fr. prae- + scribere to write — more at SCRIBE] vt (15c) 1: to lay down a rule: DICTATE 2 [ME, fr. ML praescribere, fr. L, to write at the beginning] to claim a title to something by right of prescription 3: to write or give medical prescriptions ~ vt 1a: to lay down as a guide, direction, or rule of action: ORDAIN b: to specify with authority 2: to designate or order the use of as a remedy — pre-scrib-er \n

prescript \prez-'skript, pri-' \ adj [ME, fr. L praescriptus, pp.] (ca. 1540): prescribed as a rule — pre-scrip-t \-skript \ n

prescription \pri-'skrip-shən \ n [partly fr. ME prescripcion establishment of a claim, fr. MF prescripcion, fr. LL praescriptio-, praescriptio, fr. L, act of writing at the beginning, order, limitation of subject matter, fr. praescribere; partly fr. L praescriptio-, praescriptio order] (14c) 1a: the establishment of a claim of title to something under common law usu. by use and enjoyment for a period fixed by statute b: the right or title acquired under common law by such possession 2: the process of making claim to something by long use and enjoyment 3: the action of laying down authoritative rules or directions 4a: a written direction for a therapeutic or corrective agent; specif: one for the preparation and use of a medicine b: a prescribed medicine c: something like a doctor's prescription (~s for economic recovery) 5a: ancient or long continued custom b: a claim founded upon ancient custom or long continued use 6: something prescribed as a rule

prescription drug n (1951): a drug that can be obtained only by means of a physician's prescription

prescriptive \pri-'skrip-tiv \ adj (1748) 1: serving to prescribe (~ rules of usage) 2: acquired by, founded on, or determined by prescription or by long-standing custom — pre-scrip-tive-ly \adv

prescient \prez-'sh(-)ək(t) \ vt (ca. 1859): to choose in advance usu. on the basis of a particular criterion — pre-se-lec-tion \-lek-shən \ n

presell \(p)rez-'sel \ vt -söld, -söld- \ -selling (1947) 1: to precondition (as a customer) for subsequent purchase or create advance demand for (as a product) esp. through marketing strategies 2: to sell in advance (raised money to publish the book by preselling film rights)

presence \prez-'zən(t)s \ n (14c) 1: the fact or condition of being present 2a: the part of space within one's immediate vicinity b: the neighborhood of one of superior esp. royal rank 3 archaic: COMPANY 2a 4: one that is present: as a: the actual person or thing that is present b: something present of a visible or concrete nature 5a: the bearing, carriage, or air of a person esp: stately or distinguished bearing b: a quality of poise and effectiveness that enables a performer to achieve a close relationship with an audience 6: something (as a spirit) felt or believed to be present

presence of mind (1665): self-control so maintained in an emergency or in an embarrassing situation that one can say or do the right thing

present \prez-'zənt \ n [ME, fr. OF, fr. presenter] (13c): something presented: GIFT

present \pri-'zənt \ vt [ME, fr. OF presenter, fr. L praesentare, fr. praesent-, praesens, adj.] vt (14c) 1a (1): to bring or introduce into presence of someone esp. of superior rank or status (2): to introduce socially b: to bring (as a play) before the public 2: to make a gift to 3: to give or bestow formally 4a: to lay (as a charge) before a court as an object of inquiry b: to bring a formal public charge, indictment, or presentation against 5: to nominate to a benefice 6a: to offer to view: SHOW b: to bring to one's attention (~s a problem) 7: to act the part of: PERFORM 8: to aim, point, or direct (as a weapon) so as to face something or in a particular direction ~ vt 1: to present a weapon 2: to become manifest 3: to come forward as a patient 4: to make a presentation 5 vt see GIVE — pres-ent-er \n

present \prez-'zənt \ adj [ME, fr. OF, fr. L praesent-, praesens, fr. prp. of praesere to be before one, fr. prae- + esse to be — more at IS] (14c) 1: now existing or in progress 2a: being in view or at hand b: existing in something mentioned or under consideration 3: constituting the one actually involved, at hand, or being considered 4: of, relating to, or constituting a verb tense that is expressive of present time or the time of speaking 5 obs: ATTENTIVE 6 archaic: INSTANT, IMMEDIATE — pres-ent-ness \n

present \prez-'zənt \ n (14c) 1a obs: present occasion or affair b pl: the present words or statements; specif: the legal instrument or other writing in which these words are used 2a: the present tense of a language b: a verb form in the present tense 3: the present time — at present: at or during this time: NOW

presentable \pri-'zənt-ə-bəl \ adj (ca. 1626) 1: capable of being presented 2: being in condition to be seen or inspected esp. by the critical — pres-ent-a-bil-i-ty \-zən-tə-'bi-lə-tē \ n — pres-ent-a-ble-ness \-zən-tə-bəl-nəs \ n — pres-ent-a-bly \-blē \ adv

present arms \pri-'zənt-\ \ n [fr. the command present arms] (ca. 1884) 1: a position in the manual of arms in which the rifle is held vertically in front of the body 2: a command to assume the position of present arms or to give a hand salute

presentation \prez-'zən-'tā-shən, -'prē-'zən-\ n (15c) 1a: the act of presenting b: the act, power, or privilege esp. of a patron of applying to the bishop or ordinary for instituting someone into a benefice 2: something presented: as a: a symbol or image that represents something b: something offered or given: GIFT c: something set forth for the attention of the mind d: a descriptive or persuasive account (as by a salesman of a product) 3: the position in which the fetus lies in the uterus in labor with respect to the mouth of the uterus 4: an immediate object of perception, cognition, or memory 5 often cap: a church feast on November 21 celebrating the presentation of the Virgin Mary in the temple 6: the method by which radio, navigation, or radar information is given to the operator (as the pilot of an airplane) — pres-ent-a-tion-al \-shənəl, -'shə-nəl \ adj

presentative \pri-'zən-tə-tiv, 'prez-'zən-'tā-\ adj (ca. 1842): known, knowing, or capable of being known directly rather than through cogitation

present-day \prez-'zənt-'dā \ adj (1887): now existing or occurring

presentee \prez-'zən-'tē, pri-'zən-\ n (15c): one who is presented or to whom something is presented

presentient \pri-'sen(t)-sh(-)ə-nt, 'prē-, pri-'zən(t)-\ adj [L praesentient-, praesentientis, prp. of praesentire] (1814): having a presentiment

presentiment \pri-'zən-tə-mənt \ n [F presentiment, fr. MF, fr. presentir to have a presentiment, fr. L praesentire to feel beforehand, fr. prae- + sentire to feel — more at SENSE] (1714): a feeling that something will or is about to happen: PREMONITION — pres-ent-imental \-zən-tə-'men-tl \ adj

presentism \prez-'zən-'ti-zəm \ n ['present] (1923): all outlook dominated by present-day attitudes and experiences — pres-ent-ist \-zən-'tist \ adj

presently \prez-'zənt-lē \ adv (14c) 1a archaic: at once b: before long: without undue delay 2: at the present time: NOW

usage Both senses 1b and 2 are flourishing in current English, but many commentators have objected to sense 2. Since this sense has been in continuous use since the 15th century, it is not clear why it is objectionable. Perhaps a note in the 15th century in the Oxford English Dictionary (1909) that the sense has become obsolete since the 17th century in literary English is to blame, but the note goes on to observe that the sense is in regular use in most English dialects. The last citation in that dictionary is from a 1901 Leeds newspaper, written in Standard English. Sense 2 is most common in contexts relating to business and politics (the fastest-rising welfare cost is Medicaid, presently paid by the states and cities — William Safire)

presentment \pri-'zənt-mənt \ n (14c) 1: the act of presenting to an authority a formal statement of a matter to be dealt with; specif: the notice taken or statement made by a grand jury of an offense from their own knowledge without a bill of indictment laid before them 2: the act of offering at the proper time and place a document (as a bill of exchange) that calls for acceptance or payment by another 3a: the act of presenting to view or consciousness b: something set forth, presented, or exhibited c: the aspect in which something is presented

present participle n (1864): a participle that typically expresses present action in relation to the time expressed by the finite verb in its clause and that in English is formed with the suffix -ing and is used in the formation of the progressive tenses

present perfect adj (1887): of, relating to, or constituting a verb tense that is formed in English with have and that expresses action or state completed at the time of speaking — present perfect n

present tense n (14c): the tense of a verb that expresses action or state in the present time and is used of what occurs or is true at the time of speaking and of what is habitual or characteristic or is always or neces-

\ə \ abut \v \ kitten, F table \ər \ further \ə \ ash \ə \ ace \ə \ mop, mar \ə \ out \tʃ \ chin \e \ bet \ē \ easy \ə \ go \I \ hit \I \ ice \I \ job \j \ sing \dʒ \ go \dʒ \ law \dʒ \ boy \tʃ \ thin \tʃ \ the \I \ loot \I \ foot \j \ yet \zʰ \ vision \ə, ɛ, ɜ, æ, œ, ʉ, ɪ, ɛ, ʉ \ see Guide to Pronunciation

TOP

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